



WHO sets stage for booster: Prioritise high-risk groups

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

IN A significant announcement, the World Health Organisation said Wednesday that introduction of booster doses should be “firmly evidence-driven” and “targeted” at population groups at highest risk of serious disease, and frontline healthcare workers.

The WHO’s statement on booster doses comes after its Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation (SAGE) said evidence till date indicates “a minimal to modest reduction” of vaccine protection against severe disease over six months after the second dose. On October

4, the SAGE had said that introduction of booster doses should be targeted at population groups in greatest need, but it also said it needed to deliberate on evidence for the booster dose.

The WHO recommendations could potentially set the ball rolling for India to look at administration of booster doses to the two priority groups. The interim statement on the booster has significant implications: first, because India closely follows the recommendations of the WHO; and second, India began vaccinating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**PFIZER PILL GETS FDA NOD** **PAGE 16**

Out of 34 Omicron cases at Delhi hospital, 33 are fully vaccinated

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

ALL BUT one of the 34 patients with the Omicron variant treated at Delhi government’s Lok Nayak hospital were fully vaccinated, with at least two persons having received a booster shot, top officials have told *The Indian Express*.

“So far, we have treated 34 persons with the new Omicron variant, 18 of whom have already been discharged. Except for one person, all others were vaccinated against Covid-19, meaning that the new variant is capable of infecting even those who have received their shots,”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**EXPLAINED**
E Concern, reassurance

THREE OF the 34 Omicron patients at LNJP had no history of foreign travel, suggesting that the new variant is in the community. The encouraging observation is that like elsewhere, these patients have shown mild symptoms — though this could be due to vaccination.

DELHI CURBS ON NEW YEAR, CHRISTMAS GATHERINGS **PAGE 6**

Haryana: Only fully vaccinated to be allowed in malls, banks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 22

FROM JANUARY 1, all those above 18 years who are not fully vaccinated will not be permitted inside public places including restaurants, malls, banks, markets and government offices in Haryana, State Health and Home Minister Anil Vij announced in the Assembly on Wednesday.

“Entry at places like sabzi mandi, bars, restaurants, hotels, grain markets, departmental stores, liquor and wine shops, malls, shopping complexes, cinema halls, haats, local markets and other places of public gathering should be allowed only to fully vaccinated (both the doses of Covid-19 vaccines) people,” said a detailed order sent to all deputy commissioners.

“Only fully vaccinated persons will be allowed to travel from bus stand, railway stations. Other places of gathering like religious places, petrol and CNG stations, LPG gas cylinder collection centres, sugar mills, milk booths, ration shops also to allow only fully vaccinated people.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Cong’s new worry in Uttarakhand: Rawat says hands tied, time to rest

MANOJ C G & AVANEESH MISHRA
NEW DELHI, DEHRADUN, DECEMBER 22

JUST WHEN the Congress appears to have weathered the political storm in Punjab, it seems to be heading for turbulence in Uttarakhand where elections are due in a couple of months. On Wednesday, the party’s campaign

**Several crocodiles in ocean of elections: Rawat**

chief and former chief minister Harish Rawat hinted at dissatisfaction with the organisation and even retirement from politics.

In a Facebook post and a series of tweets from his official Twitter account, Rawat said “power” has “left several crocodiles” in the “ocean of elections”, representatives of those on whose orders he is swimming are tying his hands, and that “it is time to rest”.

However, speaking to reporters at a press conference later, he refused to elaborate on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Ravi Shastri, the coach who made winning a habit, guest at e-Adda today

The Indian EXPRESS eAQDA**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

INDIAN CRICKET has progressed so much in the last five years that the only gripe is that they aren’t winning the ICC tournaments. All other familiar tropes from the past have withered away under the coaching reign of Ravi Shastri.

Shastri, whose tenure as head coach ended recently and



Ravi Shastri



who ensured that the team, with a 65 per cent winning run across all formats, is a genuine contender to win a Test series anywhere in the world, will be the guest at an online Adda hosted by *The Indian Express* on Thursday evening. He will be in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Rabi Saha (Congress candidate), Rajarshi Lahiri (BJP) and Faiyaz Ahmed Khan (CPI-M) were among those assaulted. *Ravik Bhattacharya, Santanu Chowdhury*

verely outside a polling booth. From a Congress candidate who was stripped in public to a BJP leader who fearfully scans a CCTV camera at home for intruders; from a CPM candidate

who is scared to lodge a police complaint to another BJP leader awaiting an eye surgery. The violence that trailed Sunday’s Kolkata Municipal Corporation polls, where the ruling TMC

flexed its muscles to ensure a comprehensive win, has left several Opposition candidates and polling agents scared — in mind and body.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

PROPRIETY, CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN AYODHYA LAND DEALS

UP Govt orders probe into Ayodhya land deals linked to officials, kin; seeks report in a week

Special Secretary, Revenue, to look into records of land deals revealed in *The Indian Express* investigation

LALMANI VERMA, SHYAMLAL YADAV & SANDEEP SINGH
LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

ON THE day *The Indian Express* published an investigative report that elected public representatives and relatives of state government officials bought land parcels in Ayodhya after the November 9, 2019, Supreme Court verdict clearing construction of a Ram temple in the district, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered an inquiry into transactions and sought a report within a week.

Confirming this, Manoj Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue), Uttar Pradesh, said the Chief Minister has sought a report with relevant documents in the next 5-7 days. “Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken cognizance of the newspaper report. An inquiry has been ordered on his directive. An officer of the rank of Special Secretary has been asked to conduct the probe,” Singh told *The Indian Express*.

An official said Radhey Shyam Mishra, Special Secretary, Department of Revenue, has been asked to conduct the probe.

The investigation by *The Indian Express* of land records has found that at least 15 buyers of land parcels in Ayodhya included local MLAs, close relatives of bu-

*The Indian Express* investigation Wednesday

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



reaucrats who have or are serving in Ayodhya, and local revenue officials whose job was to authenticate land transactions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

WINTER SESSION ENDS A DAY EARLY

Protesting Opposition MPs read the Preamble to the Constitution, at Parliament on Wednesday. Both Houses were adjourned sine die. *Prem Nath Pandey* **IN PARLIAMENT, PAGE 8**

Opposition flagged deals in House: Matter of concern, need for inquiry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 22

HOURS BEFORE the UP government ordered a probe into *The Indian Express* report on how MLAs, Mayor and relatives of top bureaucrats and revenue officials acquired land within a 5-km radius of the proposed Ram temple site in Ayodhya, the Opposition ratcheted up the pressure, demanding an investigation into

this “matter of serious concern”.

While Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge raised the issue in the House, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said “Hindutvawadi loots under the guise of religion”. Calling it a “land fraud”, AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh demanded an investigation. CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury too sought a probe, saying people mentioned in the report “hold high positions”.

As soon as Rajya Sabha met Wednesday, Kharge raised the matter, holding a copy of *The Indian Express*. “It is a very important issue. You might have seen in today’s *Indian Express* which carried a story saying ‘MLAs and Mayor, relatives of Commissioner, SDM, DIG, officials buy land’.”

However, his request to raise the issue was turned down by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu who said a newspaper cannot be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Father of Ayodhya DM also bought land 1 km from temple

SHYAMLAL YADAV
AYODHYA, DECEMBER 22

THIS AUGUST, Anuj Jha, then District Magistrate of Ayodhya, referred to the revenue court, a case based on a complaint by a Dalit resident that his land was among 21 bighas illegally bought by the Maharishi Ramayan Vidyapeeth Trust. Even as that case is in court, relatives of at least three officials probing the trust bought land near the temple from MRVT, as reported by *The Indian Express* Wednesday.

Records investigated by *The Indian Express* show that Jha is also one of the officers — there are at least 15 in all — whose relatives bought land in Ayodhya after the Supreme Court verdict in November 2019 cleared the temple.

Records show that on May 28, 2020, a plot measuring 320.631 sq m in Mughalpur in Ayodhya, barely 1 km from the Ram temple site, was registered in the name of Badri Jha, father of Anuj Jha, a UP IAS officer. The cost: Rs 23.40 lakh.

Anuj Jha was DM of Ayodhya from February 21, 2019 until October 23, 2021. He is now

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Beaten, awaiting surgery, HC only hope: Opp candidates attacked in Kolkata polls

PAGE 1 ANCHOR**RAVIK BHATTACHARYA, SANTANU CHOWDHURY & SWEETY KUMARI**
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 22

FAIYAZ AHMED Khan can’t walk. But the CPM leader and three-time former councillor from the South Port area of Kolkata is busy. His legs bandaged and a worried wife looking on, Khan is drafting an appeal to Calcutta High Court. He says the police are yet to even record his statement after he was assaulted se-





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POLICE FILE CHARGESHEET

Gogi’s courtroom murder planned months in advance

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE DELHI Police’s chargesheet in the Rohini courtroom shootout, in which gangster Jitender Gogi was shot dead, has stated that planning for the daring crime began two months earlier — that too from inside the capital’s Mandoli jail. The chargesheet states that jailed gangster Sunil Balyan alias Tillu is the main conspirator.

Gogi was shot dead on September 24 by two assailants from the Tillu gang, while being produced in Rohini court for a hearing. The two assailants, Jagdeep Singh alias Jagga and Rahul, were gunned down by the Delhi Police. Police said the two were sent to Haiderpur a month before the incident for “training”.

A Crime Branch team filed a chargesheet in the Rohini court last week, naming seven men, including the two deceased assailants, as accused. One of the seven accused, Umang Yadav, who was arrested with his cousin



Jitender Gogi

Vinay two days after the incident, allegedly helped Tillu and the assailants.

In his disclosure statement, he revealed that he has known Tillu for a few months and around two months back, Tillu requested his help in killing Gogi. “Tillu used to call him (Yadav) through video calls... He conspired to kill Jitender alias Gogi when he was produced in court on 24.09.2021,” states the chargesheet.

To execute the plan, Tillu allegedly sent Jagdeep and Rahul to Yadav’s house. Jagdeep stayed at Yadav’s house on August 23, while Rahul arrived two days be-

fore the incident.

Plan made after the second wave

Tillu allegedly planned to eliminate Gogi in Rohini court because he thought the courts would be “less crowded” after the second Covid wave.

He roped in jailed gangsters Naveen Dabas and Ashish Kumar to help him inside the jail, and used apps like Signal and WhatsApp to communicate with other associates, the chargesheet states.

Yadav is a law student and knew about the workings of courts. He was asked to arrange coats that advocates wear, and “brief” the two assailants.

Tillu, in his statement to the police, said he sent Yadav and Jagdeep to Panipat court on September 13 and 7 for a “recce” and to check police arrangement. This was done because Gogi was produced there in a murder case.

Day of the incident

Yadav and his cousin Vinay

took a vehicle and went to a mall at Rohini where Rahul and Jagdeep “changed their clothes to dress up like advocates”. They then went to Rohini court where Tillu’s associate had sent another shooter. The men, however, refused to take him because he “was not dressed properly”.

The chargesheet states that Tillu was calling the men for updates.

According to Tillu, he received a call around 1.30 pm about Gogi’s death. “He was very happy with the news. However, shortly he came to know from TV installed in their cell that both assailants were shot dead, he became very sad...,” reads the document.

Police said the accused were “nervous” after the incident and tried hiding or destroying evidence. Tillu gave his mobile phone and internet dongle to another inmate, Kumar, and asked him to destroy the devices.

Yadav meanwhile hid footage from CCTV cameras fitted at his house inside the “chimney” in his kitchen, police have stated.

Policemen face enquiry for ‘colluding with UK national’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE DELHI Police has initiated a departmental enquiry and demoted an Assistant Commissioner of Police and two sub-inspectors for allegedly colluding with a man and delaying a look out circular that helped him escape to the UK.

According to a report by the Vigilance department of Delhi Police, a woman lodged a complaint against her husband, Sunil Datt, a UK national. A case was registered at Punjabi Bagh police

station on October 21. However, on November 1, he fled to the UK. The woman filed a complaint alleging that police officials of the West district were in “con- nivance” with Datt and helped him leave the country.

During the initial enquiry, the names of three policemen came up — an ACP and two SIs. An enquiry was conducted by the Special Commissioner of Police (Crime). While the ACP was de- moted to a “non-sensitive post”, the sub-inspectors were put on temporary suspension. DCP Special Cell Jasmeet Singh will conduct the enquiry.

Ex-bank manager held for loan scam in Ghaziabad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

A FORMER Punjab National Bank loan manager was arrested by the Ghaziabad Police in connection with a large-scale loan scam. Police said that the accused, Priyadarshini, had allegedly by- passed banking rules to provide loans against wrongly valued as- sets. More than 39 cases have been filed in the scam estimated to be running into hundreds of crores, police said.

“The accused was arrested from Bisrakh in Greater Noida

Tuesday. She is a key link in the scam and was responsible for many irregularities. The accused was in collusion with many stakeholders which resulted in overvalued loans being granted. She was in a managerial position at the Chander Nagar branch. We will be arresting others too,” said Nipun Agarwal, SP (City) Ghaziabad.

Police said that more than 20 cases are being investigated by officers in Ghaziabad while others are under the purview of the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), CBI and some are being monitored by the court.

HC seeks details of Metro’s bank balance

SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE DELHI High Court Wednesday directed the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to furnish details of all its bank accounts within a week and asked why it cannot take a loan from the banks to pay the 2017 arbitral award to Anil Ambani’s Reliance Infrastructure-promoted Delhi Airport Metro Express Pvt Ltd (DAMEPL).

“Why don’t you take the loan from the banks? You have a liability to pay... You cannot have this

much assets in bank accounts. Why don’t you take the loan,” Justice Suresh Kumar Kait asked DMRC during the hearing of DAMEPL’s petition seeking en- forcement of arbitration award.

According to DAMEPL, DMRC owes it Rs 6,232.25 crore — a figure disputed by DMRC. DMRC has told court it is not in a position to make the payment and has of- fered to take over loans of DAMEPL instead of making payment di- rectly. Submitting that banks have rejected the offer made by DMRC, DAMEPL told the court it would like to directly negotiate with banks as part of its business strat-

egy and that its plea was not a “mercy petition” seeking charity.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing DMRC, termed the rejection of govern- ment offer by banks a very serious matter and termed Reliance’s stand “arrogant”. “I am not aware of this (banks’ rejection). This needs to be examined by the banking division also,” he said. DMRC, in an affidavit, told the court that it only has Rs 5,800.93 crore in bank accounts, including Rs 1,642.69 crore of earnings —

Section 89 of The Metro Railways Act, 2002 states that only earnings of the Metro railway administra- tion can be attached by a court in execution of a decree or order. The DMRC called it a matter involving national interests and said there will be a huge issue if Metro is stopped. “This is a case where if the bank accounts are attached and Metro services come to an end, he will not gain and I’ll not gain. This is a very important service...,” sub- mitted senior advocate Parag P Tripathi, representing DMRC.

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Number of slots for Scholarship: 20
Interested Candidates should apply online through https://overseas.tribal.gov.in/ The last date of submitting applications online is :- 31/12/2021
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The Indian Agriculture Sector Witnesses Great Rabi Season!

With technological advancements taking centre stage at the heart of government policies and initiatives, the Agriculture sector of India has witnessed robust Rabi season harvests in Q1 FY2022, which is much better than the expected 17% GVA

THE Agriculture sector, currently valued at US\$ 370 billion, is one of the major sectors in the Indian economy. According to the Economic Survey 2020-21, GDP contribution by the Agriculture sector is likely to be 19.9% in 2020-21, increasing from 17.8% recorded in 2019-20. It is also the main source of livelihood for over 50% of Indian population. As per recent reports, the Indian agriculture, forestry & fishing industry has continued to defy the slowdown due to the pandemic, as observed in other sectors, and has continued to generate growth figures as shown by latest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) values.

The gross value added (GVA) by Agriculture has grown 4.5 percent in Apr-Jun FY22 when compared to FY21. In Apr-Jun FY21, the sector had reported a growth of 3.5 percent on-year. Agriculture was the only sector to grow for April-June FY21 among eight used to compute India's GDP. The overall Indian GVA at base price has risen 18.8 percent in Apr-Jun FY22 when compared to FY21. The Agriculture sector has added Rs 21,012 crore in the first three months of the fiscal in absolute monetary terms.

When compared to the figures of Apr-Jun FY20, Indian overall GVA shrank 7.8 percent in Apr-Jun FY22, despite a 8.2 percent growth in GVA by the Agriculture sector in Apr-Jun FY22 when compared to Apr-Jun FY20.

Though the state-wise lockdowns coincided with the Rabi season harvests, the early onset of Monsoons provided the great spur during this season for summer-sown crops, such as paddy rice, cotton, soybean and pulses, and also boosted crop yields too. The Agriculture sector saw record procurement of cereals, high food prices, and employment support schemes,



multiple economists and rating agencies said in their reports.

"GVA growth in Q1 FY2022 was higher than our forecast of 17.0%, led by the robust rabi harvest, and modestly better than expected performance of manufacturing, mining and construction," Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said in a press release.

Apart from these achievements in this year, the Agriculture sector of India is also seeing a lot of technological innovations to bring out greater crop yields and increase farmers' income. Over the years, the government has taken major steps to aid and enhance the Agriculture sector with proven farming technologies and supportive policies. The recent evolution of digital technology in farming will further accelerate growth by ensuring higher crop yields and enhance sustainability by reducing water consumption and the use of agro-chemicals.

With improved technological advance-

ments and better adoption of the technology, a wide range of solutions for the Agriculture industry, such as crop stress detection, pathogen detection, and monitoring, can be achieved.

In India, a digital agriculture mission has been initiated for 2021-2025 by the Government of India for projects based on new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, block chain, remote sensing and GIS technology, use of drones and robots etc. According to Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, modernisation of the Agriculture sector will continue by infusing new technologies so that farmers can increase their income.

The Agriculture ministry has recently signed an MOU for pilot projects with CISCO, Ninjacart, Jio Platforms Limited, ITC Limited and NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NeML). Based on these pilot projects, "farmers will be able to take informed decisions on what crop to grow, what variety of seed to use and what best practises to adopt to maximise the yield. The agriculture supply chain players can plan their procurement and logistics on precise and timely information. Farmers can take informed decisions about whether to sell or



store their produce and when and where and what price to sell."

Cisco developed an Agricultural Digital Infrastructure (ADI) solution in August 2019 that enhances farming and knowledge sharing. This ADI is likely to play a vital role in the data pool that will be created by the Department of Agriculture under the National Agri Stack. The pilot project for this initiative will take place at Kaithal (Haryana) and Morena (Madhya Pradesh).

The Jio Agri (JioKrishi) platform launched in February 2020 digitises the agricultural ecosystem along the entire value chain to empower farmers. The pilot project for this initiative will take place at Jalna and Nashik (Maharashtra).

ITC has proposed to create a personalized 'Site Specific Crop Advisory' service to turn conventional crop-level generic advice into a personalised site-specific crop advisory for farmers, using a digital crop monitoring platform, hosted on ITC's e-Choupal 4.0 digital platform. The pilot project for this initiative will take place at Sehore and Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh).

Apart from all these technological advancements in the sector, the Government of India has launched major digital applications to boost technology adoption among farmers. One such platform is eNAM. Launched in April 2016, the National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal that links the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis, to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. eNAM helps farmers sell products without the interference of any brokers or mediators, by generating competitive returns from their investment.



FARMERS – OUR PRIDE

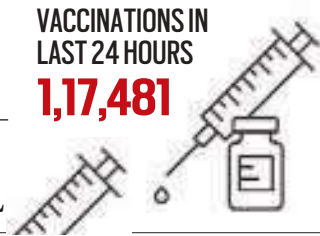
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VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS
1,17,481



TOTAL CASES
14,42,515

		Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS		13,574	13,356
ICU BEDS		2,796	2,757
Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
21	75	1	51,544
25	58	0	63,313
4*	14,16,789	25,102	3,21,64,981

*Total active cases

BRIEFLY

Gurgaon reports 29 Covid cases, highest in six months

Gurgaon: Gurgaon on Wednesday reported 29 Covid cases – the highest single-day spike in more than six months, with a positivity rate of 0.5 per cent. According to the district health department's bulletin, on June 11, the district had reported 33 cases. As per the bulletin, 927 Covid-related deaths have been reported in the district so far. Of the total Covid deaths, 611 are deaths of people with comorbidities.

Former Jio employee held for sale of stolen tower parts

Noida: A former Jio employee was arrested by the Noida Police for allegedly stealing components of mobile towers. According to police, the accused, Om Prakash Raghav, along with another man were targeting mobile communication towers and dismantling spare parts for illegal trade. Police have recovered items worth about Rs 40 lakh. "An FIR has been filed at Dadri police station. It was found that similar thefts had taken place in NCR. The accused had worked in a Jio company tower," said an official.

Man jumps off hospital building, dies

New Delhi: A 21-year-old man allegedly committed suicide by jumping off the roof of Sanjay Gandhi Hospital building on Wednesday morning. Police said the man was admitted a day earlier because he had allegedly consumed a poisonous substance. **ENS**



A health worker seen arranging oxygen cylinders at the CWG Covid care centre, as the capital sees a rise in Covid and omicron cases. *Praveen Khanna*

DISTRICT DCPs TO CONDUCT SURPRISE CHECKS

Amid Covid uptick, no Christmas and New Year gatherings allowed in city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE DELHI Disaster Management Authority has directed that no Christmas or New Year events and gatherings shall be permitted in the national capital.

Stating that as per its December 15 order, all social, political, sports, entertainment, cultural, religious and festival-related gathering are prohibited, the DDMA has directed that "all District Magistrates and DCPs shall ensure that no cultural event/ gatherings/ congregations take place for celebrating Christmas or New Year in NCT of Delhi".

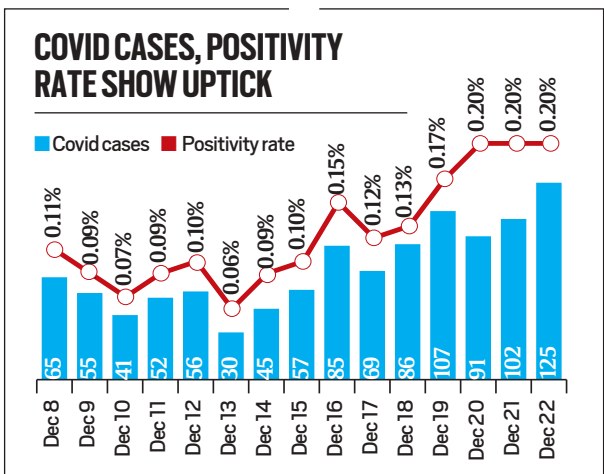
On Wednesday, the city recorded 125 new COVID cases at a positivity rate of 0.2%.

In its order issued on Friday, the DDMA has observed several times that Covid appropriate behaviour and prohibitions and restrictions directed by it are not being complied with.

"Therefore, all District Magistrates as well as all District DCPs shall conduct surprise checks/raids in their respective areas and shall take strict penal action against defaulters..."

Raising alarm over the threat of Omicron, the authority has also called on various stakeholders to enforce Covid-appropriate behaviour. It has also directed officials to strengthen the enforcement machinery and deploy "sufficient number of enforcement teams on field for keeping utmost vigil at public places".

"All District Magistrates shall upscale IEC Campaign in their respective areas and implement



the same in mission mode with an objective to ensure that the residents of NCT of Delhi follow and imbibe the COVID appropriate behaviour," it stated.

It has also asked the DMs to convene meetings with the office bearers of resident welfare associations and market traders association "to inform them

about the increasing trend of Covid cases as well as emergence of Omicron variant in NCT of Delhi and its possible threat, so that they may further sensitise their members/residents/ shopkeepers". It has recommended that market associations implement a "no mask no entry" policy in its shops and workplaces and that they and RWAs not allow customers, residents and shopkeepers without masks in their areas and public places.

The DMs have also been directed to conduct surveys in their jurisdictions to identify pockets and localities which "have potential of becoming super-spreader/hotspot of Covid virus and Omicron variant" and to follow testing, treating and tracking, and implementing enforcement and containment measures in these areas.

By Jan-end, 59 Metro stations will become pedestrian-friendly, less congested outside

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

COMMUTING IN and around Delhi Metro stations is going to get smoother as 'multimodal hubs' at 59 stations under the phase III corridor will be finished by the end of January 2022. All these stations will have segregated pedestrian and vehicular zones – from walkways and footpaths to separate lanes for e-rickshaws and feeder buses.

The objective, officials say, is to promote pedestrianisation and reduce congestion, "The utmost priority is to re-

duce the traffic jams and congestion that occurs outside Metro stations due to lack of parking bays for last-mile connectivity. At many stations, e-rickshaws are parked just outside the stations, leading to chaos. This also creates problems for pedestrians, passengers and the elderly who travel by the Metro," said a senior DMRC official.

The Chattarpur station on the Yellow Line is the first to be developed as a multimodal hub. After the success of the project here, L-G Anil Bajjal had in 2019 directed the DMRC to develop all Metro stations as multimodal hubs.



The major stations being developed include Jamia Millia Islamia. *Express*

After getting approval from the UTTIPEC, the Delhi Metro had commenced the develop-

ment of Multi Modal Integration (MMI) facilities at 59 stations under phase-III in January, 2021.

All these stations will have designated space for three-wheelers, feeder buses, e-rickshaw, cycle-rickshaw, cycles and cabs. Parking space for four-wheelers with space to charge e-vehicles will also be made available.

"Effective engineering solutions have been ensured to segregate the pedestrian zone from the vehicular zone and stop the entry of two-wheelers into the former. Railing and fencing have been used to streamline or guide pedestrians towards parking ar-

eas," said the official.

The plan will also take into account the need to make these spaces disabled-friendly.

"Despite Covid constraints, the work is expected to be completed by the end of January 2022," said the official, adding that the work has been awarded to contractors in three different packages.

The major stations being developed include Azadpur, Kalkaji, Okhla Vihar, Greater Kailash, Hauz Khas, Panchsheel Park, Jamia Millia Islamia, Sukhdev Vihar, Nehru Enclave, Shalimar Bagh, Kashmir Gate, Majlis Park, Trilokpuri and Rohini Sector 18.

Guest teachers versus guest teachers: As one group protests against Delhi govt, another speaks up for it

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

MEMBERS OF a government schools' guest teachers group held a press conference in the Delhi Secretariat, denouncing recent protests by guest teachers in the national capital as "political".

The press conference, in which members of the Dilli Atithi Shikshak Sangh spoke, was held in the Delhi Secretariat's Media Centre.

This comes two weeks after hundreds of guest teachers held a protest near the Chief Minister's residence, once again demanding a policy that will let them work till the age of retire-

ment. Punjab Congress Chief Navjot Singh Sidhu had joined the protest, in response to Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal joining a Punjab guest teachers' protest in Mohali. Another protest is scheduled to take place outside Deputy CM Manish Sisodia's residence Saturday.

"The protests have been taking place for some time and some of our colleagues have recently even stopped being guest teachers. They are being politicised. And people like Sidhu, in whose states guest teachers are on the brink of suicide, are attending. We had seen our respected CM Kejriwal go there when those teachers were protesting from atop a water

tank... These people are coming here and swaying us, they are swaying our colleagues. We appeal to them not to sully our image as teachers. Since our matters are resolved by speaking to the government from time to time, we don't even need to protest," said Anita Rathee, one of the guest teachers at Wednesday's press conference.

The teachers also spoke about different measures the Delhi government adopted to benefit them.

The All Indian Guest Teachers Association, which has been leading the protests in the capital, questioned the manner in which Wednesday's press conference was conducted. "How

can the government let a private organisation use its institutions? They are sitting in the Secretariat and delivering government statements, it is a misuse of government institutions... This is being done only to stop our protest on December 25," said Shoaib Rana, an AIGTA member.

Government representatives did not respond to queries on why the press conference was carried out in the Delhi Secretariat.

Bhanu Priya, president of the Dilli Atithi Shikshak Sangh, said, "We are lucky that we have an education minister like Manish Sisodia and we are very proud to say 'Shiksha mantri ho toh Manish Sisodia jaisa ho'."

"In 2016, when we demanded an increase in our salaries, the government doubled it in three months... In October 2017, our bill (for regularisation) was passed in the Vidhan Sabha and was sent to the L-G. Because we are a Union Territory, it is hard to get bills passed by the L-G and this one didn't... but the government did not wash their hands of the issue when we asked them to find another way... the government made a policy for us to work till 60 years and that is also pending with the L-G... Besides this, the government has given us maternity leave and pay... we started getting respect in schools only under the Aam Aadmi Party government," said Bhanu Priya.

New Delhi

Experts weigh in: Trust the vaccine, but trust your mask even more

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE NEW omicron variant of Covid-19 is more adept at evading vaccine-elicited immunity, leading to more breakthrough infections, said experts. At Lok Nayak hospital, which treated a majority of the omicron cases in Delhi, all but one infection was detected in fully vaccinated individuals.

Corroborating this, a researcher from the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), which is one of the 10 central laboratories of India's genomic sequencing network, said all of the omicron cases were in fully vaccinated individuals, meaning there is a possibility of another surge driven by the variant.

"Vaccination breakthrough is not uncommon even with other variants like alpha or delta, so it is expected. It is definitely the case with omicron. All travellers are fully vaccinated and yet we are detecting omicron infection in them. In fact, all the omicron cases detected at the lab are in fully vaccinated individuals – most travellers are from the UK or US, where rates of vaccination are very high," said Dr Rajesh Pandey, senior scientist at IGIB.

He added, "And, this is with mRNA vaccines so we don't know what will happen with Covishield or Covaxin. From all that we know so far, the indication is that omicron has a higher level of immune evasion than delta. The good thing is, from what I have heard from the clinician, the disease hasn't been severe in these people."

Would that mean that fewer people will get severe disease and be hospitalised? Dr Pandey says there are too many variables at the population level to say that. "There are too many variables that kick in when a huge population is affected – how many days after vaccination are people getting the infection (antibody levels are higher during the initial months after vaccination), we have a variety of age groups and comorbidities, many remain unvaccinated."

"Trust your vaccine, but trust your mask more. People should wear N95 masks for the next two months to prevent trans-



At Lok Nayak hospital, all but one infection was detected in fully vaccinated individuals. *Archive*

mission. If there is large scale transmission – even if the disease is mild – the virus might mutate to evade the existing immune response completely," said Dr Pandey.

A high level of exposure to the virus during the delta wave might work in India's favour.

"If you look at data from the US, nearly 73% of the infections are happening in vaccinated people. It is now certain that omicron does evade immunity by vaccines. But, in India, the seropositivity is quite high – over 90% in Delhi and over 80% in Bihar – which may offer better protection against the new variant. We are likely to have an outbreak, but probably not as bad as the UK or US," said Dr GC Khilnani, former head of the department of pulmonology at AIIMS and chairman of pulmonary, sleep and critical care medicine at PSRI hospital.

India should have approved a booster dose to better protect against omicron, said Dr Jacob John, former head of the department of virology at Christian Medical College in Vellore. "As soon as the WHO declared omicron as a variant of concern, we should have worked towards offering booster shots for better protection to the already vaccinated. We should also have approved vaccination in children who will now act as reservoirs for the virus even if they don't get sick, and some of them will. In addition, the government has been messaging about a successful vaccination drive but that is counter-productive as people stop following other non-pharmaceutical interventions like masking, social distancing, and handwashing," he said.

NDMC to make some schools 'specialised'

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE NEW Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is planning to convert some of its schools into specialised institutes to educate students in a particular field or subject, like mathematics, science, music, fashion technology, sports, cooking, dancing and others that they are specialised and skilled in. These will be called 'School of New India', said NDMC member Kuljeet Singh Chahal on Wednesday.

Also, to make the online classes available and accessible for all the children, especially those coming from the economically weaker sections (EWS), the NDMC is planning to provide tablets for students of classes IX and XII. This proposal was passed in the NDMC council meeting held Wednesday.

Besides, the NDMC is also upgrading 45 Atal Adharsh Vidyalaya and Navyug Schools with new labs, library, scientific teaching techniques, classrooms and staff rooms and other infrastructure.

"We are envisioning this project and it is also mentioned in the National Education Policy. We will identify some schools from NDMCs Atal Adharsh Vidyalaya and Navyug School and will develop them as specialised schools. Under this, EWS students will be educated in special fields and the students will get learn everything from Art to Science and Technology," said Chahal.



BEYOND POLITICS

ONCE CLOSE allies, the BJP and Shiv Sena may be on rival sides now – drifting further in the past few months. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not appear to be in a mood to snap personal ties with leaders of Shiv Sena. On Wednesday, after Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die when the floor leaders met in the Speaker’s chamber, the Prime Minister walked up to Shiv Sena leader Vinayak Raut and asked him about Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray’s health. He enquired if Thackeray was doing well after the cervical spine surgery he underwent recently.

RIFT WIDENS

DURING THE Winter Session of Parliament, which concluded on Wednesday, the distance between the ruling and opposition parties appeared to have widened. As Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi hurriedly walked to Speaker Om Birla’s chamber for the customary greetings; the Speaker is thanked and greeted by floor leaders for conducting the House at the end of the session. Sonia did not wait for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ministers to arrive at the chamber. On their part, Congress leaders said usually senior leaders of the government walk across the aisle to greet opposition leaders, which did not take place.

THE WAIT

MANY TOP higher educational institutes continue to run without full-time heads as fresh appointments remain pending. Even where appointments have been made, candidates are taking inordinately long to assume their new roles. First, Central University, Jammu waited for more than three months for IIT Jabalpur Director Sanjeev Jain to take over as its Vice-Chancellor due to delay in processing of files at the Education Ministry. Now, it is the turn of Banaras Hindu University (BHU). On November 13, the BHU was conveyed that IIT Gandhinagar Director Prof Sudhir K Jain will be its new Vice-Chancellor. However, he is yet to take charge, with a BHU spokesperson saying that Prof Jain is completing the formalities required before he leaves Gandhinagar. The delay prompted the local NSUI unit to recently lodge a “missing” complaint with police.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE ELECTION Laws (Amendment Bill), 2021 passed in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday will help make the electoral roll “very clean”, as it will eliminate duplication of names in voter list, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said on Wednesday. The Bill, he said, enables “linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem”. Addressing the media in Panaji, Chandra said: “This is a

very useful Bill...the reason for this particular linkage (with Aadhaar) is that in our electoral rolls...(many) persons (are listed) in two or three places. So that will help us in eliminating double voters – double names of same persons in one constituency...so the electoral roll will be very, very clean.” Asserting that no name will be deleted “without full verification”, he said, “You will be given choices. Suppose you are a voter at two places and we come to know that, the natural process is I should ask you whether you would like to be a voter in Panaji



CEC Sushil Chandra

or at the other place. So, safeguards are there. This will ensure a very clean vote.” The Bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on Tuesday amid a walk-out by the Opposition. Chandra also said that in the upcoming elections, political parties will have to state reasons

for fielding a candidate with criminal antecedents, “so that the public is well-informed about antecedents of candidates”. The record of a candidate’s criminal antecedents will have to be published in newspapers and TV at least thrice, and parties will have to publish them on their websites as well, he said. “They will have to give reasons for choosing a person with criminal antecedents, and why they could not find a clean candidate and what was so specific about this person that they have chosen so that there is full knowledge about the candidate.

Ultimately, it is the elector who will choose.” The ECI officials were on a two-day visit to poll-bound Goa to review poll preparedness in the state. For the first time, he said, there will be webcasting data analytics in Goa, for which IIT-Goa has also lent its expertise. “There will be real-time monitoring of polling stations that will ensure booths will be absolutely impartial, queue management can be done through it, and if there are unwanted people in the polling booth they can be removed,” said Chandra.

Goa CEO shifted

Panaji: The Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday transferred Goa’s Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Kunal to Delhi, along with the transfer of 16 other IAS officers from the AG-MUT cadre. The transfer comes about two months ahead of Assembly polls in Goa and at a time that the summary revision of Goa’s electoral roll is underway. On September 23, Goa unit of Congress had written to ECI seeking Kunal’s replacement alleging “complete bias”. ENS



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A little warmth goes a long way

ReNew Power to distribute 2,00,000 blankets across 11 states this winter as a part of its Gift Warmth campaign



What is the idea behind this initiative?

Gift Warmth is ReNew’s effort to bring a little comfort to the underserved suffering from harsh winters in the coldest regions of India. Our vision is that ‘no one in India should suffer due to cold weather’ and, in alignment with this, we distribute blankets to those in need. The programme is well integrated with SDG 13 (Climate Action) that aims to build climate resilient communities.

This year we plan to distribute 2,00,000 blankets across 11 states—nearly quadrupled from last year when we distributed 55,000 blankets across our sites. The idea germinated in 2015 when we were thinking of ways to bring together our ReNewers to go beyond work and impact communities. We read reports that people on the streets of Delhi were suffering due to cold, and, in some cases, losing their lives as well. We realized that, as we work towards larger sustainability goals to secure the planet’s future, we need to support those who are affected by climate change today.

How is this initiative being implemented?

Gift Warmth, which started as an NCR-specific programme, has grown manifold to become a pan-India initiative. By virtue of ReNew’s operational presence in many parts of the country, we are currently executing this programme at a national level. While the programme is anchored by ReNew Power, it works in partnership with state governments to implement. We have zeroed in on areas that face severe drop in temperatures during winters across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Delhi NCR. We closely work with respective district administrations to identify vulnerable populations and then organize distribution drives for local communities through our employees across our wind and solar sites. The distribution and community mobilization are directly handled by our employees who come together this time of the year in large numbers. We also engage with prominent non-profits to scale our impact. It also helps us build a community that prioritises equitable development and citizenship.

This is the seventh edition of the ini-



Vashali Nigam Sinha
Chief Sustainability Officer,
ReNew Power

tiative. What have been the key learnings from the campaign thus far?

Most of us do not realize what it means not to have access to physical warmth. While at our end, we are only providing blankets, we have realized that even a blanket could give someone the power to dream for another day without being afraid of harsh, cold winters. We have observed how a good quality blanket not only gives a fighting chance for people, especially women who are often the last ones to get protection from harsh environments, to be there for their families, but also builds a strong sense of self-esteem and resilience. Though the winters are always harsh on the deprived and the destitute, the pandemic has only aggravated the situation for these communities. We learned that there were certain communities who were particularly impacted by the pandemic, such as the migrant workers, and we have also focused on supporting them during the campaign.

We realized early on in the pandemic that it had severely affected the general income levels of households and left many without the means to afford a basic blanket to protect their families. So, we increased our target segment pool to go beyond the BPL and the homeless.

What are the changes this year? Apart from number which has increased considerably.

We saw a higher participation from the ReNew Power community, with their families being part of the distribution drives across the country. We also received a lot of support from other corporates. Moreover, we witnessed an encouraging increase in the engagement from



Highlights from the 7th edition of Gift Warmth campaign from across India

various state governments. When there is a collective buy-in from stakeholders from various sectors, even the smallest of efforts gain significance by the sheer amplification in scale and impact.

How would you like to visualise this programme in the next few years?

In 2020, our aim was to touch 1 million lives in five years. We have already distributed 400,000 blankets till date and hope to go beyond our tar-

get well ahead of time. We see this initiative reaching across India as a self-sustaining national-level intervention, led by a consortium of leaders from India Inc.

Is there a larger issue that ReNew

Power is trying to address through Gift Warmth?

Through the initiative, we are trying to put a spotlight on the need for urgent climate action in our country. The catastrophic effects of climate change, if left unabated, will affect all of us, starting with the most vulnerable. Over the last few years, the government has intensified its efforts significantly to tackle this crisis through global commitments and strategic partnerships. There is a lot of potential, especially in the corporate sector, to accelerate these efforts. Every action, however small, matters now more than ever.

How can one become a part of this initiative?

Anyone who wishes to join this campaign can donate by visiting www.renewfoundation.in. We strongly believe that to reach the 2030 goals, every individual must do their bit and Gift Warmth is an effective and engaging way to contribute in this direction. We would urge as many people as possible to join our cohort of partners from India Inc. and civil societies to make a difference this winter.

What is corporate responsibility for ReNew Power?

As a clean energy company that has helped avoid 0.5% of India’s carbon emissions, corporate responsibility is ingrained in our vision and our modus operandi. We are deeply engaged in supporting the communities we work with and accelerating national efforts for a sustainable future. We began our social responsibility journey in 2011, the year ReNew was formed. What started off as community welfare activities around our sites have become transformational development projects that align with the Sustainable Development Goals, impacting 200+ villages across India.

Is it necessary for corporates to be socially responsible?

Our world is more integrated and interconnected than ever. It is not possible for corporates to operate alone in individual pursuit of economic outcomes. They are accountable to citizens, communities, and governments with whom they share space and resources. Social responsibility is no longer a ‘nice to have’ agenda; rather it is an integral part of doing business. It is imperative for corporates to integrate their clients, suppliers and partners into their sustainability agenda. Moreover, answering the call to address global crises, such as the pandemic or climate change, requires collaboration-led efforts by public-private-social stakeholders, and the potential for corporates to drive social outcomes cannot be overstated.

8 IN PARLIAMENT

WINTER SESSION



BRINGING DOWN THE CURTAIN

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at a press conference in Parliament on Wednesday, the last day of the winter session. Prem Nath Pandey

GOVT-OPP KEEP UP BLAME-GAME

18 sittings in 24 days, session ends a day early

LIZ MATHEW & MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE WINTER Session of Parliament, which began on a confrontational note with the government passing the farm laws repeal Bill without discussions and suspending 12 Rajya Sabha MPs for their conduct in the previous session, was adjourned sine die on Wednesday, a day earlier than scheduled.

With 18 sittings in 24 days, 11 Bills were passed; 13 Bills were introduced.

Beyond the numbers, the Opposition said the session showcased a bullying government that rammed through Bills, did not provide proper replies to questions, and a Prime Minister who did not bother to attend Parliament except for brief customary appearances on first and last days. A majority of ruling party members, they said, chose not to be present in the House on many days despite a strict directive from the Prime Minister.

The government blamed the Opposition for Parliament not having debates. "Our first priority was to discuss the issue of price-rise. Unfortunately, when the Chairman and the Speaker gave them a chance, no one was ready. The Finance Minister was present with her replies," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Wednesday.

He said the government was willing to hold discussions on every issue. "The Prime Minister had suggested that the government should



Parliamentarians in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. RSTV/PTI

look into the issues raised by members during Zero Hour and there should be action on them. But the disruptions did not let up. It's not good for democracy," Joshi said.

Asked about the Opposition's allegation that Bills were passed without debates, Joshi said: "It's a baseless allegation. The Opposition should have let the House run."

In Rajya Sabha, the picture was gloomier. With the Opposition up in arms against "unwarranted (and) undemocratic suspension of 12 MPs in violation of rules of procedures".

Expressing his unhappiness over loss of time, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said, "I am not happy to share with you that the House functioned much below its potential. I urge all of you to reflect and introspect, collec-

EXPLAINED Disruption delays in Upper House

PRODUCTIVITY OF Rajya Sabha was recorded at 48% in the winter session. According to data, 60.60% of Question Hour time was lost due to disruptions. Out of total scheduled sitting time of 95 hours and 6 minutes, the House discharged business only for 45 hours 34 minutes. A total time of 49 hours and 32 minutes was lost due to disruptions and adjournments.

tively and individually, if this Session could have been different and better. I don't want to speak elaborately on the course of this session, as that would lead me to make a very critical view."

With Lok Sabha functioning more days without disruptions, Speaker Om Birla said the Chair has tried to keep a balance. "While 100 MPs from the ruling side were given a chance to ask questions, 158 Opposition MPs got the chance; 324 Opposition MPs were allowed to raise a Zero Hour mention against 239 ruling MPs," Birla told the media.

In all, he said, "99 members participated in the 12-hour-26-minute discussion on Covid-19. Sixty-one members participated in the

short-duration discussion on climate change."

While criticising the government for not referring Bills to Parliamentary panels for scrutiny, the Opposition managed to send several Bills to House committees. The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill was referred to joint committees of both Houses; National Anti Doping Bill, Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill and Mediation Bill were sent to standing committees for detailed discussions.

Although it was listed for this session, the government did not bring in a key Bill — the Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, which seeks to ban all but a few private cryptocurrencies while allowing an official digital currency by RBI — in this session. "There is a process to bring the Bill... We are working on it; it will take time," Joshi said.

Ministers pointed out that the Opposition did not play a "constructive role" and "did not want to debate any issues in detail", and instead, disrupted proceedings. According to a Union minister, the Opposition "missed every chance to take on the government; did not have any strategy, nor had unity among themselves". This, the minister said, gave the government space to have its way.

The session also saw Opposition MPs repeatedly complaining about "unsatisfactory replies" from the treasury benches.

Ready to express regret, but govt did not agree: Kharge

Suspended MPs committed a mistake and we were punished, says Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

AS THE stormy Winter Session of Parliament came to an end, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge Wednesday said he was ready to express "regret" on behalf of the 12 suspended lawmakers, which the government did not agree to as it wanted to push Bills through without discussion.

Kharge also took potshots at Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu claiming that the government had exerted pressure on him and that he, as the guardian of the House, made no effort to resolve the standoff between the Treasury and Opposition benches. Throughout this session, Rajya Sabha was repeatedly disrupted over the suspension of the MPs.

Kharge said the government was not ready to resolve the stalemate over the suspension. "The day (the MPs were suspended) I was ready to express regret on behalf of all of them. Why take it forward... They committed a mistake and we were punished," Kharge told reporters along with Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Congress chief whip in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh.

Ramesh said Kharge had on November 29 and November 30 told Leader of the Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi that he was ready to express regret on behalf of everyone, but that Goyal had been insisting from day one that all the suspended members should apologise.

"I thought about it afterwards. Their intention was to pass every bill urgently... in the din without any discussion. They wanted to fulfill their agenda... Why were they doing that? I looked at the numbers. The UPA has 68 members in the Rajya Sabha. The other opposition parties have 50. There are two independents. So the opposition has a strength of 120. And the NDA has 118. So they thought if there is voting on the Bills that they were bringing... if division is sought... they will be in a minority. So they suspended 12 members on the very first day," Kharge said.

"The government hatched a conspiracy. They wanted to pass all bills and avoid facing crucial issues of national importance, be it inflation, unemployment, GDP slide, farmers' protest, Lakhimpur Kheri, resignation of Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra... their intention was to let the House remain disrupted... so that they don't need to answer questions on these issues," he added.



Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Jairam Ramesh at a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. Anil Sharma

Kharge also criticised what he felt was the adjournment of the House at the slightest disturbance. "We give notice... and then even before we get up to speak... House is adjourned till 2 pm. You must have seen it. At least hear us for two minutes, one minute or at least 10 seconds. The moment I get up... even before I speak... Chairman adjourns the House. Why? It happens under pressure from the government. The government was exerting pressure," he claimed.

"And the Chairman has repeatedly told us. I don't want to say anything against him... because he is senior... our Chairman... our guardian. But he has told us repeatedly that he cannot do anything. You and the government sort it out. We are fighting. How can we resolve... there should be someone who should mediate... But when he asked him... he says it is between you and the government and if the government does not agree what can I do," Kharge said.

Chowdhury said the Opposition wanted the House to function, but when Mishra's name came up, they thought of seeking answers from the government as he is a member of the Union cabinet. "We demanded a discussion and wanted that for the sake of morality, he should resign till the time the probe is over in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident," he said. "The tension in the House cropped up due to the arrogance of the majority of the ruling party. They only want to bulldoze through the majority they enjoy."

Chowdhury added: "We were never running away from a debate. We wanted a discussion on price rise, but it was listed after the Lakhimpur issue came up. They deliberately brought the price rise issue to stop us from raising the Lakhimpur issue."

EXCERPTS OF STANDOUT SPEECHES DURING WINTER SESSION

‘LGBTQ population, single men must also have access to this tech’

I AM a great admirer of our *puranas*, *ithihasams* and epics... Our epics have so many instances of unconventional births... This government always says it draws inspiration from these *puranas*. But this law which they have drafted is not inspired by the liberal Hindu epics. In fact, this law has been drafted by somebody who has got a regressive, colonial, and Victorian mindset. This law has not come from Hindu liberal traditions... I will tell you why.

This law excludes many people, rather than it includes. When I have given you so many instances of unconventional births and unconventional unions in our Hindu epics, this law only allows married people to have access to this technology. It does not allow LGBTQ people to have access to this technology. It does not allow single men to have access to this technology. So, this law is actually a Victorian law; it is not a Hindu law.

So, do not ever say that you are a government which is actually propagating Hindu values. The Hindu values are liberal values. You are, in fact, propagating a Victorian colonial value.



KARTIP CHIDAMBARAM
CONGRESS
Lok Sabha, Dec 1
■ Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021

This law does not take into account the new realities of India. Of course, these new realities are not new realities. These were there in our ancient scriptures. Those unions which were always there, were suppressed by the colonial mentality. These unions must also be given access to this technology. The LGBTQ population, live-in couples, and single men must also have access to this technology if they want so.

This law is discriminatory... This law again is patriarchal. That is again a hallmark of this government and the hallmark of all it says. A person who is capable of donating an egg, has

to be married and has to have a child who is at least three years old; only then can she become a donor. A single woman cannot be a donor. Again, this reeks of patriarchy....

The Surrogacy Bill was passed in this House without a debate. That Bill is still pending in Rajya Sabha. So, it has not yet become a law. But this Bill says there is going to be an Oversight Board which will draw its powers from the Surrogacy Act. Why are you bringing this Bill when that Bill has not become a law? There are many conflicts between these two laws....

You want the Aadhaar card for the donor because you want to identify the donor through that Aadhaar card. But the donor has to be anonymous. What if there is a leak of data?... As far as complaint mechanism goes, only the Board can complain. An individual cannot complain....

As I said in the beginning, this is the government which always says that it draws inspiration from our *puranas*. But this government is not at all acting in the way in which I have been taught Hindutva by my grandmother....

OUR COUNTRY has, for long, awaited the legislation on Assisted Reproductive Technology... So, it is at least laudable that the Hon. Minister and the government have brought this Bill, though the Surrogacy Bill was like putting the cart before the horse. It was brought here before. Surrogacy cannot take place unless in vitro fertilization takes place. So, we brought the cart; now we are bringing the horse.

What I would like to say is this. I completely agree with Mr Karti (Chidambaram) here in point about the exclusion of single parents, transgenders and LGBTQ couples at this age; they should be brought in. They also have a right to become parents....

Before we go deep into the Bill, from my side, I would like to elaborate a little bit on the procedure. It is because the procedure has a great significance to this Bill today. As Dr (Heena) Gavit was saying that ovarian hyperstimulation might take place. Ovarian hyperstimulation is a killer disease. It is not talking about Gynaecology. Sometimes an IVF laboratory is mixed up with a pathological laboratory. It has nothing in common... A pathologist knows nothing about the IVF....



KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR
TMC
Lok Sabha, Dec 1
■ Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021

It is a very humble moment for me. I am this country's first Transvaginal Ultrasound Sonologist.... Hon. Minister should give a thought to the things I have been speaking about. This Bill has to be changed.... It has to go to scrutiny and the Board must be manned by people who know the subject. But banks have to be completely abolished unless it is associated with an IVF laboratory manned by people who know the subject.... If a pathologist has been working on IVF for 30 years, welcome them. If a gynecologist is working on IVF for 30 years, welcome them. Otherwise, every gynecologist is not an IVF specialist because it is not taught in MBBS or MD curriculum....



TMC MP Derek O'Brien in the Parliament complex on Wednesday. Prem Nath Pandey

O'Brien: Modi slow-poisoning Parliament, manufacturing majority in RS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

TMC RAJYA Sabha floor leader Derek O'Brien Wednesday said the government tried to "manufacture" a majority in the Upper House through the suspensions of Opposition MPs.

While 12 MPs — six from Congress, two each from TMC and Shiv Sena, and one each from the CPI and CPI(M) — were suspended from the winter session on November 29, O'Brien was suspended on Tuesday.

O'Brien's suspension had come on a motion moved by MoS V Muraleedharan, which accused 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" during a discussion on the electoral reforms Bill, which was later passed through a voice vote.

His suspension lasted a day as the House was adjourned sine die on Wednesday. Joining other suspended MPs at the Gandhi statue in the Parliament complex on Wednesday, O'Brien said, "Hitler burned down Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is slow-poisoning Parliament. This government has tried to manufacture a majority in the Upper House by suspending 12 MPs. Under this dispensation, democracy is being mocked and dismantled every day."

‘Judges appointing judges unheard of... there is no diversity’

THERE IS a serious lacuna because though we decide on such matters, we have no role in the appointment of judges? Does this exist anywhere in the world? Absolutely, no! Judges appointing judges is unheard of... There has been a demand for a National Judicial Appointment Commission which should represent judiciary, executive, legislature, bar and the public with provisions of transparency and accountability. Let people know who are going to be our judges and their competence, ability and integrity. Should there be a system shrouded in mystery, secrecy and darkness?

Are we creating a system of patronage or give and take. Are we creating an oligarchy?.. I am afraid we are creating an oligarchy. We have judges' families.... I vouch for the fact that there are brilliant judges with high lev-

els of integrity from judges' families. But that should be exceptions not thumb rule in democracy. That should be exceptions....

Let me read a profile of a judge which I happen to see at the High Court's website. Mr. Justice so and so, I won't mention his name, born on so and so date, belongs to a family associated with judiciary. His maternal great grandfather was Chief Justice of India, his maternal grandfather was a former acting Chief Justice, one of his maternal uncles was a former judge of the Supreme Court, his maternal uncle is a sitting judge of the Supreme Court. It is going on. It is like a long list.

We all talk about dynasty. The BJP members have been very harsh when they talk about dynasty in the Congress party, at least they have passed the test of winning the con-



JOHN BRITTAS
CPI(M)
Rajya Sabha, Dec 13
■ High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021

fidence of the people. This is a clear case of a dynasty. Why are we keeping mum on this?

The government has successfully spiked the appointments of those (judges) who are inconvenient to them... The government has been sitting on the proposals of collegium whenever they find certain names who are

persona non grata for them. Some judges are transferred for unknown reasons as a punishment.... There are cases when the government had not consented to the names by collegium for years despite the fact that the Supreme Court had emphatically stated that once returned the executive must give consent.

I am sure the key framer of the Constitution and the first Law Minister, Dr B R Ambedkar will be turning in his grave seeing how judicial appointments are made and how the independence of judiciary is tampered with. He must be turning in his grave.

India is a diverse country.... The present scheme of appointment ensures that only a particular class is rewarded by the government. A new class is being created. Of course, there are exceptions, I understand. There are

brilliant judges who come from judges' families.... During the expansion of the last Cabinet, it was said to include a sizable number of OBCs, SCs and STs.... When it comes to the judiciary, we don't want such a diverse representation? Should we be oblivious about that? Do you want such representation only in the Cabinet?

Out of 47 Chief Justices of India till date, at least 14 have been Brahmins. From 1950-70, the maximum strength of Supreme Court was 14 judges and 11 of them were Brahmins.... There is no diversity in the judiciary.... I am not against Brahmins... I am not against any class. I am just completing it. This august House will be shocked to note that till 1980, there was no judge from the OBC in the Supreme Court, in the highest court of the country.

9 GOVT & POLITICS

In a first, CRPF puts women on VIP detail; Shah, Gandhis on list

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah, former prime minister Manmohan Singh and the Gandhi family will now be protected by women commandos of the Central Reserve Police Force, apart from the male contingent provided to them for security.

Shah, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Manmohan Singh are all Z-plus protectees of CRPF. This is the first time the force will deploy women commandos for VIP security.



File

Women commandos will be initially deployed at the residence of the protectees

“Our first batch of women commandos comprising of 32 female combatants has completed its training in VIP security. They

will be ready for deployment by January 15. We have decided to detail them with our Z plus protectees,” a senior CRPF officer said.

Sources said given the small size of the contingent, these women commandos will be initially deployed at the residence of the protectees.

“Since there are only 32 female combatants, each protectee will get only five or six women commandos. It will be difficult to deploy them for proximate security when there is movement given the small size of the contingent at this time. However, if required they can be attached to the women pro-

tectees during election rallies,” the officer said.

Elections are due to be held in five states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa next year.

He added that the women commandos will be given proximate security duties in future as more women join the VIP security wing of the force.

This would, however, not be the first time that the Gandhis and Manmohan Singh would have protection of women commandos. Sources said when they enjoyed protection of the Special Protection Group (SPG), at that time too there was a small con-

tingent of the SPG women commandos who provided residential security.

Gandhis and Singh were stripped of SPG security in November 2019 following which they were provided Z plus cover of the CRPF.

In 2012, the National Security Guard (NSG), which is the premier counter-terror force in the country that also provides VIP security, had similarly raised a 25-member female contingent for VIP security. They were detailed to protect Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam chief J Jayalalithaa.

However, the two politicians initially showed reluctance to be protected by a newly raised women contingent and preferred to continue with their existing security. Following media reports on the issue, however, they relented.

Meanwhile, sources said, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued orders to withdraw security provided to former West Bengal minister Rajib Banerjee. The two-time MLA had resigned from the TMC in January ahead of Assembly elections and joined the BJP and was given central security following this. However, this October, Banerjee rejoined TMC.

TMC not even in Goa election race: Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, DECEMBER 22

IN WHAT appears to be a sign of conflicting interests in the larger Opposition space, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal hit out at the Trinamool Congress, saying the party is “not even in the race” for the upcoming Assembly elections in Goa.

Asked why he had spared the TMC in his speech in Panaji on Tuesday even as he attacked the BJP, Congress and the Maharashtra-trawadi Gomantak Party (MGP), Kejriwal said, “You (the media) are giving the TMC so much importance. According to me, the TMC does not have even 1 per cent vote share. They came to Goa three months ago. Democracy does not function like this. In a democracy, you have to put in hard work, you have to work among the people. In your view the TMC may be important, but in my view, I don’t think the TMC is even in the race.”

He said he did not feel the need to mention the TMC in his address. “Why should I? They are not even in the race. There are 1,350 (political) parties in the country, should I mention every-one?” he said at a press conference after the AAP launched its poll campaign with the Panaji rally on Tuesday.

The Goa TMC responded to Kejriwal’s remarks with a tweet: “We firmly believe in working for people and standing beside them through thick & thin. Those indulging in election forecasting and vote share predictions are simply reflecting their political immaturity and desperation. Let the people of Goa decide who should be taken seriously!”

Kejriwal was speaking at a press conference to announce his “sixth guarantee” – a corruption-free government and doorstep delivery of government services –



‘TMC does not even have 1% vote share’

ahead of the assembly polls in Goa expected in February. He had earlier announced five poll promises, which the AAP calls “guarantees” to the people of Goa – 300 units of power free for each household every month, unemployment allowance for mining and tourism dependents, free tirth yatra, a corporation for autorickshaw and taxi operators and Rs 1,000 to every woman above the age of 18.

“In the last 60 years the Congress has ruled for 27 years and the BJP and MGP ruled for 15 years. Besides doing corruption, they haven’t done anything for the state. If we are voted to power, AAP will give the first corruption-free government in the state and this is Kejriwal’s sixth guarantee to Goans,” he said. Appealing to the people of Goa to vote for AAP, he said, “At least give us a chance.”

Kejriwal’s swipe at the TMC comes in the midst of an aggressive push by the Mamata Banerjee-led party to make inroads into Goa.

The TMC declared in September that it would contest all 40 Assembly seats. Banerjee has made two visits to the state since then and entered into an alliance with the MGP, an estranged BJP ally. It has also poached three MLAs – two from Congress and one from NCP – besides inducting the former working president of Goa Forward Party and block-level leaders from parties including the BJP.

The AAP, which made its debut in Goa in the 2017 elections in which it drew a blank, has been attempting to make its presence felt this time around.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Goa Cong fields ex-CM from Poreim; son says will defeat him for BJP

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, DECEMBER 22

A DAY after former Goa chief minister Pratapsingh Rane announced that he would contest the Assembly election from his bastion of Poreim in North Goa, the Congress’s Central Election Committee Wednesday approved his candidature from the seat where he remains undefeated for almost 50 years.

His son Vishwajit Rane, state health minister and BJP MLA, had said Tuesday that it was time his father bowed out from politics or he would contest against him from Poreim and win it for BJP.

After the Congress announced Rane’s candidature on Wednesday, the unprecedented father-son electoral duel now seems inevitable in Goa.

On Wednesday, Vishwajit told *The Indian Express*: “Now there is no discussion that will



Pratapsingh Rane (left) and his son Vishwajit Rane

take place. I don’t even have to campaign. I am not only confident [of winning] but I am worried that he [senior Rane] may come third.”

He said the BJP was supportive of his candidature from Poreim. “My party is fully supporting me. Why won’t they? They are winning a seat that they have never won,” Vishwajit said.

Pratapsingh Rane, 83, had said on December 8 that he would not leave Congress. This was after BJP’s Goa election in-charge Devendra Fadnis said the party would soon have the “blessings of Pratapsingh Rane”.

Govt: Most of those who got citizenship since 2018 minorities from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

WHILE THE rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) are yet to be framed, government data shows a significant majority of those granted Indian citizenship since 2018 were minorities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, and belonged to the Hindu, Sikh, Jain and Christian faiths.

According to data provided by the government in Parliament, a total of 8,244 Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Christians from the three countries applied for Indian citizenship, of which 3,117 were granted the same as of December 2021.

“Number of citizenship applications received from Hindu, Sikh, Jain and Christian minorities groups from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan during the year 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 is 8,244. Number of Indian citizenship granted to people belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Jain and Christian minorities groups from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan during the year 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 is 3,117,” MoS Home Nityanand Rai told Rajya Sabha on Wednesday in a written response to a question.

In response to another question, Rai informed the House that between 2016 and 2020, as many as 4,177 people were granted Indian citizenship. Of these 628 were approved in 2018, 987 in 2019 and 639 in 2020. Data for 2021 was not available.



Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai

India does not have a refugee policy. “All foreign nationals including refugee seekers are governed by the provisions contained in The Foreigners Act, 1946, The Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, The Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and The Citizenship Act, 1955,” Rai said in his reply.

The minister also informed the House that as of December 14 this year, 10,635 applications were pending with the government for Indian citizenship – 7,306 from Pakistan, 1,152 from Afghanistan and 161 from Bangladesh. A total of 428 applications from stateless people were also pending with the government.

The CAA, which grants citizenship to illegal immigrants belonging to the Hindu, Jain, Sikh, Parsi, Christian and Buddhist communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, was passed by Parliament in December 2019 amid vehement criticism from the Opposition, which claimed a communal agenda behind the law as it left out Muslims.

After the law was enacted, Home Minister Amit Shah had said in media interviews that nearly 600 Muslims from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan had been granted Indian Citizenship since 2014.

Andhra launches one-time payment scheme for poor with outstanding govt housing loans

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 22

THE ANDHRA Pradesh government has launched a programme which will enable poor beneficiaries with outstanding government housing loans to make a one-time payment, register the properties in their names and also get ownership documents.

Under the One Time Settlement (OTS) programme, a payment of Rs 10,000 can be made for a property in villages, Rs 15,000 in municipalities, and Rs 20,000 in municipal corporations.

“Once OTS is paid, the registration in the beneficiaries’ names would be done free of charge and they will be given ownership documents. Not only will their properties be regularised but they will also be able to sell at the existing market rates or transfer to their kin,” said Andhra Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botsa Satyanarayana.

Authorities have already started accepting applications from eligible beneficiaries but the programme was officially launched Tuesday by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy in West Godavari district.

The programme ends on April 2.

Under the programme, the state government will be waiving off outstanding housing loans worth Rs 10,000 crore of 40 lakh beneficiaries who availed loans from the Andhra Pradesh Housing Board Corporation since 2011

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV MEETING



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

India should emerge as leader in post-Covid world order: PM

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Wednesday said India should emerge as a world leader in this post-Covid world order.

Addressing the second National Committee meeting on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav here, the PM said the country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at a time the whole world is going through the Covid-19 crisis.

“The crisis has taught us all new lessons and shattered the existing structures which will

lead to the emergence of a new world order in the post Covid era. So, as we celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, we should envisage a pivotal role for India and that it should emerge as a world leader in this post-Covid new world order,” he said.

The first meeting of the Committee was organised on March 8, this year, days before the launch of the 75-week-long Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations by the Prime Minister.

The PM further stated that it is commonly stated that the 21st century belongs to Asia; it is important to focus on India’s

stature in Asia in this century.

The PM emphasized that this is an opportune time to set our eyes on 2047 when the country will celebrate 100 years of independence. It is at that time that the current generation will be at the helm of affairs and the nation’s destiny will be in their hands. “The current generation is fired with the motivation to create a new future...”

The members who attended the meeting included Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, various state Governors, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, political leaders, government officials among others.

RLD to Mahan Dal, SP’s new allies: the smaller parties

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 22

AFTER ALLYING with Congress in the 2017 election and BSP in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, and facing defeat in both, the Samajwadi Party has made it clear that it will ally with smaller parties for the UP elections. So far, it has tied up with several smaller parties, all of which, with the exception of the Rashtriya Lok Dal, have a base among OBCs in the state; the RLD has its presence among Jats in western UP.

In the last few polls, the BJP has won the support of non-Yadav OBCs. SP’s alliances have been made with an eye on these votes.

A look at these parties:



SP is eyeing OBC votes through its alliances. File

■ Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party

SBSP, a former BJP ally, has its base in eastern UP districts. It has influence among backward com-

munities such as Rajbhars, Chauhans, Pals, Vishwakarmas, Prajapatis, Banjaras and Kashyaps.

■ Rashtriya Lok Dal

The RLD is hoping for a turn-

around in fortunes under Ajit Singh’s son Jayant Chaudhary. The party hopes to cash in on the anti-BJP sentiment among farmers in western UP, and Jayant and Akhilesh have so far held several rounds of discussions on seat sharing. The party hopes to bring together Jats and Muslims, the two constituencies that together formed its core vote bank but who went separate ways after the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots.

■ Mahan Dal

Led by Keshav Dev Maurya, the Mahan Dal was formed in 2008 and has a presence among Most Backward Castes such as Shakyas, Sainis, Mauryas and Kushwahs in west UP districts of Kasganj, Agra and Firozabad, and in around 150 seats in eastern UP.

In cutout, as ‘mentor’, Gen Rawat in Uttarakhand campaign pitch

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, DECEMBER 22

AMID the cutouts at the Congress ‘Vijay Samman Rally’ in Dehradun on December 16, to mark India’s 1971 victory over Pakistan, one stood out in particular. Competing with Indira and Rahul Gandhi in size and display was a cutout of the late Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Singh Rawat.

In the campaign for the hilly state that has a large population in the defence forces, it is not just the Congress that is giving pride of place to Rawat, who belonged to Uttarakhand and died in a helicopter crash on December 9. The Modi government gave Rawat, his wife and other defence officers who died in the crash a big ceremonial send-off, while the chief ministerial face of the Aam Aadmi Party, that is seeking to get a toe-

hold in the state ruled by either the BJP or Congress for 21 years, has called Rawat his mentor.

After its Dehradun rally, the Congress held a three-day-long ‘Veer Gram Pranam Yatra’ starting from Rawat’s ancestral village.

Before the Congress rally, the BJP wrapped up a ‘Shaheed Samman Yatra’, during which it collected soil from villages of 1,734 “martyrs”, before holding a ceremony for construction of a ‘Saini Dham’ in Dehradun to “honour the spirit of pride in one’s nation”.

A senior Congress leader said they expected the BJP, with its “nationalism” pitch, to canvass for Army votes, and it hopes to preempt that. Pointing out that “roughly every family in the state has sent at least one person to the Army” the leader said: “The ‘Vijay Samman Rally’ by Rahul Gandhi was dedicated to ex-soldiers and it was a big success. We reminded



At the Congress Vijay Samman Rally on December 16.

people of the sacrifices made by the Gandhi family. Rahul Gandhi asked all Congress workers to install photos of Indira Gandhi in their house. Women in Uttarakhand love and respect Indira Gandhi due to her attachment to this region.”

Minister and Uttarakhand government spokesperson Subodh Uniyal said while the BJP has always worked for jawans and given them due respect, the Congress was using General Indira Gandhi due to her attachment to this region.”

very old demand of Army personnel and it was the BJP that fulfilled it. In the past, governments would just send ashes of martyrs after cremation along with some compensation. After the BJP came to power, it was decided that bodies would be sent home in proper coffins. The BJP has also provided several other facilities to ex-soldiers,” Uniyal said.

Marking its poll debut in the state, AAP picked mountaineer and former Army officer Colonel Ajay Kothiyal as its CM candidate in August – it hasn’t announced one yet in either Punjab or Goa where it is also contesting. Calling Rawat his mentor, Kothiyal said the late CDS had congratulated him on joining AAP and asked him to “bring the Delhi development

model to Uttarakhand”.

Apart from Kothiyal’s Army appeal, AAP is banking on its promises of electricity, jobs, free pilgrimage.

For the Congress, long divided between various factions, the biggest hope is former CM Harish Rawat, who heads the party’s poll campaign in the state.

Congress organisation general secretary Mathura Dutt Joshi claims Rawat “personally” commands 7-10% of the votes, and people are rallying behind him as it might be the 73-year-old’s last election.

The BJP too considers Harish Rawat its primary opponent, with senior leader Amit Shah directing its attacks on him at the launch of the BJP campaign for Uttarakhand on October 30. The

party is also highlighting that its incumbent CM Puskhar Singh Dhami is much younger (46) in comparison to Rawat. One of the BJP’s campaign slogans is “*Abki baar yuva sarkar*” (This time a government of the youth”).

A two-term MLA, Dhami took over in July after the BJP changed CMs twice in a year – first bringing in Tirath Singh Rawat in place of Trivendra Singh Rawat in March; and then Dhami instead of Tirath Singh in July. As a Thakur from Kumaon, Dhami evens out the caste balance, with BJP chief Madan Kaushik, a Garhwal Brahmin. Dhami is only the second Thakur CM of the BJP from Kumaon region. The BJP government has also tried to placate priests unhappy over Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamnotri dhams being brought under the Devasthanam Board Act, by withdrawing the move.

10 EXPRESS NETWORK

HC orders probe into lawyer's 'indecent behaviour' in virtual hearing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 22

THE MADRAS High Court ordered CB-CID to register a suo motu FIR relating to purported video clips of a lawyer "found engaged in eroticism with a lady" during a virtual court session. Initiating suo motu criminal contempt proceedings against the lawyer, the court also asked the Chennai city police commissioner to take steps to block the circulation of the video.

The Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, meanwhile, prohibited the lawyer, R.D. Santhana Krishnan, from practising law in view of his "indecent behaviour while attending the court proceedings through virtual mode".

A division bench on Tuesday noted that "a video clipping showing the online Court proceedings of one of our brother Judges, in which, a male is found engaged in eroticism with a lady, is going viral in social media. This Court cannot afford to be a mute spectator and turn a Nelson's eye when such brazen vulgarity is publicly displayed amidst Court proceedings. Ergo, we take cognizance of the impugned video clipping for initiating suo motu criminal contempt proceedings and issue the following directions". The court said, directing the registry to register a suo motu criminal contempt proceedings and submit a report.

The court also issued a direction to the CB-CID to register a suo motu FIR and file a preliminary report on December 23 "naming the dramatis personae who are found engaged in the vulgar activity" and a direction to the registry to preserve the video recordings of the Court proceedings in question.

Day after Haldia refinery fire, IOC team, police begin probe

ATRI MITRA
HALDIA, DECEMBER 22

A DAY hours after a massive fire broke out at its refinery in Haldia, a high-level Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) team arrived from New Delhi on Wednesday to probe the cause of the blaze that killed three persons and caused injuries to 44 others.

Even as IOC authorities are yet to ascertain the exact cause of the incident, sources said that after primary investigation by the district police, it was found there was a leak in a naptha gas pipeline may have led to the blaze.

AFTER COVID-INDUCED SLUMP

Most IITs see rise in job offers to graduates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

WITH THE first phase of the placement season drawing to an end, most IITs have registered a jump in job offers to graduating students in comparison to 2020, while some of the institutes have even surpassed pre-pandemic figures.

Numbers shared by the IITs show that most received over 1,200 offers, with the participation of international companies rising considerably as against 2020, when recruitment was hit by Covid-induced disruptions across the globe. For example, the participation by interna-

tional companies in the placement drive at IIT-Kanpur rose from 19 in 2020 to 47 this year.

The top recruiters across the IITs have been American Express, Microsoft, EXL Analytics, Google, Uber, Reliance India Limited, Goldman Sachs, and Rakuten Mobile, among others.

Among the older institutions, IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Madras and IIT-Roorkee received 1,300, 1,250, 1,316 and 1,243 offers respectively. The offers received by IIT-Delhi is an increase of 45 per cent from last year's first phase, an official of the institute said. "There have also been 180 PPOs (pre-placement offers), which is the highest in the last five years,"

the official said. IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Madras and IIT-Kanpur received 400, 226 and 156 PPOs respectively.

IIT Kharagpur has claimed that it created the "all-time highest placement record in the history of IITs" in its first phase through more than 1,100 placement offers by December 3 — the third day of placements. More than 1,500 students were placed by the seventh day of the placement drive, "which surpassed all the previous years to placement figures", the institute said in a statement.

An IIT-Delhi official said the average compensation offered also rose — an observation shared by authorities of the

other campuses as well.

"Around 80 per cent of the students who showed interest in availing placement facilities in this phase have been recruited up to now, with selections on over 350 job profiles from over 200 companies," said an official from the institute.

Abhishek Kumar, who heads the Centre for Career Development at IIT-Guwahati, said 837 students, accounting for 86.52 per cent of the graduating undergraduates, have been placed so far. The remaining data was being compiled, he said.

At IIT-Kanpur, the highest packages offered so far are \$2,87,550 by an international company and Rs 1.2 crore by a

domestic company. In total, 49 offers above 1 crore have been received, making it the highest the institute has received so far.

The institute's director, Prof. Abhay Karandikar, said the numbers are a positive indication of the "steady revival of the economy and the increase in core sector jobs".

The highest domestic and international offers at IIT-Roorkee so far have been Rs 1.8 crore and Rs 2.15 crore respectively, and more than 22 students at IIT-Delhi have received offers with an annual CTC in the range of Rs 0.9 – 2.4 crore.

Meanwhile, the highest offer at IIT-Bombay is a PPO by Uber for \$2,87,000 per annum.

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

On discussion table: proposed levy for finished products, a debate, and rejection

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

A LEVY meant to pay local communities equitably for using biological resources conserved by them was a contentious point in discussions surrounding the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021, with officials and experts picking holes in multiple aspects.

At a meeting of the cabinet secretariat on February 11 to discuss the Bill, tabled recently in Lok Sabha by Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, a senior official called for levying Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) from companies on their end product, rather than the raw materials.

Chairman of the Expert Committee on Biodiversity Rules and Guidelines on Access Benefit Sharing, A.K. Goyal, said this was because "raw material is of no value and the end product is of very high value", according to the minutes of the meeting.

The proposal, which would essentially have meant a higher share for local communities, was overruled by Environment Secretary R.P. Gupta and AYUSH secretary Rajesh Kotecha, who said imposing ABS on finished products "would not be fair" as they involve various additional inputs, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

ABS comes under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Its 2014 guidelines ensure that benefits derived from the use of biological resources are shared in a fair manner among the local communities that possess traditional knowledge regarding its use.

What this means is that when large companies use medicinal

or other indigenous plants for their products, they have to pay ABS to the communities that conserve and protect them.

The ABS levied in India is between 0.1 and 0.5 per cent — which critics say is very low.

ABS exemption for a number of producer categories has been among the main thrusts of the proposed amendments brought in by the ministry in order to liberalise the biodiversity-related markets. This has drawn heat from environmentalists.

The AYUSH Ministry said in the meeting that codified traditional knowledge — where the source of biodiversity and identity of owner are known — should be exempted from the Act. But non-codified knowledge — often passed down orally over generations — should be brought under its purview. This suggestion is part of the amendment Bill that has now been referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament.

While the ministry has proposed the relaxation of norms to allow foreign investment in Indian companies that deal in biodiversity products, as well as Indian research institutes, it is the proposals for ABS that have been most controversial. "We are in the midst of one of the biggest biodiversity crises with the increasing loss of species etc, and these proposed amendments have diluted the existing norms — decriminalising penalties... The intent of the government is very clear, and that is to help commercial enterprises profit and not to protect biodiversity, which is the main purpose of the Act," said environmental lawyer Ritwick Dutta.

"A general who ruled our neighbouring country told the people that there that he will bring real Islam. Teaching the people about religion, he created so much of hatred that instead of books children found guns in their hands. You can see result of that today," she told a party rally at Bhatindi in Jammu. "Today, Pakistan is neck deep in debts. The people there are regretting that they supported the general..."

"Now see, what is happening on our side today. Our democracy is finished, our Constitution is gone and Jammu and Kashmir has been made a laboratory. Things are first tested here and then used elsewhere the country," she said, referring the UT administration calling Army after power employees went on indefinite strike in protest against

The judge further noted that the two "may only be hands, as he [Deshmukh] would have been and was the main beneficiary from the leakage of the contents of above PE". On December 17, the last date of hearing, the court had discussed the contents of the charge sheet, noting that Tiwari had received "illegal gratification" for leaking sensitive and confidential information related to the alleged corruption case against Deshmukh.

Kovind visits INS Vikrant, lauds indigenous shipbuilding efforts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind witnessed the country's maritime prowess and combat capabilities on Wednesday as the Southern Naval Command organised an Operations Demonstration (Op Demo) in the Ernakulam channel.

Kovind, Navy officials said, also inspected INS Vikrant, an Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) that has completed two rounds of trials and is likely to be commissioned mid-2022. "This was the Supreme Commander's first visit to the ship. He was provided a first-hand brief on the progress of trials towards commissioning of the ship," officials said.

The President "expressed satisfaction" on the progress of INS Vikrant and appreciated efforts by Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard to develop indigenous shipbuilding capabilities, they added. INS Vikrant is under construction



President Ram Nath Kovind inspects a Guard of Honour during his visit to the naval base in Kochi. *PTI*

tion at Cochin Shipyard Ltd, Kochi. According to the Navy, the indigenous share in the ship's construction is around 76 per cent of overall cost of Rs 19,341 crore.

Kovind will be reviewing the naval fleet in February.

Wednesday's Op Demo showcased the combat capability of ships and aircraft, including simulated beaching reconnaissance and assault. The President also

witnessed high-speed runs by fast interceptors, shore bombardment, helicopter manoeuvres, sonar dunk operations, boarding operations and cargo sling operations by helicopters, officials said.

"The day's highlights were manning of the yard and arms of the Sail Training Ship 'Tarangini'... The event concluded with a performance by the naval band and a fly-past," they added.

Haryana lowers drinking age from 25 to 21 yrs

Chandigarh: The Haryana government has amended its Excise Act, reducing the age limit for the purchase, sale or consumption of liquor from 25 years to 21 years.

An Amendment Bill in this regard was passed in the Vidhan Sabha on Wednesday, the concluding day of the winter session.

Giving its rationale for this amendment, the government said the age may be brought down "as many other states have prescribed lower age limits", a spokesperson said. "Moreover, socio economic conditions... have changed drastically from the time when the provisions were incorporated in the Excise Act..." **ENS**



Shankari Majhi's son Debabrata is undergoing treatment in Kolkata.

Witnesses also claimed that the fire started at the naptha gas pipeline of the plant.

Delhi court directs CBI to probe Deshmukh in leak of 'PE report'

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

NOTING THAT former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh was not arraigned as an accused in a CBI final report, a Delhi court on Wednesday directed the CBI to investigate the NCP leader in connection with the leak of sensitive and confidential information related to a corruption case, observing that the agency "seems to have forsaken

the man pulling the strings".

Special Judge Sanjeev Aggarwal passed the order while taking cognizance of a charge sheet filed against Deshmukh's lawyer Anand Daga and CBI sub-inspector Abhishek Tiwari.

"The CBI seems to have left the engine / horse pulling the cart, thereby only arraigning those travelling in cart, as without pull of engine or horse the ride of cart or conspiracy would not have been possible... Despite mountain of apparent evidence, CBI seems



Maharashtra ex-minister Anil Deshmukh

to have forsaken the man pulling the strings or the controlling mind or master mind or head while only chargesheeting the hands, for reasons best known," the court said in its December 22 order.

Tiwari and Daga were arrested after the leak of the pur-

ported CBI Preliminary Enquiry (PE) report, which had found that no cognizable offence was made out against Deshmukh on the allegations of corruption levelled by former Mumbai Police commissioner Param Bir Singh in the Bombay High Court. The leaked report, the CBI alleged, was circulated on social media as part of a "larger conspiracy to subvert the investigation".

In its December 22 order, the Delhi court directed the CBI to "discreetly and thoroughly fur-

ther investigate the role of Deshmukh in present matter with utmost alacrity, in a time bound manner".

The agency has been directed to file a status report in this regard within four weeks of the order "without fail".

The court made the observations after noting that both Daga and Tiwari were closely associated with Deshmukh and "may have been acting in tandem with him, who may be the controlling mind of the larger conspiracy".



At a protest in Mon, Nagaland, for repeal of AFSPA. *PTI*

utensils and rations to escape into the jungle. I was a child but I could smell and sense fear that feeling never left me," he writes.

Like Ngullie, various accounts and memories of living under the shadow of AFSPA are being retold

and shared. "But as much as these memories of a palpable sense of insecurity from my childhood stir up, I realise how much forgetting I have done deliberately, to the point of denial — just to make living under AFSPA bearable," says

Keditsu, the professor.

The deliberate 'normalising' is reflected in "Sometimes", a poem by Enisenla Jamir, a 34-year-old who teaches literature in Kohima. She writes: "Sometimes, when I pass the faded greens with / guns in their hands, I forget... that this land, wrapped / in festivals and songs / is still tied with / ribbons of barbed wire."

Looking back, Jamir says: "I had written this poem when I was stuck in traffic, behind an army truck. It struck me how much we had normalised the presence of the military here."

Some others turned to writing on an instinct. Kohima-based poet Beni Sumer Yanthan said she "impulsively" put a "bunch of sentences on Twitter". Her poem "Oting" has now even been translated to Tamil. "When



Family members mourn the death of Rouf Ahmad, who was shot dead by militants outside his home in Srinagar. *PTI*

Cop, civilian killed in two separate attacks in Valley

ASI Ashraf shot in Anantnag, civilian in Srinagar

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 22

A POLICE officer and a civilian were shot dead in Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said, in two separate incidents as the Valley sees a surge in militant attacks.

Police said Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Mohammad Ashraf was shot at Bijbehara town of south Kashmir's Anantnag. The officer, a resident of Avantipora in Pulwama district, died while being shifted to a hospital in Srinagar.

In a separate attack, militants shot dead a civilian, Rouf Ahmad, outside his residence at Mirjanpora neighbourhood of old Srinagar city. Ahmad was rushed to hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

While J&K Police have been the main targets of militants in Kashmir, attacks on civilians have also intensified since October this year, especially in

Srinagar city.

According to official records, 41 security personnel were killed in J&K this year, 21 of whom were policemen. In the Valley, where 28 security personnel died in militant attacks, 20 belonged to the J&K police.

On December 13, militants fired on a police bus at Zewan in the outskirts of Srinagar city, killing three police personnel and wounding 11. The attack came just three days after militants attacked a police party in Bandipore and killed two police personnel.

In a string of militant attacks early October, seven civilians were killed in Srinagar. Three of those killed were local residents from the minority communities, and two migrant street vendors.

The attacks forced the J&K administration to shunt out the Srinagar police chief, Sandeep Choudhary, and replace him with Rakesh Balwal, an IPS officer who earlier worked with the NIA.

Mehbooba likens govt to Zia's rule, says Pak still regretting regime

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, DECEMBER 22

TARGETING THE BJP-led government, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday likened it to the one led by Gen Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq in Pakistan, and said the neighbouring country is still paying for the seeds of hatred sown by the military dictator.

"A general who ruled our neighbouring country told the people that there that he will bring real Islam. Teaching the people about religion, he created so much of hatred that instead of books children found guns in their hands. You can see result of that today," she told a party rally at Bhatindi in Jammu. "Today, Pakistan is neck deep in debts. The people there are regretting that they supported the general..."

"Now see, what is happening on our side today. Our democracy is finished, our Constitution is gone and Jammu and Kashmir has been made a laboratory. Things are first tested here and then used elsewhere the country," she said, referring the UT administration calling Army after power employees went on indefinite strike in protest against



PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti at a meeting in Jammu. *PTI*

privatisation of assets.

Instead of talking with the agitating employees, the administration called the Army, she said. If they want to train their guns from the Army's shoulders for everything, the PDP leader said, "then what is the difference between them and that general in Pakistan".

She also referred to Muhammad Ali Jinnah in her address. "Muhammad Ali Jinnah fought for India's Independence struggle... but we have one complaint against him that he partitioned our country and separated Hindus and Muslims from each other... But if you look around in our country today, there are thousands of Jinnahs who... are now dividing people as Hindus and Muslims," she said.

From Oting killings to AFSPA shadow, verse gives voice to anger in Nagaland

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 22

MORE THAN two weeks ago, when she first heard about the killing of six men from Oting village by security forces in a purported case of mistaken identity, rage swept over Theyie Keditsu, an English professor in Kohima.

A passionate cook, Keditsu happened to be invigilating an exam in college. "With no kitchen in sight [to let off steam], I turned to a piece of paper, and wrote a recipe," she says. It listed "life" ("free-range" or "whole") as the main ingredient, substitutable with a "lump of coal", "two minutes of silence" or "Rs 5 lakh in cash". These could be cooked in an iron "AFSPA" pot, simmered slowly, stirred gently,

until the "memory" was "reduced to the consistency of forgetting".

Keditsu called it "Recipe For Peace", and the 40-year-old's poem went viral on social media. "One of the ways I have been processing my reaction to the Oting incident has been by writing poems," she says.

Keditsu is not alone. Across Nagaland, in the aftermath of the Oting incident that claimed 13 civilian lives in all, there has been an outpouring of grief through the written word. Since December 5, poems, stories and songs dot social media timelines, with Nagas across age groups and tribes finding a common language to grieve a collective loss.

"There are many sensitively written poems that mirror our grief," says Sahitya Akademi-

winning poet and author, Easterine Kire.

"We are in deep grief. We call the young ones that were murdered, our sons. We take death very seriously and when it concerns death by unjust measures, national memory is seared by it and elegies, poems, prose writings as well as paintings, sculptures of the incident become some of the channels for people to express their grief," Kire says.

For many in Nagaland, the incident has brought back the bitter taste of living under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

Riathung Ngullie, 36, who grew up in Kohima, recalls in a Facebook post how a tyre bursting on a road in 1995 had led forces to open fire in Kohima in panic. "We packed our bags,

Lookout circular ‘Content will only be found at ground zero’ issued against SAD’s Majithia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 22

A LOOKOut circular was on Wednesday issued against SAD leader and former Punjab minister Bikram Singh Majithia who was booked in a drugs case on Monday evening.

In a correspondence to the Punjab Police, the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) wrote that “this LOC shall remain in force until and unless a deletion request is received by BOI from originator itself”.

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

The brother-in-law of SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, Majithia is a powerful figure in the party and wielded considerable clout in the previous Akali



Former Punjab minister
Bikram Singh Majithia

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 Special Investigation Team constituted by Punjab police to investigate the case against Majithia on Wednesday recorded the statement of Punjab’s anti-drug Special Task Force chief ADGP Harpreet Singh Sidhu. It was on the basis of the report of Sidhu, which in turn was based on Enforcement Directorate report, that the case against Majithia was registered on Monday evening. Police on Wednesday also got in touch with retired deputy director of Enforcement Directorate Niranjani Singh who had probed the Punjab drugs case. The three-member SIT is headed by Assistant Inspector General Balraj Singh.

Chief of Radha Soami Satsang visits Punjab CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 22

RADHA SOAMI Satsang Beas chief Baba Gurinder Singh Dhillon on Wednesday called on Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi at his residence.

Channi had visited the Dera in Beas on Tuesday. Sources said the Dera chief had told Channi that he would be away for a few weeks, following which Channi had requested him to visit him and bless him.

A government statement said Channi and his family sought the blessings of Baba Gurinder Singh to serve the state

and its people.

Later in the day, the government also released the Dera chief’s picture with Channi and the latter’s family. The statement added that the Dera chief appreciated the pro-people initiatives of the Channi government. He also complimented the efforts of the government in tackling the situation across the state by motivating people for vaccination and other precautions to keep the infection under control.

It is learnt that deputy CM Sukhinder Singh Randhawa was also a part of the meeting at Channi’s residence and a few days ago, the Dera chief had visited his residence in Dharowali.

Poll rout: BJP revamps Bengal unit

Kolkata: A day after BJP was routed in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation elections, the party on Wednesday revamped its West Bengal unit and made several changes in leadership positions. BJP won only three of the 144 wards in the city’s civic body.

In a new state committee that was announced, the party has let go several of the old guard and brought in new leaders.

The new committee has 12 state secretaries and 11 vice-presidents.

Among the five general secretary posts, only party MPs Locket Chatterjee and Jyotirmoy Singh Mahato have been retained. Senior leaders Agnimitra Paul, Dipak Barman, and Jagannath Chattopadhyay have been elevated to the post of general secretaries.

Charge sheet filed against BSP MP for abetting rape victim’s suicide

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 22

THE UTTAR Pradesh Police has filed a charge sheet against Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MP Atul Rai for allegedly abetting the suicide of a 24-year-old woman and her friend in August.

Rai has been in a Prayagraj jail since June 2019 for allegedly raping the woman in Varanasi residence the year before. The victim and her friend set themselves on fire outside the Supreme Court on August 16 to bring attention to the case. They died days later.

The police recently filed a charge sheet against former IPS officer Amitabh Thakur, who was forced into retirement by the Home Ministry in March in “public interest”, in the same case.

“The police have filed chargesheets against Atul Rai and Amitabh Thakur in the case,” Lucknow Police Commissioner DK Thakur told reporters on Wednesday.

A police officer said the chargesheet was filed under IPC sections relating to false evidence, abetment of suicide, provoking breach of peace, criminal intimidation, and criminal conspiracy, among others.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

ORIGINALITY OF ideas, the rigour involved in reportage and the impact the stories have had on society – these are among the factors that the esteemed jury members kept in mind while picking the winners from among entries for the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards, 2019.

The winners of 2019 were chosen by an eminent jury comprising Justice BN Srikrishna, jurist and former Judge of the Supreme Court; Tom Goldstein, Professor and Dean, Jindal School of Journalism & Communication, O P Jindal Global University; Dr SY Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner; and KG Suresh, Vice Chancellor, Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism & Communication.

Administered by the Ramnath Goenka Memorial 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.

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.



Justice BN Srikrishna

All jury members concluded that at a time when legitimate journalism is under attack, the winners stayed on their path despite challenges and held up the truth that is all too frequently suppressed.

Prof Tom Goldstein of the Jindal School of Journalism & Communication, OP Jindal Global University, was impressed by the variety and depth of the winners’ stories. “With Press freedom being challenged even in locations where such freedom has been taken for granted, I would urge all young journalists to stay as well informed as possible and embrace technological change,” he said.



Tom Goldstein

The one story he felt should be done now is to find answers to the question, “Does India’s robust democracy have a future?”

KG Suresh, Vice Chancellor, Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism & Communication, said the winners were proof that “journalism is not dead yet” in this country. He said, “Desktop journalism is no journalism. The Ramnath Goenka Award recognises real ground reporting. At the end of the day, content will only be found on Ground Zero. Threats will always be there. By being a journalist, you



Dr SY Quraishi

have already accepted that these things will happen.”

Contrary to perception, Suresh further believes that print media will not just live but continue to thrive. “The responsibility of fact-checking rests on the shoulders of journalists. People are coming back to print due to the reliability factor. Digital media is yet to establish that credibility,” he said. He also argued for an analysis of the “infodemic” — an unprecedented overdose of information — in rural areas, small towns and people who are semi-literate or illiterate. “Are our people equipped to handle the



KG Suresh

huge magnitude of information? And is that leading to socio, economic and political changes in the society? There’s a lot of manipulation happening,” he said.

Arguing for boldness and objectivity in investigative stories, Dr SY Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner, said, “In the World Press Freedom Index for 2020, India was ranked 140 out of 180 countries. This is a shame for the world’s largest democracy.” He felt that the media fraternity needs to introspect, feel embarrassed about being labelled as lapdogs of the establishment and defeat polarisation.



Indian documentary *Writing With Fire* enters Oscar shortlist

TANUSHREE GHOSH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

AS INDIA’S official entry PS Vinodraj’s Tamil debut feature drama *Koozhangal* (Pebbles) bows out of the Oscars race, Delhi-based filmmakers Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh-directed documentary *Writing With Fire* has made it to the shortlist, among 15 films. Selected from a pool of 138 films, it will advance to the next stage, in the Documentary Feature category, of the 94th Academy Awards. The category’s shortlist includes *Ascension*, *Procession*, *Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)*, *The Velvet Underground*, etc. The nominations’ voting will begin on January 27 and results will be announced on February 8. The award ceremony will be held on March 27 in Los Angeles, the US.

Realised by the duo’s production house Black Ticket Films, the documentary began grabbing eyeballs since it won Special Jury (Impact for Change) and Audience awards at the Sundance Film Festival in January. And since has picked up

The documentary highlights *Khabar Lahariya*, India’s only and first-of-its-kind rural newspaper run by Dalit women since 2002

28 international awards till date, including at the US’s Telluride Mountainfilm Festival, Spain’s Valladolid International Film Festival, Norway’s Nordic Docs, and IDFA Amsterdam.

“As filmmakers, Rintu and I have always been interested in

amplifying stories of resilience and hope. *Writing With Fire* has had a wonderful journey this year and it’s heartening to see a film from India being cherished by audiences across the globe — the Academy shortlist is icing on the cake,” said Ghosh, who’d earlier won the National Award for the Best Agriculture Film for *Timbaktu* in 2012.

Writing With Fire highlights *Khabar Lahariya*, India’s only and first-of-its-kind rural newspaper run by Dalit women since 2002, which has evolved from a social experiment to a social necessity.

The film captures *Khabar Lahariya*’s print-to-digital transition in recent years. It follows Meera Devi and her journalists, armed with smartphones and unwavering grit, as they “break traditions on the frontlines of India’s biggest issues and within the confines of their own homes”.

“If we don’t adapt, we don’t survive,” says Meera, in the film’s trailer. Another scribe says, she becomes upper-caste Brahmin, when required, in a world where women reporters, especially if they are Dalit, are told by male respondents to “speak within

their limits”.

In 2015, an online photo story about *Khabar Lahariya* led the directors to this group of semi-literate Dalit women journalists “who were reporting, producing, marketing, distributing their own newspaper in rural India, which is unique because that’s a region (Bundelkhand) where journalism is entirely male dominated, and belonging to the dominant caste,” Thomas said to American feminist journalist and political activist Gloria Steinem in an online conversation last week.

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NEEDED: FIREWALLS

Electoral rolls need to be cleaned up. But linking them with Aadhaar raises concerns that need to be addressed

ON TUESDAY, RAJYA Sabha passed The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 to enable the linking of electoral rolls with the Aadhaar ecosystem. The rationale for doing so seems clear — linking the two will help identify duplicate voters, purge the electoral rolls of multiple enrolments, and help put an end to the practice of fraudulent voting. Moreover, in a country marked by a high degree of internal migration, where migrants at times find themselves disenfranchised, linking the two could help them in exercising their right to vote. While an earlier exercise to link the two was paused, with the Supreme Court ruling 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”, in principle, there can be no disputing the need to verify and “purify” the electoral rolls.

However, while attempts to address long-pending electoral reforms are welcome, there exists considerable ambiguity in the present instance. If the linking is indeed voluntary — Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has unequivocally stated in Parliament that “it is voluntary... not compulsory or mandatory” — then it is debatable to what extent this will be effective in weeding out the duplicate enrolment. Also, how will it be implemented for millions of voters across the country? Moreover, doing so will place the burden of proof on the voter, not the state. There is a legitimate concern that, in practice, the line between voluntary and mandatory may be breached. This is because the government will presumably define the “sufficient cause” on which basis a person chooses not to opt for the linkage. Lack of clarity over the definition could spark apprehensions that tighter restrictions will be imposed to link the two, making it either difficult or unfeasible to opt out of the process.

Aadhaar, or the unique identification architecture, when it was first laid out, was meant to provide an identity to every resident of India. Over the years, its scope has been steadily expanded — from the filing of income tax returns to Covid vaccines now. It has also been used effectively in plugging leaks in an array of social welfare schemes. But the benefits that stem from this linkage will depend on the seamless integration and effective working of systems. This may not be as straightforward, as has been brought home by the instances of exclusion errors in accessing entitlements under various social security schemes. As experts have also pointed out, there is an inherent tension between maintaining privacy and shoring up the integrity of electoral rolls. Firewalls will need to be put in place, and strengthened. The risks and dangers of “profiling” the voters will need to be examined. These issues need to be thoroughly debated. It is troubling that the amendments were passed without a detailed discussion in the House. The consequences of ramming through laws without adequate consultation and debate in Parliament were underlined by the agitation against the farm laws. The government would do well to initiate a larger discussion on the bill it has pushed through with undue haste.

IN CHOPPY WATERS

As more Indian fishermen are detained by Sri Lanka, hard questions need to be asked in the Palk Strait

THE SRI LANKAN Navy has detained 68 Indian fishermen and seized 21 trawlers off the Tamil Nadu coast over the last few days. The Centre urgently needs to dial Colombo and secure their release. It also needs to sit with the Tamil Nadu government and work out a solution to the crisis brewing in the waters between the Tamil Nadu coast and Sri Lanka. Colombo has been accusing Indian fishermen of poaching in its waters. And its navy has been proactive in arresting Indian fishermen and capturing Indian vessels on charges of trespassing — last year, as many as 74 Indians were arrested and 11 boats seized. The Ministry of External Affairs negotiated their release but the problem is far from settled.

The crux of the matter seems to be overcapacity on the Indian side and the building scarcity in the Palk Strait due to overfishing. Colombo has been complaining that Indian trawlers violate the IMBL (international maritime boundary line) and fish in Lankan waters, depriving its own boats of catch. In October this year, Lankan fishermen, most of them Tamils, launched a flotilla from Mullaitivu to Point Pedro in the north to protest the alleged poaching. Sri Lanka’s fisheries minister, Douglas Devananda, reportedly raised the issue in a meeting with US diplomat Martin Kelly recently. New Delhi and Colombo had instituted a Joint Working Group (JWG) to address issues related to fishing in 2016, following a 2+2 initiative. Ever since the civil war in Sri Lanka ended in 2009, the Palk Strait has been especially roiled with the Lankan navy frequently confronting Indian fishermen, forcing hundreds to spend jail time in Colombo. The fact is that there are too many fishing boats trawling the Strait. When Colombo banned fishing after civil war broke out in the Jaffna peninsula in the 1980s, Indian fishermen found greater access to catch in the Lankan waters. As a result, in three decades, the number of Indian vessels more than trebled. With Lanka lifting the ban after 2009 and its boats and crews demanding their share of the sea, the catch has dwindled. Desperate fishermen now risk arrest and even death to cross the IMBL.

Clearly, the Palk Strait can’t feed so many trawlers. The government must work out an economic package to buy out excess capacity so that the confrontation in the seas ends and fishing can be a sustainable vocation in the Tamil Nadu coast.

A DUTY TO LAUGH

Madras High Court order is a relief.
It feels good to laugh with the court

JUDGES, WHEN THEY hold court, are usually sombre and serious, their verdicts typically range from lofty to grim. But sometimes, judges are faced with the theatre of the absurd — all things seem now prosecutable on one pretext or the other. The list of taboo subjects seems to be growing daily; comedy shows are cancelled and cases filed if a militant organisation gets wind of irreverence. It is this context that makes Madras High Court Justice G R Swaminathan’s order calling for a “duty to laugh” so refreshing.

Justice Swaminathan’s intervention was prompted by the Vadipatti police filing an FIR against an office-bearer of the CPI (ML) for a Facebook post while on a holiday with his family. The caption read, “Trip to Sirumalai for shooting practice”. “Any reasonable person,” asserted the order, “would have laughed it off”. After all, “Paper warriors are also entitled to fantasise that they are swadeshi Che Guevaras”. The judge pointed to the hyper-sensitive times we live in. “A real cow, even if terribly underfed and emaciated, shall be holy in Yogi’s terrain. In West Bengal, Tagore is such an iconic figure that Khushwant Singh learnt the lesson at some cost. Coming to my own Tamil Desh, the all-time iconoclast ‘Periyar’ Shri E V Ramasamy is a super-holy cow... But all over India, there is one ultimate holy cow and that is national security.”

Then the Court took a flight of fancy, rare in the judiciary. He imagined a seasoned satirist — like Jug Suraiya or E P Unny (chief political cartoonist at this newspaper) — demanding that the “correlative of the right to be funny” is the “duty to laugh”. In other words, rather than arrest people for making a joke that is off-key or touches close to home, the powers-that-be need to lighten up. The judge’s humour will likely not be appreciated by the dour guardians of hurt sentiments. For the rest of us, it was good to laugh with the Court.



SUBHASHIS BANERJEE AND SUBODH SHARMA

THE MANNER OF passing the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in the Lok Sabha with incredible haste — without putting up the legislative text for public consultations beforehand, and without any discussion whatsoever — was disconcerting. We perhaps lost an opportunity to comprehensively address the crucial issues.

Considering that the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, (RER) was formulated under the Representation of the People Act, 1950 well before the digital age, it is undeniable that they required urgent reforms. But that not only required a careful understanding of the new challenges and technological possibilities, but, more importantly, also required the patient building of public trust and concurrence through a consultative process. Both, linking the voter IDs with Aadhaar, and the tension between transparency and privacy of electoral rolls — one of making them publicly and digitally available, versus keeping them inaccessible to prevent analytics driven profiling and influencing of voters — are tricky and contentious issues, and the need for adequate debate and discussions cannot be over-emphasised.

Given the ready availability of a nationwide digital identity instrument, it is inevitable to consider the possibility of using it for electoral rolls. However, on close examination — even setting aside the issue of legislative competence in view of the 2018 Supreme Court judgment on Aadhaar restricting its use only to welfare disbursement and income tax — the move appears to be ill-advised for several reasons.

First, Aadhaar is not meant to be a citizenship proof but only a digital identity for all residents. Residence of 182 days can make even a non-citizen eligible for an Aadhaar ID.

Second, even according to public statements by several government functionaries, Aadhaar was only meant to be an identity proof but not an address proof. In contrast, the RER clearly stipulates address to be a key index for electoral rolls. Moreover, the enrolment processes for voters’ lists and Aadhaar

Using Aadhaar to clean electoral rolls is fraught with risk of disenfranchisement of marginalised

Most importantly, maintenance of the voters’ lists is a primary responsibility of the ECI, which is an independent Constitutional body, whereas Aadhaar is a government instrument and UIDAI is under government control. Since the ECI has no control on either enrolment or deduplication in Aadhaar, it appears inappropriate — and a potential conflict of interest — to use Aadhaar for electoral rolls. In particular, since Aadhaar is directly used for disbursement of welfare and direct benefit transfers, linking it with voter ID may provide a direct method for the government to influence and manipulate voters. It is the responsibility of the ECI to ensure that not only are the electoral processes clean, but also that they appear to be clean.

are completely different. Whereas Aadhaar enrolment is based on production of existing documents and the “introducer system”, voter enrolments involve physical verification and “house visits” by a registration officer or representative. It even allows the Booth Level Officers (BLO) to make judgments on age and proof of residence in order to ensure that the homeless and the marginalised may be included, though this perhaps is rarely practised in reality.

Third, there are no publicly available audit reports either on the efficacy of Aadhaar deduplication or on the authenticity of the Aadhaar database. Even the Supreme Court accepted the Unique Identification Authority of India’s (UIDAI) claims on the integrity of the Aadhaar database at face value without any scrutiny. Using Aadhaar to clean the electoral rolls is fraught with the risk of disenfranchisement, especially of the marginalised communities. Indeed, there are numerous reports of large-scale deletion of voters without proper verification in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana due to EPIC-Aadhaar linkage. It is to be noted that there is also ample publicly documented evidence of large-scale exclusion in PDS and welfare disbursement due to Aadhaar.

Fourth, and most importantly, maintenance of the voters’ lists is a primary responsibility of the ECI, which is an independent constitutional body, whereas Aadhaar is a government instrument and UIDAI is under government control. Since the ECI has no control on either enrolment or deduplication in Aadhaar, it appears inappropriate — and a potential conflict of interest — to use Aadhaar for electoral rolls. In particular, since Aadhaar is directly used for disbursement of welfare and direct benefit transfers, linking it with voter ID may provide a direct method for the government to influence and manipulate voters. It is the responsibility of the ECI to ensure that not only are the electoral processes clean, but also that they appear to be clean.

Finally, Aadhaar is a ubiquitous ID that is used in a variety of applications. Linking it

with the voter ID will open up avenues for profiling and targeting of voters. This is of particular concern because neither the UIDAI nor the ECI have publicly audited architectures for purpose limitation and protection against insider attacks. While profiling using public data is not illegal according to current laws, both the electorate and Parliament need to clearly understand the risks of such profiling.

It is well understood in computer science that even without using sophisticated analytics techniques, it is far easier to win elections through digital analysis of electoral rolls than through attacking the electronic voting process, especially when election results are available at booth-level granularity. For example, in a keenly contested constituency with say one per cent margin, profiling and selectively influencing a little over one per cent of the most vulnerable voters using the electoral roll data, or manipulating as many entries in the electoral roll itself, can swing the result. Hence, both privacy and integrity of the electoral rolls are of paramount importance in the digital age, and the clear tension between the two makes the problem challenging.

The RER of 1960 clearly opted for transparency as a means to the integrity of the electoral rolls, thereby ensuring that all additions and deletions can be publicly audited. However, with the possibility of digital processing of electoral data, the risks associated with such complete transparency have increased manifold. Yet, there are several modern techniques from cryptography and computer science that may help mitigate the risks by enabling both privacy and public auditability. An electoral reforms bill at the onset of 2022 needed to explore and address these issues head-on.

Banerjee is with the computer science department, Ashoka University, on leave from IIT Delhi. Sharma is with the Computer Science and Engineering department, IIT Delhi



RAJNI BAKSHI

WITHIN WEEKS OF the disappointing outcome of the COP 26 gathering in Glasgow, here is a reminder of hope. It comes in the form of a new book by veteran planet and people champion, Amy Domini, sharing reflections on her journey and the difference it has made.

Domini, the “Founding Mom” of socially responsible investing (SRI) in the United States, has played a key role in ensuring that one-third of all investments in that country are now made on the basis of social and environmental standards. So when Domini asserts that together we can each do something relevant to address the world’s multiple crises, she is not romanticising individual action.

The reflections in her new book, *Thoughts on People, Planet & Profit*, are vital because she shows how institutional structures can be created to defy those who put profits before people.

In the 1970s, when Domini started out as just another stockbroker, the notion of social or environmental criteria influencing investment decisions was unimaginable. In 2020, the Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment in the USA estimated that 33 per cent of the total of \$51.4 trillion under professional management is now invested using some responsible and impact investing criteria.

How did this change come about? For Domini, the turning point came over three decades ago when she found that work-as-usual required her to recommend a company that was about to get a big military contract. It is time, she decided, not to in-

PROFIT ISN’T ENOUGH

Socially responsible investing could reform capitalism from within

vest in killing machines. At that time, such thinking was anathema. For a money manager to mix up morality or ethics with profit-making decisions was tantamount to compromising their fiduciary duty.

SRI was able to challenge these assumptions by actually expanding the definition of fiduciary duty. It demonstrated that ignoring environmental and social impact factors was bad risk management. Above all, SRI succeeded in making moral choices significant.

For example, Domini’s funds focused on improving working conditions across the world. They worked with NGOs and investor coalitions to ensure that companies ensured some basic standards of safety, working hours and pay. This is because SRI leaders, like Domini, were appalled to discover that in Latin America alone almost a million people were being used as forced, unpaid labour. As she says: “When Wall Street asks for better behavior, retailers are willing to deliver it.”

According to Domini, one of the earliest social shareholder resolutions was filed in 1969 at The Dow Chemical Company — when investors opposed the company’s production of napalm, the chemical deployed by the US army in Vietnam with horrific consequences. More recently, companies have been mobilised to oppose genocide in Darfur and uncover corporate links to the military regime in Myanmar.

Anyone looking for the working details of SRI will have to seek out Domini’s earlier works among the vast variety of “how-to” literature about this field that has appeared in the last twenty years.

Thoughts is for those who may still doubt that it is possible to sit at the centre table of global finance and also actively care about the well-being of people and the planet. For instance, Domini’s actions as an investor have been driven by her outrage that “agribusiness convinces unhealthy overfed people in America to eat more beef because it is profitable; meanwhile, children in the Southern hemisphere starve from lack of grain — which has been used to feed beef cattle.”

Most people are accustomed to seeing such inter-connections being made by protesting political activists at a picket-line outside a WTO or World Bank meeting. Domini’s achievement lies in building upon such perspectives to create financial instruments through which these ethical concerns moved mountains.

Has SRI made a big enough difference? Or has it been absorbed as a terminology or window-dressing while money-profits still ruthlessly dominate? These are questions on which the jury will be out for a long time. And yet, it is not excessively optimistic to view SRI as the beginning of a potentially powerful movement that could yet reform capitalism from within. The force of the climate crisis has certainly generated a motivational force even more compelling than what turned Domini from being just another stockbroker to a woman with a history-making mission.

The writer is the founder of Ahimsa Conversations and the author of *Bazaar, Conversations and Freedom: for a market culture beyond greed and fear*



DECEMBER 23, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

SIKH LEADER’S MURDER

THE .38 BORE revolver used to gun down Santokh Singh, president of the Delhi Gurudwara Prabhandak Committee is missing, according to the police. The Delhi Police Commissioner P S Bhinder has ordered the crime branch to take over investigation of the case. A senior police officer said investigations are on to find out if the assailant Sohan Singh Sandhu who was killed by Santokh Singh’s bodyguard was alone or had some accomplices, “though his chances of his being there with accomplices were very remote”. Dhanna Singh, the bodyguard of the Jathedar, who was

the only other eyewitness besides the driver and another companion said he heard shots being fired from other directions also. Dhanna Singh said that he fired in the air to “scare away people” as there was danger to his life after the Jathedar was shot.

BJP EXCLUDED

THE BHARATIYA JANATA Party is being kept out of the Opposition unity moves because of the reservations of Congress (S). Leaders of the Lok Dal, Janata and Congress (S) will meet next week to chalk out a programme for united action on major issues.

According to Congress (S) sources, the party did not want to join hands with the BJP on issues other than civil liberties and assault on democratic institutions.

TURMOIL IN POLAND

POLISH MILITARY RULERS have confirmed that Solidarity Chief Lech Walesa was under house arrest in Warsaw and has had talks with the government as reports said that more than 200 people had been killed since martial law was imposed 10 days ago. BBC reported that military ruler General Wojciech Jaruzelski was no longer in control.

13 THE IDEAS PAGE

Weaving a safety net

E-Shram portal needs to be followed by the restructuring of social security and social protection programmes, their simplification



RAVI SRIVASTAVA

AS PER THE second quarter GDP estimate, the Indian economy is nearing its pre-pandemic level which is undoubtedly comforting news. But this has to be tempered by the fact that the recovery is far from complete for informal workers, including circular migrants, who form the vast majority of the workforce. Their deep-seated vulnerability was thoroughly exposed by the pandemic, and is closely linked to the vulnerability of the growth process marked by incomplete recovery of private consumption and investment.

Data from all major sources show that employment is yet to recover. The complete panel results from CMIE show that the employment-population ratio for the period May-August 21 was 36.8 per cent compared to 39.6 per cent in the same period two years ago and the unemployment rate for both rural and urban areas is still considerably higher. The consumer sentiment survey by CMIE also shows that most households perceived their current incomes as lower than their incomes two years ago. Persistent hunger and poverty underlie the low incomes and consumption. Further, greater health and educational deprivation threatens to increase the ever-growing chasm between the rich and the poor, even for future generations.

This calls not only for emergency short-term measures but also more effective long-term policies. Instituting universal social protection, as enshrined in the Constitution and in global human rights compacts, should be an important pillar of this strategy. Detailed empirical analysis supported by the ILO and UN also indicates that this is a prerequisite for equitable and sustainable growth through its mildly redistributive demand-boosting impact.

The emergency requirements dictated by the pandemic led the Supreme Court, in May 2021, to order a time-bound inclusive and universal registration system for informal workers and circular migrants. The e-Shram portal which has come into existence now is meant to fulfil this mandatory requirement, although registration had been recommended by the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS), and was already mandated by the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act more than a dozen years ago. The portal has by now registered more than 120 million workers, 61 per cent from just four states — Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Odisha. It also captures the migration status of workers albeit with very scanty information.

The pace of registration has raised expectations regarding universal social protection and social security coverage among these workers. In a speech on December 10, the Union Minister of Labour has also reiterated his government's commitment towards this objective. But this will involve a move from a patchwork of existing schemes towards creating specific statutory entitlements for social security as envisaged in the Code for Social Security, as well as the creation of a

well-designed and adequately funded social protection floor for all workers and families.

So far, however, workers registered in the portal will only be entitled to a pre-existing accident insurance policy that carries a tiny premium. Beyond this, no expansion of social security/protection presently appears to be on the cards. The e-Shram portal merely lists 13 existing social security and social protection schemes and six other employment generation schemes for which sections of workers could be eligible.

Two major existing programmes in the above list which differ from the others as they are already covered by central legislations are those aimed at food security and rural employment — MGNREGA and the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The latter has the widest coverage among social protection programmes. Despite cynicism in certain circles, both within and outside government, these two programmes have formed the major bulwark against joblessness and hunger in the pandemic period.

All other schemes are non-statutory and carry differing eligibility criteria, some drawn from the Socio-economic Caste Census carried out in 2011, others related to poverty status, age etc. These criteria are far more demanding, and often quite different from the information, based on self-declaration, which is required for worker's registration on the portal. The schemes require to be clubbed, and restructured with simpler eligibility criteria to make them universal and entitlement-based for all informal workers through statutes, rather than being left to political exigencies and whims of governments.

Any blueprint for universal social protection will have to further consider financing requirements and allocation of adequate funds. The Code on Social Security does not propose any fresh funding mechanism other than for gig and platform workers. The expansion of social security/protection has been languishing in India mainly because of a lack of commitment towards higher funding. However, except in the crisis year 2020-

The e-Shram registration mechanism can be seen as a small stepping stone towards these goals, provided further steps are taken. These include restructuring social security and social protection programmes on a statutory basis and simplifying them to promote universalisation. This will also require that states and all relevant stakeholders are involved at all stages of the process. Most of all, the central government has to be prepared to prioritise expenditure on social protection.



CR Sasikumar

21, expenditure by the central government on all major social security/protection programmes has shown a declining trend — from about 1.64 per cent of GDP in 2015-16 to 1.25 per cent of GDP in 2019-20.

Finally, there is the important issue of the role of the states in extending and universalising social protection. States in India have played a pivotal role in innovating and extending social protection. However, in the new scheme of things, their role remains unclear. The Code on Social Security restricts the scope of state schemes to a very few insignificant areas. Several states had also developed registration mechanisms for delivering programmes that are difficult to synchronise with the new national registration mechanism. Considerable thought has to be given as to how the new design will accommodate the role of the states.

It is worth reiterating that universal rights-based social protection will not only alleviate unwanted distress but also lead to equitable and sustainable growth. The new Code on Social Security, despite several limitations, incorporates a legal framework for universal social security of informal workers and the government has also accepted the need for universal social protection. The e-Shram registration mechanism can be seen as a small stepping stone towards these goals, provided further steps are taken. These include restructuring social security and social protection programmes on a statutory basis and simplifying them to promote universalisation. This will also require that states and all relevant stakeholders are involved at all stages of the process. Most of all, the central government has to be prepared to prioritise expenditure on social protection. This will only begin to happen once the mindset that views expenditure on the poor as a dole, rather than as an investment, undergoes a change.

The writer is Director, Centre of Employment Studies, Institute for Human Development, and a former member of the NCEUS

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Everybody wants the return of the familiar routine of the pre-Covid years, but that requires government competency." — THE GUARDIAN

A time for electoral reform

Union cabinet's attention to streamlining preparation of voter lists is welcome. It must also take up other pending proposals



S Y QURAISHI

A WIDE RANGE of electoral reform proposals has been pending with the government, several of them for over two decades. Successive governments have evaded these, claiming a lack of consensus. The three reforms — common electoral rolls for Vidhan Sabha and panchayat elections, extending the qualifying date for registration of young new voters, and linking of Aadhaar with electoral rolls — taken up by the Union Cabinet on December 15 are, therefore, significant. Subsequently, on Tuesday, the Rajya Sabha passed the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill that seeks to link the electoral rolls with the Aadhaar database. The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill on Monday.

Currently, separate electoral rolls are maintained for elections to the Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha and local government bodies (panchayats or municipal). For years, the ECI has been advocating a common electoral roll for all elections — I remember discussing this at the annual joint meeting of ECI and State Election Commissions (SEC) in 2011 where many state election commissioners had the same opinion.

There are two types of election management bodies in the country — the ECI that conducts the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections and SECs that conduct panchayat and municipal elections. The SECs have the option of either adopting the electoral rolls created by the ECI or preparing such rolls on their own. Most prefer to use the rolls prepared by the ECI. Some states, however, developed their rolls independently. These are Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The process for making electoral rolls is laid down in the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. The primary unit of electoral rolls is the assembly election constituency. Several such constituencies are aggregated to make a Lok Sabha constituency or broken down to make municipal or panchayat wards.

Considering that a voter for all three tiers of elected bodies is the same, why is it that she finds her name missing from one of the rolls, mostly the panchayat rolls? This is particularly surprising when the officials responsible for making both these rolls are the same. A common electoral roll is thus a logical solution. A common experience has been the stuffing of bogus voters in the panchayat/municipal rolls. This perhaps happens because becoming a panchayat member has become extremely lucrative since the panchayats started getting crores as funds after the PRI Act, 1993. Corrupt practices are proportionately higher in PRI polls.

The process of making electoral rolls requires manpower from all governmental departments. A major chunk of the work falls on schoolteachers. Their involvement in non-teaching work takes its toll. A common electoral roll will obviate the need for deploying them repeatedly, besides saving enormous costs. The only difference between the PRI

and Vidhan Sabha rolls is that the former has information about the ward in which the voter lives. The enumerator (usually the Booth Level Officer) knows the ward number of each home. All she needs to do is to write it in an additional column, which will be masked for state legislature elections and unmasked for PRIs where elections are conducted ward-wise.

The ECI and SECs can issue joint instructions for preparing the common rolls. The roll-making machinery stays the same. Since different elections are held at different times, rolls must be always ready. These should be made every year. Pilot studies may be conducted in random constituencies to identify the discrepancies between two sets of rolls and their reasons.

The second Cabinet decision was about the eligibility date of new voters. According to Section 14(b) of the Representation of People Act of 1950, only those who have turned 18 on or before January 1 of the year are to be registered. This implies that all those who turn 18 between January 2 and December 31 of a year must wait till the next year. This technicality results in the exclusion of a large section of 18-year-olds.

The ECI has been expressing concern over these issues for some time. It had sent memorandums to the government about common electoral rolls in 1999 and 2004. It had also sent a letter to the Law Ministry on November 4, 2013, which recommended the issuing of a voter card to an individual ideally on their 18th birthday, or updating voter rolls every month or quarter. The current government has begun addressing these issues, which is undoubtedly a progressive step.

On August 13, the PMO called a meeting to discuss ways to issue a common electoral roll. The SECs derive their powers to supervise local body elections from Articles 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution. Amendments to these articles to make a common electoral roll for all elections of the country compulsory was discussed at the meeting. Second, all state governments would have to change their electoral laws to adopt ECI electoral rolls for local elections. A committee of the Ministry of Law and Justice under Sushil Kumar Modi has proposed quarterly cut-off dates for voter registration — January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.

The proposal to link electoral rolls with Aadhaar was first mooted by the ECI in 2015 but work on it had to be stopped when the Supreme Court ruled that Aadhaar cannot be used except voluntarily for beneficiary-oriented schemes. In my view, the linking will help in identifying duplicate voters, something that ECI has been desperately attempting for years using various "de-duplication" software with limited success. But how will this "voluntary" linking be implemented? Will 90 crore voters be asked individually?

Any progress in addressing the vexed issue of electoral reform — even in a piecemeal manner — is welcome. The time has, however, come for the government to consider the 40-plus pending proposals, instead of selectively going for politically motivated reforms like simultaneous elections and electoral bonds.

Quraishi is former Chief Election Commissioner of India and the author of An Undocumented Wonder — The Making of the Great Indian Election

Minding the courtroom

In certain cases, judicial reform could be better served by SC's withdrawal



PRASHANT REDDY T & CHITRAKSHI JAIN

ON DECEMBER 1, a bench of the Supreme Court gave wings to the Chief Justice of India's (CJI) vision for the creation of a National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation (NJIC) to administer judicial infrastructure across the country. Since early this year, the CJI has made multiple speeches on the need for an NJIC to improve the quality of judicial infrastructure in the country. His office also sent a proposal on these lines to the Law Ministry, as disclosed by the Union Law Minister on December 3 during question hour in Parliament.

Rather than wait for the Minister to respond through the administrative route, the CJI's colleagues on the bench have taken up the issue on the judicial side and have given the Law Ministry three weeks to reply to its proposal for a "national umbrella organisation" to deal with the issue of judicial infrastructure. One cannot help but get the impression that the court is trying to secure through the judicial route what it is unlikely to get through administrative negotiations.

Separate from the idea of whether an NJIC is a correct solution, there are serious issues of constitutional propriety with how the Supreme Court is gradually taking over the administration of the district judiciary. While the Supreme Court is the apex judicial institution, the Constitution clearly vests the administration of district judiciary (appointments, budgeting, daily running) with

the High Courts and state governments. Over the last three decades, the Supreme Court, in utter defiance of this scheme, has gradually anointed itself the de facto administrative head of all courts in India.

This incremental usurpation of administrative power began with the *All India Judges Association* (first case) where the AIJA, representing the judges appointed to the district judiciary, approached the Supreme Court through the PIL route to secure better service conditions for their members. Since that first judgment in 1991, there have been at least three other major judgments in cases involving the AIJA, in 1993, 2002 and 2020 where the Supreme Court has been in a tussle with the Union and state governments over the issue of pay for the district judiciary. The latest iteration of this litigation which began in 2015 continues to date.

In another litigation, *Malik Mazhar Sultan v. UP Public Service Commission*, the Supreme Court has been monitoring the recruitment cycles of judges for the district judiciary who are selected through open examinations in various states and has prescribed timelines within which states are expected to complete recruitments. In its original avatar when this case was filed in 2006, the Supreme Court was required to decide a legal question regarding the UP Judicial Service Rules, 2001. Somewhere along the way, this regular appeal got transformed into a vehicle

for the Supreme Court to control the way appointments are made to the district judiciary — the case continues to date and has expanded to include infrastructure.

A third series of litigation, *Imtiyaz Ahmad v. State of UP*, which was an appeal filed originally in 2009 against a prolonged stay of criminal proceeding granted by the Allahabad High Court, was transformed by the Supreme Court into a vehicle for an assortment of judicial reforms. The first iteration of this litigation involved only directions to the Law Commission to study specific issues but somewhere along the way, the Supreme Court passed directions on the use of a specific formula by all High Courts to calculate the required number of judges for the district judiciary. The new method of calculation contradicted a formula proposed by the Supreme Court in 2002 in one of the AIJA cases. On December 1, this same case became the launchpad for the Supreme Court's demand for the creation of a "national umbrella organisation" to look after the judiciary's need for infrastructure.

In several of the examples given above, the Supreme Court ends up summoning government officials and registrars of High Courts to stand before them and provide explanations, while also claiming that the proceedings are non-adversarial. The other common feature in these cases is the amici curiae appointed by the court to advise it on

the nature of judicial reforms to be implemented. The amici in these cases are generally selected from amongst the senior lawyers of the Supreme Court. Not only do most amici have little experience of practising before the district judiciary, but they also usually lack the skill and time required for policy research. Most importantly, court-appointed amici rarely point fingers at the judiciary for their shortcomings. There is nary a squeak about the opacity with which High Courts are administered or the complete lack of accountability mechanisms within the judiciary.

This courtroom policy-making by the Supreme Court, apart from being fragmented across various benches and amici, with little hope for consistency, is also undemocratic since it lacks avenues for public participation. It also treats principles like federalism (which the court has held to be part of the "basic structure") very casually, often proposing "one size fits all" solutions for the entire district judiciary across India, with little attention being paid to the differences between states.

In certain cases, judicial reform could be better served by the Supreme Court's withdrawal. It must begin by creating a culture of transparency within the judiciary.

Reddy is a lawyer and Jain is a legal researcher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KUDOS

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'MLAs & Mayor, relatives of Commissioner, SDM, DIG, officials buy land in Ayodhya after SC cleared Ram temple' (IE, December 22). Kudos to *The Indian Express* investigative team for the expose. The impropriety and conflict of interest are manifest where buyers are close relatives of officials probing the seller. The modus operandi of Maharishi Ramayan Vidyapeeth Trust (MRVT), using its Dalit employee as a conduit to buy land parcel from Dalit villagers and then get it donated to itself is a deliberate act of circumventing the provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code Rules, which prohibits a non-Dalit to buy from a Dalit owning less than 3.5 bigha of agriculture land unless cleared by the District Magistrate. The detailed description suggests a web of corruption and connivance. The report shows how Dalits are vulnerable to exploitation despite legal provisions meant to protect them. Therefore, it is incumbent on the Yogi Adityanath government to follow up on this report with a thorough probe and take appropriate action.

LR Murmu, Delhi

TRUST DEFICIT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Lines of interest' (IE, December 22). Since the time the special status of J&K was revoked two years ago, every move of the Centre has been viewed with suspicion, and so it is

with this delimitation exercise. There may be justification for more seats coming Jammu's way as compared to the Valley, but it is imperative for the Commission redrawing electoral boundaries to elaborate on the parameters adopted to arrive at these numbers. New Delhi has to bear in mind that winning the trust of the Valley people has been a chimaera for it so far. Unless it is achieved, there can't be any long-lasting peace in the state.

Vijai Pant, Hampur

NOT BY AGE ALONE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Knotty answer' (IE, December 22). The government's intention behind raising the marriage age of women to 21 may well be good, but if the objective is to empower women, then other measures such as better educational and employment opportunities for women would be much more effective. Empowered people think and act for themselves, which is possible only with education and financial security, not so much with the age of marriage. The fact that despite the current minimum marriage age for women being 18, almost a quarter of them break this barrier is proof enough that legal provisions alone without greater educational, health and employment opportunities, may not work. Women's empowerment needs a holistic approach, not a narrow legal one.

Hemant Contractor, Pune



New Delhi

[illegible]

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TOP OF THE WORLD



Roman Abramovich

UNITED KINGDOM
HarperCollins settles with Abramovich over book

London: HarperCollins on Wednesday settled a libel dispute with Russian businessman Roman Abramovich over a book about President Vladimir Putin by agreeing to amend certain passages relating to the reasons for buying Chelsea football club. In the 2020 book, British journalist Catherine Belton chronicles Putin's rise to power and how his associates from the former Soviet spy services rose to positions of wealth and influence after he won the top Kremlin job in 1999. Lawyers for Abramovich had argued in court that the book was defamatory as it claimed he had bought Chelsea FC as a vehicle to corrupt the West — a claim Abramovich denied. **REUTERS**

MYANMAR

Scores feared dead at jade mine landslide

At least one person was killed and scores were missing after a landslide of dirt and rubble ripped down the waste heap of a Myanmar jade mine, sweeping workers searching for fragments of the gems into a lake and burying them under the debris. One body had been recovered from the scene and around 50 people still unaccounted for had likely also died, a fire department official said. **REUTERS**

PAKISTAN

Pakistan gets ADB loan worth \$1.543 billion

Islamabad: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday signed six financing loans to cash-strapped Pakistan worth USD 1.543 billion, to help reform and upgrade the country's energy sector, roads, civic and health infrastructure. **PTI**

JAPAN

Panel suggests no change to emperor system

Tokyo: A government panel has retained Japan's male-only imperial succession system despite a sharply shrinking number of men in the royal family. It submitted a report to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday proposing ways to ensure there are enough potential successors. **AP**

GERMANY

Former nurse convicted of killing 4 disabled

Berlin: A former nurse at a home for the severely disabled in eastern Germany was convicted of murder and given a 15-year sentence on Wednesday for killing four residents. The state court in Potsdam ordered the 52-year-old woman sent to a psychiatric hospital. Judges found that the defendant fatally wounded the four residents on April 28. **AP**

Germany moves legislation to remove ban on doctors 'advertising' abortions

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN, DECEMBER 22

GERMANY'S JUSTICE minister says he will present legislation next month to remove from the country's criminal code a ban on doctors "advertising" abortions, one of several more liberal social policies that the new government plans.

The three parties that form Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government have long opposed the current rules, but they were defended by the center-right Union bloc of ex-Chancellor Angela Merkel,



Justice Minister Marco Buschmann

which is now in opposition.

Justice Minister Marco Buschmann said in comments to the Funke newspaper group published on Wednesday that there is a "huge reform backlog" on social policy. He said the first step will be to scrap a paragraph in Germany's criminal code that bans "adver-

tising" abortions, and which carries a fine or a prison sentence of up to two years.

Under a compromise in 2019, Merkel's government left the ban formally in place but allowed doctors and hospitals for the first time to say on their websites that they perform abortions. They were not, however, allowed to give more detailed information.

Buschmann said the so-called paragraph 219a constitutes a "penal risk" for doctors performing legal abortions who give factual information on the internet, and that is "absurd."

"Many women who wrestle with themselves on the question of an abortion look for advice on the internet," he said. "It cannot be that, of all people, the doctors who are professionally best qualified to inform them aren't allowed to provide information there."

Other changes to social policy planned by the new governing coalition include scrapping a 40-year-old law that requires transsexual people to get a psychological assessment and a court decision before officially changing gender, a process that often involves intimate questions. **AP**

FDA clears Pfizer's Covid pills for high-risk patients aged 12 and above

THE NEW YORK TIMES
DECEMBER 22

THE FOOD and Drug Administration on Wednesday authorised the first pill for Covid-19, offering an effective defence against severe illness that will arrive as the country endures another surge of the pandemic.

The drug, developed by Pfizer and known as Paxlovid, is authorised for Covid patients age 12 and over who are vulnerable to becoming severely ill because they are older or have medical conditions such as obesity or diabetes. Tens of millions of Americans — including both vaccinated and unvaccinated people — will be eligible if they get infected with the virus. The treatment could be available within a few days.

Pfizer's laboratory studies indicate that its pills are likely to work against the Omicron variant, which has rapidly become the dominant form of new cases in the United States.

The treatment is meant to be taken as 30 pills over five days. Patients take three pills at a time: two of Pfizer's pills and one of a low-dose H.L.V. drug known as ritonavir, which helps Pfizer's drug remain active in the body longer.

A clinical trial indicated that Paxlovid was highly effective when taken soon after an infection. In a final analysis of a key study conducted while the Delta variant was surging, Pfizer's drug reduced the risk of hospitalization or death by 88 per cent when given to high-risk unvaccinated volunteers within five days of the start of their symptoms.

Paxlovid appears to be more effective than a similar antiviral pill from Merck, known as molnupiravir, that is still awaiting authorisation by the FDA. In a clinical trial, Merck's drug reduced risk of hospitalisation and death for high-risk patients by 30 per cent.

Libyan election collapses with no plan out of crisis

A security officer stands in front of the High National Election Commission in Benghazi, Libya. **Reuters**AHMED ELUMAMI & AYMAN AL-WARFALI
TRIPOLI, BENGHAZI
DECEMBER 22

LIBYA'S PARLIAMENT said Friday's planned presidential election would not go ahead, leaving the internationally backed peace process in chaos and the fate of the interim government in doubt.

The electoral commission proposed pushing back the voting date by a month, confirming a delay that had been widely expected amid ongoing disputes over the rules, including the eligibility of several divisive major candidates.

Disagreements showed the limitations of a winner-takes-all presidential vote involving candidates viewed as unacceptable

in large parts of the country including the son of Muammar Gaddafi and a military leader who assaulted Tripoli.

At stake is a peace process that had been seen as the best hope in years of bringing an end to the decade of violence that has engulfed Libya since a NATO-backed uprising ousted Gaddafi in 2011.

Very large numbers of Libyans had already registered for voting cards for the election in what politicians on all sides in Libya have said is a sign of strong popular desire for a vote.

However, with mobilisations in Tripoli and other western areas by armed groups, the collapse of the electoral process risks aggravating local disputes and triggering a new round of fighting. **REUTERS**

WELCOMING WINTER SOLSTICE

Revellers gather at the Stonehenge stone circle in Amesbury, Britain, as the sun rises on Wednesday, to welcome in the winter solstice. **Reuters**

Sri Lanka sacks agri secretary amid food crisis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, DECEMBER 22

THE SRI Lankan government on Wednesday sacked a top bureaucrat handling the crucial agriculture sector, a day after he warned of an impending food shortage due to the ongoing economic and social crisis in the country.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has removed agriculture secretary Prof Udith Jayasinghe and appointed DMLD Bandaranayake in his position, a statement from the President's Office said. Though no official reason was given for Jayasinghe's removal, observers opine that it might be due to his warning of a possible food crisis and the measures suggested to mitigate the situation.

On Tuesday, Jayasinghe said, "There is a possibility of food shortages happening due to the current economic and social problems we are facing".

"People must be prepared to make sacrifices to face the shortages of food. We have to stop importing apples and oranges, priority has to be given to the needy such as the elderly, the expectant mothers and the sick," he said. Jayasinghe asserted that it was important to address the issue rather than criticising what caused it.

According to a report in news website hirunews.lk, Jayasinghe pointed out that if the Sri Lankan economy is able to restrict the import of non-essential food and beverages and focus only on essential imports, such as milk powder, it will be of great assistance to future development.

JORGE SILVA

KABUL, DECEMBER 22

THE GENERATION of young Taliban fighters that conquered Kabul has gone through the euphoria of victory to face an uncertain future as the country they won after two decades of war plunges ever deeper into economic crisis.

Most have known only fighting and while their battlefield memories may be a source of pride, they must now adjust to a world that wants to forget about war.

For the moment, four months after the fall of Kabul, many still bask in the achieve-

ment of overcoming the United States and its allies after a struggle that ruled their lives for so long.

"When I started in the Jihad against the Americans, I was 14 or 15 years old," said Nasrullah, a 24-year-old from Wardak province. "During that time, my brother was our group leader and I used to participate in some battles only. But when I turned 20, I spent all my time with the mujahidin and in battle."

Recently married, he is now in charge of security at a Kabul police station, but had only a walkie talkie with him as he walked across a dusty cricket field. "I am so delighted because

Young Taliban fighters who conquered Kabul face an uncertain future amid the deep economic crisis. **Reuters**

we have fulfilled all the ambitions that we have been carrying for the past 20 years."

For the people of Kabul, a city many Taliban fighters had never seen before their victory, the first

MEANWHILE,

RESEARCHERS FIND TREASURES IN SHIPWRECKS

The Israel Antiquities Authority announced the discovery of remnants of two shipwrecks off the Mediterranean coast, replete with a sunken trove of hundreds of Roman and medieval silver coins. The finds made near the ancient city of Caesarea were dated to the Roman and Mamluk periods, around 1,700 and 600 years ago.



Omicron forces global call for booster shots

With restrictions in place, citizens urged to get vaccinated

REUTERS

SYDNEY, DECEMBER 22

SINGAPORE SUSPENDED quarantine-free travel bookings and Australia renewed its vaccination push on Wednesday as surging Omicron infections just days before Christmas forced authorities to impose new curbs and expedite booster shots.

Governments globally have tightened social mobility restrictions and made urgent pleas for citizens to vaccinate as Omicron emerges as the dominant strain of the coronavirus, upending reopening plans that many hoped would herald the start of a post-pandemic era in 2022.

Singapore will freeze all new ticket sales for flights and buses under its programme for quarantine-free travel into the city-state from Thursday to January 20, the government said on Wednesday, citing risk from the fast-spreading Omicron.

"Our border measures will help to buy us time to study and understand the Omicron variant, and to strengthen our defences, including enhancing our healthcare capacity, and getting more people vaccinated and boosted," the health ministry said in a statement.

In Hong Kong, Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd said it would cancel some passenger flights in January after the Asian financial centre tightened quarantine rules.

Japan reported its first sus-

Governments globally have tightened social mobility curbs. **AP**

pected case of community transmission of Omicron on Wednesday.

Countries are also looking to shorten the time between second vaccination shots and boosters. However, wary of public lockdown fatigue, there is reluctance to return to the strict curbs imposed during the spread of the Delta variant earlier this year.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Wednesday announced new vaccination funding for clinics and pharmacies. He also urged the states to reopen hundreds of vaccination hubs, shut down when double-dose rates in adults topped 80%.

Australia on Wednesday reported more than 5,000 daily infections for the first time during the pandemic, with the bulk of cases in its most populous states of New South Wales and Victoria.

Cases drop in South Africa

Johannesburg: South Africa's noticeable drop in new Covid-19 cases in recent days may signal that the country's dramatic Omicron-driven surge has passed its peak, medical experts said. Daily case counts, however, are unreliable, as they can be affected by uneven testing, reporting delays and other fluctuations. But they are offering one tantalising hint — far from conclusive yet — that Omicron may recede after a ferocious spike.

After hitting a high of nearly 27,000 new cases nationwide on Thursday, the numbers dropped to about 15,424 on Tuesday. In Gauteng province, including Johannesburg, and Pretoria — the decrease started earlier and has continued. **AP**

Israel prepares to administer fourth dose of Covid vaccine

E A first, could offer valuable data, insight

ISRAELI S thought to be the first country in the world to approve a fourth dose of the coronavirus vaccine even as much of the world, including India, continues to consider the need and feasibility of a third 'booster' shot. Israel was among the first countries to roll out the first doses of the vaccine last year, and was able to return to normalcy sooner than most other countries; its new experiment too will likely offer valuable indications to vaccination programmes elsewhere.

"The state of Israel is continuing to stand at the forefront of the global efforts to deal with the pandemic. The citizens of Israel were the first in the world to receive the third dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and we are continuing to pioneer with the fourth dose as well", Prime Minister Bennett said in a statement.

"I call on everyone who meets the criteria that the members of the committee have set: Go and get vaccinated. Take responsibility for the health and livelihoods of all of us. The vaccines save lives," he explained.

The decision by the Health Ministry panel is pending approval of the ministry's director general. The nod is likely in a few days when the ministry releases clearer guidelines on a fourth shot. Israel has reported a total of 341 cases of the Omicron variant, and one death so far. **PTI**

HARINDER MISHRA

JERUSALEM, DECEMBER 22

ISRAELI S poised to begin administering the fourth dose of the Covid-19 vaccine for medical personnel and people aged 60 and above in a bid to curb the spread of Omicron infections in the country, the Prime Minister's Office said on Wednesday.

The announcement comes after a top panel of medical experts had recommended on Tuesday to begin administering the fourth dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Those eligible for the fourth dose can administer only if four months have passed since the third dose, the panel said.

Most of the vaccinated in Israel have received the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

Israel Prime Minister Naftali Bennett welcomed the decision, terming it "wonderful news that

will assist us in getting through the Omicron wave that is engulfing the world".

China's Xi endorses Hong Kong's 'patriots only' poll



Xi Jinping

Executive Carrie in Beijing on Wednesday that after the elections, he is certain Hong Kongers will join in "realising the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation".

"The execution of the new election system adheres to the 'one country, two systems' principle," Xi said, referring to the threadbare framework under which Hong Kong was to retain its own political, social and financial institutions for 50 years. "Our fellow citizens will promote the tradition of loving

were directly elected, and the turnout of 30.2% was the lowest since the British handed Hong Kong over to China in 1997.

All candidates were vetted by a largely pro-Beijing committee before they could be nominated.

Xi told Hong Kong Chief

their country and Hong Kong."

The elections had been postponed for a year after the opposition swept elections for district councillors. They followed widespread and increasingly violent anti-government protests in 2019 that prompted Beijing to impose a sweeping National Security Law on Hong Kong, followed by a reorganisation of the electoral process and transformation of the makeup of the Legislative Council to stack it with pro-Beijing loyalists.

LIFE AFTER TAKEOVER EVEN MORE CHALLENGING

Afghanistan: Young Taliban fighters face the challenge of peace

reaction to the fall of the capital was very different.

Thousands were killed and maimed by Taliban suicide bombers during their long campaign to overthrow the Western-backed government and for many in Kabul the sight of the long-haired fighters on the streets caused only shock and fear.

That feeling has eased as the Kalashnikov-wielding insurgents in their rag-tag mix of loose traditional clothing and combat jackets have been replaced by uniformed security forces.

But fears of revenge against anyone associated with the for-

mer government remain, and there are concerns over what will happen to women and to girls who are still largely excluded from high school education. Nasrullah blamed American propaganda for tarnishing the image of the Taliban.

"They used all their resources, they have brainwashed the people, they used every way to show us as bad people."

For their part, the Taliban fighters have memories of war, which shape the way they look at the world now.

Mansoor, from Maidan Wardak province, who carries the title Mawlawi given to those respected for their religious

knowledge, spent 14 or 15 years in the insurgency, eight of them in the notorious Bagram prison outside Kabul where many Taliban were held.

"When Americans told me you are a prisoner, I told them those who had come to be occupiers are the real detainees," he said in the red-carpeted police station where he now oversees security for the 7th district of Kabul.

"The prison was not for me, it was for them all these years. We were physically detained, but our ideas were freer than ever." "When I was free, I joined the fight the next day."

REUTERS



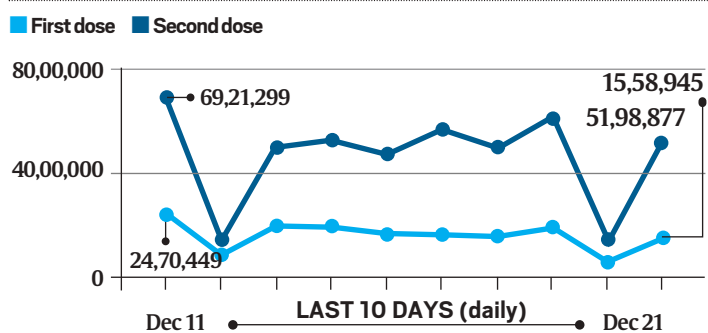
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

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 DEC 19, BY STATE

TOP 5

Uttar Pradesh	13,50,965
Maharashtra	6,38,534
West Bengal	5,60,026
Madhya Pradesh	5,20,003
Bihar	4,23,963

BOTTOM 5*

Punjab	63,700
Chhattisgarh	120,303
Delhi	1,31,067
Assam	1,59,298
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 21 figures updated on Dec 22

Pandemic's projected impact on drinking, disease & death

ALCOHOL SALES and consumption increased during the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. In new research published in the journal *Hepatology*, a team led by investigators at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) projected rates of liver disease and associated deaths due to increased alcohol consumption during the pandemic in the United States.

Using data from a national survey of US adults on their drinking habits, they found that excessive drinking (such as binge drinking) increased by 21% during the pandemic. The scientists simulated the drinking trajectories and liver disease trends in all US adults. They estimated that a one-year increase in alcohol consumption during the pandemic will result in 8,000 additional deaths from alcohol-related liver disease, 18,700 cases of liver failure, and 1,000 cases of liver cancer by 2040. In the short term, alcohol consumption changes due to Covid-19 are expected to cause 100 additional deaths and 2,800 additional cases of liver failure by 2023, MGH said in a press release.

The researchers noted that a sustained increase in alcohol consumption for more than one year could re-

sult in 19–35% additional mortality. “Our findings highlight the need for individuals and policymakers to make informed decisions to mitigate the impact of high-risk alcohol drinking during the Covid-19 pandemic in the US,” the release quoted senior author Jagpreet Chhatwal, associate director of MGH’s Institute for Technology

Assessment and an assistant professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School, as saying.

“While we have projected the expected impact of societal drinking changes associated with the Covid-19 pandemic without any interventions, we hope that our research can help jumpstart needed conversations at every level of society about how we can respond to the many behavioural changes, coping mechanisms, and choices that have short- and long-term implications for the health of individuals, families and communities in America,” lead author Jovan Julien, a data analyst at the MGH Institute for Technology Assessment and a PhD candidate at the Georgia Institute of Technology, was quoted as saying.

Source: *Massachusetts General Hospital*

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SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Personal laws in marriage

A Bill amending the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act clears the decks for the application of the law across religions, notwithstanding their customs. What issues does this raise; how have courts ruled on this?

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

A BILL proposing to increase the age of marriage for women, and ensuring harmony in the age limit across religions, was introduced in Lok Sabha this week and then referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee. Both aspects of the proposed amendment to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 have raised a debate on female autonomy and the application of personal laws in marriage.

What does the amendment propose?

The amendment proposes three changes. First, the law proposes to increase the minimum age of marriage for a woman. By amending the definition of a “child” in Section 2(a) to mean “a male of a female who has not completed twenty-one years of age”, the Bill makes the minimum age of marriage same for both men and women. Currently, it is 18 years for women and 21 for men.

Second, it also increases the window for a “child” to file a petition to declare a child marriage void. Under the law, child marriages, although illegal, are not void but “voidable.” A child marriage can be declared null and void by a court when either party to the marriage files a petition under Article 3(4) of the 2006 Prohibition of Child Marriage Act. A “void” marriage, as opposed to a divorce, in legal terms, would be as if the marriage had never taken place in the first place.

“The petition under this section may be filed at any time but before the child filing the petition completes two years of attaining majority,” Section 3(4) currently reads, allowing a woman to file for declaration of the child marriage as void before she turns 20 and for the man before he turns 23. After that, the marriage would be deemed valid and the couple can file for divorce.

The Bill proposes to extend this window for both the woman and the man to five years after attaining majority. Since the age of majority is 18 for both, this would mean that either the man or the woman can file a petition to declare the child marriage void before they turn 23, or until two years after reaching the new minimum age of marriage.

The third, crucial change proposed is the introduction of a “notwithstanding” clause.



The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, introduced in Lok Sabha this week by Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani (above), has been referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee. *Praveen Khanna*

This essentially clears the decks for equal application of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act across religions, notwithstanding any customs.

What is the opposition to the amendment?

The key argument in favour of raising the age is in correlation to health and social indices such as infant mortality, maternal mortality, and nutrition levels among mothers and children. However, since the age of majority is 18, increasing the age of marriage is viewed as a paternalistic approach by the state in personal matters of an individual.

Additionally, the application of the child marriage law across faiths sets the stage for a debate on the limits of personal law.

In Lok Sabha, E T Mohammed Basheer of the Indian Union Muslim League said the Bill was unconstitutional and was violative of Article 25 of the Constitution, which guarantees the freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.

Another criticism is that increasing the minimum age of marriage will further push many marriages to the brink of illegality and marginalise vulnerable sections. Since the ex-

isting Act does not make child marriage automatically illegal, the increase in minimum age might not really benefit women. It could bring those who aid the marriage of a woman over the age of 18 under the ambit of a law that sanctions imprisonment of up to two years.

Has the law not been applied to all religions earlier?

The 2006 law is considered a special legislation with a stated objective to prevent child marriages. While special legislation is applied over ‘general law’, experts have often pointed out that the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act suffers from a lacuna since it does not explicitly say that the law would trump general law.

Since Muslim law recognises “attaining puberty”, which is legally assumed at 15 years, as the minimum age of marriage, it raises questions as to whether the child marriage law can apply to Muslims.

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....”

How have courts interpreted the child marriage law so far?

High Courts have differed in their interpretation of the law.

The Karnataka High Court, in a decision in the case of *Seema Begum D/O Khasimsab vs State Of Karnataka* (2013), said that “no Indian citizen on the ground of his belonging to a particular religion, can claim immunity from the application of the P.C.M”.

In February this year, the Punjab and Haryana High Court granted protection to a Muslim couple (a 17-year-old girl married to a 36-year-old man), holding that theirs was a legal marriage under personal law. The HC examined provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act but held that since the special law does not override personal laws, Muslim law will prevail.

Has there been overriding of personal laws before?

There are several instances of personal law being replaced with secular law that applies to all religions equally.

For example, in *Shabana Bano v Imran Khan* (2009), the Supreme Court held that a divorced Muslim woman is entitled to claim the maintenance from her husband under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code even after the expiry of *iddat* (mourning) period, as long as she does not remarry. Under Muslim law, the award of the maintenance is provided only during the *iddat* period.

In 1996, the Supreme Court agreed with a Kerala High Court view that even though the Ecclesiastical Court can grant a divorce or nullify a Christian marriage, the Church cannot solemnise a second marriage of a party till the marriage is dissolved by a court.

In *Shayara Bano v Union of India* (2017), the Supreme Court declared the practice of instant triple talaq as unconstitutional although it is provided for under Muslim law.

In a 1960 case, the Supreme Court held that the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 would apply over Muslim law on transfer of property.

Omicron rising, but Delta still dominant

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, DECEMBER 22

THE UNITED Kingdom reported more than one lakh new coronavirus cases on Wednesday, the first time it has crossed this level since the beginning of the pandemic. Over 1.06 lakh cases were detected in a 24-hour period, which over 13,000 more than the previous highest of 93,000 recorded a few days ago, Sky News reported.

The UK has been witnessing the fastest spread of the newly-discovered Omicron variant, with more than 50,000 cases confirmed so far.

Most cases in Europe

Data from the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that seven of the ten countries with the highest number of cases in the last seven days are in Europe, the other three being the United States, South Africa and Vietnam.

Omicron has now spread to 106 countries, the WHO has reported. In the week between December 13 and 19, more than 41.77 lakh new cases were detected across the world, of which over 26.11 lakh (63%) came from Europe, the WHO said in its weekly report.

Besides the UK, Spain too recorded its

highest-ever single day case count of nearly 50,000 on Tuesday, while France said it expected the daily count of cases to exceed one lakh very soon due to the spread of the Omicron variant. The country is currently averaging over 50,000 cases a day.

For the time being, though, both France and Spain have decided against any fresh restrictions for the Christmas. Germany and Portugal have announced post-Christmas restrictions. In Germany, no more than 10 people would be allowed in private gatherings from December 28, while nightclubs would shut down, the BBC reported. Portugal has ordered pubs and nightclubs to close down from December 26.

Vaccines

Israel is preparing to provide a fourth dose of the coronavirus vaccine to its health-care workers and older population. Coronavirus cases have been rising in Israel as well, with more than 900 infections being reported on Tuesday.

Pharmaceutical major AstraZeneca said it had begun work on developing an Omicron-specific vaccine. “Together with

Oxford University, we have taken preliminary steps in producing an Omicron variant vaccine, in case it is needed and will be informed by emerging data,” the company said in a statement.

Delta still dominant

Although most of the new cases around the world, especially in Europe, are believed to have been caused by the Omicron variant, the WHO said Delta continued to be the dominant variant of concern globally.

Of the over 10.51 lakh genome sequences done between October 20 and December 19 across the world, close to 10.1 lakh, or about 96%, were found to be of the Delta variant, and only about 17,000 (less than 2%) were of Omicron.

The WHO numbers was based on the sequences deposited in public databases such as GISAID. Individual countries have confirmed many more Omicron cases. The UK, for example, has reported more than 45,000 confirmed cases of Omicron infection till now. Not all genome sequences are immediately deposited in the global public databases.



Kerala's SilverLine: why it has been planned, why it is facing protests

VISHNU VARMA
KOCHI, DECEMBER 22

PROTESTS ARE taking place across Kerala against SilverLine, a semi high-speed railway project that envisages trains running at 200 km/h between the state's northern and southern ends. The project, estimated to cost Rs 63,940 crore, is billed as one of the biggest infrastructure plans being pushed by the Pinarayi Vijayan government.

What is the SilverLine project?

The proposed 529.45-km line will link Thiruvananthapuram in the south to Kasaragod in the north, covering 11 districts through 11 stations. When the project is completed, one can travel from Kasaragod to Thiruvananthapuram in less than four hours at 200 km/hr. On the existing Indian Railways network, it now takes 12 hours. The deadline for the project, being executed by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDC), is 2025. KRDC, or K-Rail,

is a joint venture between the Kerala government and the Union Ministry of Railways created to execute big railway projects.

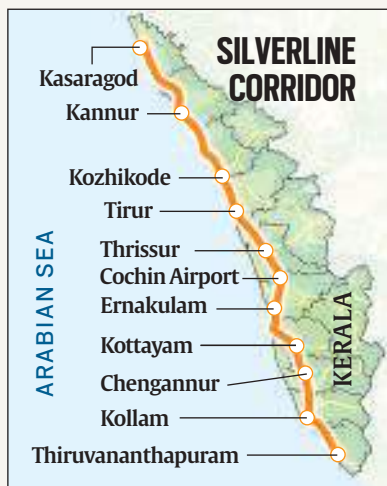
What was the need for the project?

Urban policy experts have long been arguing that the existing railway infrastructure in Kerala cannot meet the demands of the future. Most trains run at an average speed of 45 km/hr due to a lot of curves and bends on the existing stretch. The government claims the SilverLine project can take a significant load of traffic off the existing stretch and make travel faster for commuters, which in turn will reduce congestion on roads and help reduce accidents.

The government claims the line will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help in expansion of Ro-Ro services, produce employment opportunities, integrate airports and IT corridors, and enable faster development of cities it passes through.

What are its features?

According to K-Rail, the project will have



trains of electric multiple unit (EMU) type, each with preferably nine cars extendable to 12. A nine-car rake can seat a maximum of 675 passengers in business and standard class settings. The trains can run at a maxi-

mum speed of 220 km/hr on a standard gauge track, completing journeys in either direction in under four hours.

As per the alignment, the railway line, beginning from Thiruvananthapuram, will have stations in Kollam, Chengannur, Kottayam, Ernakulam (Kakkanad), Cochin Airport, Thrissur, Tirur, Kozhikode and Kannur before culminating in Kasaragod (see map). The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has already offered 1 acres for the station there.

Of the 11 stations, three will be elevated (Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Thrissur), one underground (Kozhikode) and the rest at grade. At every 500 metres, there will be under-passages with service roads.

Where does the project stand now?

The state government has begun the process of land acquisition after the Cabinet approved this in June this year. Out of 1,383 hectares needed to be acquired, 1,198 hectares will be private land. The Cabinet has also approved administrative sanction to get

Rs 2,100 crore from the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), the central investment arm of the government.

As part of the first stage of acquisition, local revenue and K-Rail officials are on the ground, demarcating land and placing boundary stones. This is done to give the officials a sense of how much private land will have to be acquired and the number of families who will be displaced. While CM Vijayan has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting his ‘personal intervention’ to give all necessary clearances, the Centre has only given in-principle approval to the project. The line is expected to be constructed using equity funds from the Kerala government, the Centre and loans from multilateral lending agencies.

Why are there protests against the project?

Political parties such as the Congress, BJP and Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) as well as citizen outfits such as K-Rail SilverLine Viruddha Janakeeya Samiti have

been spearheading separate protests. A petition signed by 17 Opposition MPs from the state said the project was an “astronomical scam in the making” and would sink the state further into debt. The petition, addressed to the Union Railways Minister, said the project was financially unviable and would lead to displacement of over 30,000 families.

The Samiti and green activists allege that SilverLine would cause great environmental harm as its route cuts through precious wetlands, paddy fields and hills. The Samiti said the building of embankments on either side of the major portion of the line will block natural drainage and cause floods during heavy rains. The Kerala Parishithi Aikya Vedi, a forum of ecology experts, has urged the government to abandon the project and explore sustainable solutions.

E Sreedharan, former Delhi Metro head who has joined the BJP, termed the project “ill-conceived” and defectively planned. He said the present proposal needs a lot of correction including its basic track width.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified female namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown** was found dead on **14.12.2021 at 10:28 AM** on **KM Pole No. 1528/16-1528/18 in between Down Main Line Near Hari Nagar Ashram Flyover, Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 8A** dated **14.12.2021** has been lodged at **Police Station, Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station.** Identification of unidentified female dead body is as under:
Name: Unknown, Age: 30/35 Years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Wheatish, Injury: Face crushed, left leg chopped off and right hand broken, Wearing: Red Colour Suit, Yellow Shirt, Blue & Khaki Colour Two Salwar.

If anyone has any information or clue about this female deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station, Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station.
DP/412/RLY/2021 Ph: 011-24356743, 24358593

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is here by informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown**, residence and family is **unknown** about 40-45 years of age was found dead at **KM Pole No. 21/17 - 21/19, UP Railway Line, Near Fatak No. 14, Holambi Kalan Railway Station, Delhi** due to train accident on 19.12.2021. In this regard a **DD No. 7A**, dated **19.12.2021 U/S 174 Cr.PC** has been registered at **Police Station Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi.** Dead body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi

Mortuary for 72 hrs. for identification. His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: About 40-45 years, Height: 5'5" ft., Complexion: Wheatish, ID Mark: Tirath Ram is written on right hand, **Injury Mark: Left hand and left leg broken, head injury & scratches on body, Wearing: Coca Cola colour Jersey & Grey colour Lower.**
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

SHO
P.S. Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-23692455
Mob. No- 9811998063

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Geeta

Age: 18 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Wearing: White Colour Top & Jeans and White Colour Shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform **SHO, Ranhola, Delhi** at E-mail **ld-cic@cbi.gov.in** or website: **http://cbi.nic.in**

SHO
011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Ranhola, Delhi
Fax No. 011-24368639 Outer Distt., Delhi
DP/1306/OD/2021 Ph. No. 011-28363001, 28363003

JAMMU & KASHMIR
WATER RESOURCES REGULATORY AUTHORITY
HEAD OFFICE: Ashok Nagar, Sattwari, Jammu-180004, Tele No.: 0191-2458845
Fax No.: 2458890.
Website: www.jkswwra.nic.in, E-mail: jkwwra@gmail.com

CAMP OFFICE: Syed Chowk, Brein Nihal, Srinagar-191121, Tele No. 0194-2461829, Fax No.: 2461867

EXTENSION IN DATES FOR RECEIPT AND OPENING OF BIDS E-NIT NO. 01 OF JKWWRA OF OCTOBER 2021 DATED 29.10.2021
The schedule for receipt and opening of bids invited vide the above e-NIT is extended and the revised schedule shall be as under.
a) Bid Submission End Date (Online) : 10.01.2022 at 1600 Hrs.
b) Clarification Start Date : 27.12.2021 at 1030 Hrs.
c) Clarification End Date : 31.12.2021 at 1600 Hrs.
d) Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Online) : 11.01.2022 at 1500 Hrs.

No.: JKWWRA/T-75/2021/1638
Date: 20.12.2021
DIPK-NB-6057

(Sukhpal Singh, KAS) Secretary
J&K Water Resources
Regulatory Authority

कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा
ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना सं० -06/2021-22

शुद्धि पत्र

अतिअल्पकालीन ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना सं०-06/2021-22 (PRNo.-259410 Road(21-22)-D के द्वारा कार्य – Restoration of Submersible type temporary hume pipe causeway on Rajia River in Rupnarayanpur-Jamtara-Govindpur road(via Pokharia ya more) (km 46.54) for the Year 2021-22 हेतु निकाली गई निविदा में ई-निविदा का वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशन की तिथि अपरिहार्य कारणवश 20.12.2021 के स्थान पर 24.12.2021 एवं ई –निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 03.01.2022 के स्थान पर 08.01.2022 की जाती है। शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगे।

हो/

कार्यालय अभियंता,
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा

PR.NO.260011 Road(21-22);D

कार्यालय अस्पताल अधीक्षक
दाऊ कल्याण सिंह स्नातकोत्तर संस्थान एवं अनुसंधान केन्द्र,
डी.के.एस. भवन, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

क्रमांक/डी.के.एस./क्रय/2021/3800 रायपुर दिनांक 20/12/2021

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

डी.के.एस. सुपरस्पेशियलिटी चिकित्सालय रायपुर के विभागों के उपयोग हेतु IMPLANTS (Annexure-2) क्रय किया जाना है इस हेतु मोहरबंद निविदायें निमाताओं तथा उनके अधिकृत विक्रेताओं (Dealers of Sub Dealers) से आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र तथा शर्तें कार्यालयीन दिवस में प्रातः 11.00 बजे से संध्या 5.30 बजे तक आवेदन प्रस्तुत कर रुपये 1000.00 (रुपये एक हजार मात्र) का अधीक्षक, डी.के.एस. सुपरस्पेशियलिटी चिकित्सालय रायपुर के नाम से देय डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट अथवा नकद जमा कर दिनांक 06.01.2022 तक कार्यालयीन दिवस में क्रय शाखा से प्राप्त किये जा सकते है, जो वापसी योग्य नहीं है।

- निविदा प्रपत्र विक्रय की अंतिम तिथि:- 06.01.2022 संध्या 5.30 बजे तक
 - निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि:- 13.01.2022 दोपहर 2.00 बजे तक
 - निविदा खोलने की अंतिम तिथि :- 13.01.2022 संध्या 4.00 बजे
 - निविदा जमा करने का स्थान:-
अस्पताल अधीक्षक,
डी.के.एस. सुपरस्पेशियलिटी चिकित्सालय रायपुर
 - निविदा कोलने का स्थान:-
अस्पताल अधीक्षक,
डी.के.एस. सुपरस्पेशियलिटी चिकित्सालय रायपुर
- अस्पताल अधीक्षक
दाऊ कल्याण सिंह स्नातकोत्तर संस्थान एवं अनुसंधान केन्द्र, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

66070

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(Wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India)
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OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)
Tenders under Two Part bidding system are invited from experienced, resourceful, reputed and bonafide Suppliers/Service Providers/Agencies/Contractors (as applicable) for the following:-
1. CONSTRUCTION OF NURSERY SCHOOL BUILDING AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER NO. 016/SAL/MMD-CIVIL/2021-22. [ESTIMATED COST – ₹ 3,87,08,000/-]
Last date of submission of the above tender is **25.01.2022** by **11:30 Hrs.** For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. Further extension or amendment/s, if any will be uploaded on our website only.

General Manager

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006,
Telephone.: 0135-2763808, Fax- 0135- 2763508,
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्रांक सं. 1021 दिनांक 22.12.2021

E-Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M -III), Vaysi Project, Dakpathar, UJVN Ltd. invites online bid from interested parties Brief summary of tender is given below
NIT No : 06/EE(E&M-III)/VP/2021-22
Name of work :- Hiring one no. 32 (30+2) seater Bus for one year on contract basis for Transportation of staff of Vyasli Power Project
Estimated cost: 3262860.00 (Taxes Extra)
Date of Availability of bid document on website: 24.12.2021 from 11:00 hrs
Last date for submission of bids on website: 13.01.2022 upto 17:00 hrs
For fuller & further details kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer (E&M-III)

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THE BRAITHWAITE BURN AND JESSOP CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Regd. Off.: 27, Rajendra Nath Mukherjee Road, Kolkata - 700 001
Phone No. (033) 2248-5841-44; Fax: (033) 2210-3961
E-mail : info.bbjonst@bbjonst.com; Website : www.bbjonst.com

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

e-Tenders are invited, **UNDER TWO-BID SYSTEM**, from reputed Agency for Supply, Fabrication & Transportation of Galvanized H-Beam Sleepers with all Fittings, Fixtures, Fastening and based on approved drawing & technical specifications.

Bid No.: GEM/2021/B/1787990 Dated 22.12.2021; EMD: Rs.5,00,000/-;
Bid No.: GEM/2021/B/1788492 Dated 22.12.2021; EMD: Rs.5,00,000/-;

Tender documents may be downloaded from <https://gem.gov.in> and/or www.bbjonst.com (Bid Id: GEM/2021/B/1787990 & GEM/2021/B/1788492).

e-Bids (Two-Cover System) can be uploaded in GeM Portal up to 15:00 hrs. on or before 12.01.2022 and the opening of e-Bids (Technical) will be on 12.01.2022 at 15:30 hrs. "Corrigendum", if any, would appear only on the BBJ's website & GeM portal and not be published in any newspaper.

Govt. of Jharkhand
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Field Survey Division, Advance Planning,
Road Construction Department,
Nirupan Bhawan, 4th floor, 56-Set Chowk,
Doranda, Ranchi-834002
e-mail--- eeredapfsdran-jhr@nic.in

e-Procurement Very Short Notice 2nd Call
e-Tender Reference No. -RCD/FS/D /AP/ RAN/41/21-22
Dated 21.12.2021

1-	Name of Work	Consultancy Consultancy services for preparation of complete Land Acquisition Plan with ownership details and preparation of cost of acquired land as per latest guidelines, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Plan & Forest Diversion Proposal as required for Maniadhri to Saria via Machhiyara Road at Dhanbad district in the State of Jharkhand. from Consultants empanelled in Category-I with the Road Construction Department , Government of Jharkhand vide letter no -686 dated 29-01-2019
2-	Tentative Length of Work	12.814km
3-	Work completion time	30 Days
4	Date and Time of Publishing of Tender on official website	23.12.2021, 05.00 PM
5-	Last date and Time of submission of Tender (With Tender Fee and EMD)	30.12.2021, 12.30 PM
6-	Date and Timing of Bid opening	31.12.2021, 12.30 PM
7-	Tender Inviting Authority	Executive Engineer, Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, RCD, Ranchi, Nirupan Bhawan, 56 set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002, Mobile No-9431591027
8-	Bid Submission Address	Chief Engineer (Communication), Road Construction Department, 1st Floor, Engineering Hostel No-2, Dhurwa,Ranchi-834004
9.	Mode of Bid Submission	e-Tendering (http://jrharkhandtenders.gov.in)
10	Previous PR No.	258211 Road (21-22)

For further information please go through the website <http://jrharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer
Field Survey Division,A.P
Road Construction Department,
Ranchi

PR259995 (Road)21-22ndD

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: PRYJ/Bn/L/2021-22/07
Office of the Dy Chief Engineer/Br./Line/PRYJ
Dated: 20.12.2021
E-Tendering Tender Notice

Dy. Chief Engineer/Bridge/Line/North Central Railway/Prayagraj acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-TENDERS on prescribed form for the following work up to **14.30 hrs. on 24.01.2022.** The details of the Tender are as under:-

Tender No.	2021-09
	Supplying and installation of Automated water level gauge with solar power including maintenance and subscription charges for 01 years at Bridge No. 1139/1 (Dhasaan River LAR -KURJ section), Bridge No. 1006/1 (Narayan River, BIN-AGC Section), Bridge No. 1176/1 (Sindh River, BIN-AGC section), Bridge No. 1275/2 (Yamuna River, JHS-CNB section), Bridge No. 1141/1 (Betwa River, JHS-MKP section), Bridge No. 1206/1 (Dhasan River, JHS-MKP section), Bridge No. 1361/1 (Bagaini River, JHS-MKP Section), Bridge No. 1386/1 (Paisuni River, JHS-MKP Section), Bridge No. 1313/1 (Koari River, BIX-ETW Section), Bridge No. 1326/1 (Chambal River, BIX-ETW Section) of JHS Division and Bridge No. 1333/2 (Yamuna, River BIX-ETW Section) of Agra Division (total 11 Nos.) over N.C. Railway.
Approx. Cost of Work (Rs.)	₹ 1,13,54,728/-
Earnest Money (Rs.)	Nil
Cost of Tender Form (Rs.)	Nil
Completion Period	06 Months
Date of Opening of Tender	24.01.2022
Eligibility Criteria for Similar work	Supply Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Automated Water Level gauge and its Integration with TMS, BMS & other applications.

Note:- Railway Board vide letter No. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 30.12.2020 has advised that Ministry of Finance vide OM No. F.9/2020-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 tenders 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) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders shall be available on **www.ireps.gov.in** up to **14:30 hrs.** upto the due date of tender opening i.e. **24.01.2022.** (2) 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.** (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form / letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightaway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (5) Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. (6) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (7) Online tender can be submitted up to **14.30 hrs. on 24.01.2022.** (8) Supplier of Goods and/or services would be the subject to GST Act, and Rules as applicable from time to time. (9) The Tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-I) of GCC July'2020 mandatorily, otherwise offer will be considered as incomplete offer and accordingly shall not be considered.

1328/21 (A)

f North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in **📠** @CPRO NCR

SBI
Networking & Communication Department, State Bank of India, Global IT-Centre, Sec-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

RFP NO: SBI/GITC/NW&C/2021-22/814 Dated: 23.12.2021
Bids are invited by State Bank of India from the eligible bidders for **PROCUREMENT OF 4G LTE CONNECTIVITY FOR OFFSITE ATMs.** For details, please visit "Procurement news" at <https://www.sbi.co.in> and e-Procurement agency portal <https://etender.sbi/SBI/>
Commencement of download of RFP: From 23.12.2021.
Last date and time for submission of bids: 17.01.2022 up to 15:30 hrs.

Networking & Communication Department

Petronet LNG Limited

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR SHIP-SHORE LINK SYSTEM UPGRADATION AT NORTH JETTY AT PETRONET LNG LIMITED, DAHEJ

Interested parties are requested to visit our website www.petronetng.in for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and/or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion. No separate notification shall be issued in press. Bidders are requested to visit the website regularly to keep themselves updated.

Deputy Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
GIDC Industrial Estate, Plot No. 7/A, Dahej, Taluka Vagra, Dist. Bharuch - 392130, Dahej, Gujarat, Tel. No. 02641-670232/233/235/231
E-mail id: materials@petronetng.in, sumitkumar@petronetng.in

ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
प्लॉट नं.-1, नॉर्डेब पार्क-IV, ग्रेटर नोएडा हिल्स, नोएडा-201308, उद्योग वेबसाइट: www.greaternoidaauthority.in, ई-नेट: authority@gnida.in

पत्रांक: जी०एम०/(अभियन्त्रण)/2021/332^ए दिनांक: 22.12.2021

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

महाप्रबन्धक (अभियन्त्रण) ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नोएडा की ओर से ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- जी०एम०/(अभियन्त्रण)/2021/332 दिनांक 22.12.2021 के माध्यम से उल्लेखित क्रम संख्या-01 से 45 पर अंकित कार्य की ई-निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। समस्त नियम व शर्तें ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.greaternoidaauthority.in पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पेटल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध हैं किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिए उक्त वेबसाइट देखते रहें।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम/वक सक्ति	अनुमानित लागत
1	स्मार्ट विलेज जलपुरा (फेस-1) का विकास कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-3)	₹ 570.82 लाख
2	ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण के कार्यालय में फसाड लाईट की आपूर्ति, स्थापना, परीक्षण, का कार्य एवं संचालन, अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-ईएण्डएम-2)	₹ 514.76 लाख
3	ग्राम इटहरा में 6%, आबादी मूखण्डों का अवशेष विकास कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-3)	₹ 466.02 लाख
4	सेक्टर एवं ग्राम की आन्तरिक सीवरज सिस्टम (जोन-1) का 3 वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण कार्य (पार्ट-1) (वर्क सॉकिल-सीवर)	₹ 446.31 लाख
5	सेक्टर ओमीक्रोन-3 की आन्तरिक सड़कों का रिसरफेसिंग कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-6)	₹ 444.43 लाख
6	नवादा रोटी से मडेया रोटी तक 60 मी० चौड़ी रोड एवं सेक्टर पार्ड-1, तथा पार्ड-2 के साथ 45 मी० चौड़ी रोड का तीन वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण का कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 346.08 लाख
7	डेल्फी रोटी से नटों की मडेया तक 60 मी० चौड़ी रोड (मेन करेज) एवं सेक्टर-36, 31, स्वर्ण नगरी, सिग्मा-1 तथा ईकोटेक साइड की सर्विस रोड का रिसरफेसिंग कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 315.59 लाख
8	डेल्टा-1, 2 एवं 3 की 60 मी० चौड़ी पेरिफेरल रोड का तीन वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण का कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 259.45 लाख
9	सेक्टर बी.जे.पी. एरिया का 3 वर्ष का अनुरक्षण का कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-4)	₹ 249.05 लाख
10	सेक्टर चाई-फाई में 80 मी०, 60 मी० एवं 45 मी० चौड़ी का 3 वर्ष का अनुरक्षण का कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-4)	₹ 224.54 लाख
11	सेक्टर जू-3 का 3 वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-6)	₹ 189.38 लाख
12	स्मार्ट विलेज अमीनाबाद उर्फ नियाना का विकास कार्य। (फेस-1) (वर्क सॉकिल-4)	₹ 174.19 लाख
13	सेक्टर जीटा-1 व जीटा-1 के चारों तरफ का 3 वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 168.14 लाख
14	सेक्टर-बीटा-1, बीटा-2, एल्फा-2, डेल्टा-2 एवं सेक्टर-36 में वेन्डर मार्केट/किसान मार्केट का निर्माण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 161.25 लाख
15	सेक्टर गामा-1 का 3 वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 157.29 लाख
16	सेक्टर बीटा-1 का 3 वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 147.39 लाख
17	सेक्टर बीटा-2 का 3 वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 147.44 लाख
18	अमृतपुर रोटी से डेल्टा-2 रोटी एवं अथॉरिटी रोटी से गोल कोंसे रोटी तक 60 मी० चौड़ी रोड का 3 वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 144.48 लाख
19	ग्राम जुनपत में आर.सी.सी. ड्रेन एवं सी.सी. रोड का अवशेष कार्य (वर्क सॉकिल-6)	₹ 140.53 लाख
20	सेक्टर-36 का तीन वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण का कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 137.12 लाख
21	सेक्टर गामा-1, 2, अल्फा-1, 2, एवं डेल्टा-1, 2, 3 में वॉटर सप्लाय के लिए क्लोरिनेशन प्लांट की आपूर्ति एवं स्थापन (36 माह ऑपरेशन एवं अनुरक्षण सहित) (जोन-1) (वर्क सॉकिल-जल)	₹ 136.15 लाख
22	सेक्टर जू-1 का 3 वर्ष तक मरम्मत एवं अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-6)	₹ 114.98 लाख
23	सेक्टर-2 के सॉकेट-सी. एवं डी. की आन्तरिक सड़कों का रिसरफेसिंग का कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-3)	₹ 112.53 लाख
24	सेक्टर जू-3 के साथ 60 मी० चौड़ी रोड का 3 वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-6)	₹ 111.62 लाख
25	सेक्टर सिग्मा-1 का 3 वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 108.57 लाख
26	सेक्टर म्यू के साथ 60 मी० चौड़ी रोड का 3 वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-6)	₹ 99.58 लाख
27	ग्राम हैवतपुर के 10%, आबादी मूखण्डों का अवशेष विकास कार्य (पार्ट-1)। (वर्क सॉकिल-1)	₹ 92.28 लाख
28	ग्राम सैनी में आर.सी.सी. रोड, ड्रेन एवं कवर्ट का अवशेष कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-2)	₹ 88.40 लाख
29	सेक्टर बीटा-1 में सी- ब्लॉक की 18 मी० चौड़ी रोड के साथ आर.सी.सी. ड्रेन का निर्माण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 71.90 लाख
30	ग्रेटर नोएडा में जोन-2 एवं जोन-3 में वॉटर सप्लाय के विभिन्न स्थानों पर पम्प हाउस का मरम्मत कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-जल)	₹ 62.13 लाख
31	सेक्टर अल्फा-1 में कामरौथल बेट्ट का तीन वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 60.35 लाख
32	1 नग सीएण्डनजी० विद्युत यंत्रिक शवदाय संयंत्र की मोक्ष धाम सफीपुर में आपूर्ति एवं स्थापना व तत्सम्बन्धित कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-4)	₹ 59.89 लाख
33	हिन्दन ब्रिज (कुलेसरा के पास) ग्रेटर नोएडा एनर्जी प्वाइंट पर मरम्मत एवं नवीनीकरण का कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-3)	₹ 56.16 लाख
34	सेक्टर ईकोटेक-8 का 3 वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-7)	₹ 56.11 लाख
35	ग्राम पाली में शमशान घाट के लिए एक कमरा, शेड, बटुलरा एवं इण्टरलॉकिंग टाईल्स का कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-6)	₹ 51.03 लाख
36	ग्राम मकोड़ा में सी.सी. रोड का मरम्मत कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-6)	₹ 48.09 लाख
37	सेक्टर ओमीक्रोन-3 के मध्य 60 मी० चौड़ी रोड, सेक्टर म्यू एवं म्यू-2, सेक्टर रिक्रिशनल ग्रीन-5 सेक्टर म्यू-2 के साथ विविध सिविल कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-6)	₹ 45.48 लाख
38	ग्राम पाली में प्ले ग्राउन्ड का विकास कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-6)	₹ 40.74 लाख
39	ग्राम डेरैम में सी.सी. रोड एवं ड्रेन को ऊंचा उठाने, रोड का मरम्मत कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-3)	₹ 38.85 लाख
40	ग्राम जेतापुर-वेशपुर, पाली पल्ला, मकोड़ा, जुनपत, मुबारकपुर, सांकीपुर की स्ट्रीट लाईटों का 1 वर्ष का अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-ईएण्डएम-2)	₹ 34.67 लाख
41	सेक्टर म्यू-2 में ओरोडिल्लि मकानों की (ग्राम के साथ की तरफ) वाइडवील का अवशेष कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-6)	₹ 29.63 लाख
42	सेक्टर अल्फा-1 में स्टफ क्वार्टरों का मरम्मत कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-5)	₹ 28.19 लाख
43	ग्राम धुमानिकपुर (डैरी मच्छा) के शमशान घाट में मरम्मत एवं इण्टरलॉकिंग टाईल्स का कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-2)	₹ 22.12 लाख
44	हिल्स एरिया में पी-7 में रोटी आर-2 रोड के चारों ओर आर.सी.सी. प्रोटेक्शन बोल का निर्माण का कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-4)	₹ 14.50 लाख
45	ग्राम विरखण्ड जलापुर में बारातपुर का मरम्मत कार्य। (वर्क सॉकिल-3)	₹ 09.42 लाख

(अ) क्रम सं० 01 से 10 तक दिनांक - 23.12.2021 से 05.01.2022 को 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्रात ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 07.01.2022 को 11:00 बजे तक खोली जाएगी, एवं कम सं० 11 से 23 तक दिनांक - 23.12.2021 से 03.01.2022 को 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्रात ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 05.01.2022 को 11:00 बजे तक खोली जाएगी।

(ब) क्रम सं० 24 से 45 तक दिनांक-24.12.2021 से 03.01.2022 को 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्रात ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 05.01.2022 को 11:00 बजे तक खोली जाएगी।

महाप्रबन्धक (अभियन्त्रण)

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**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RWSS DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR
INVITATION FOR BIDS**

E-mail-eerwss_rai@nic.in, eerwss.ra@gmail.com

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

IDENTIFICATION No. 60 RWSS/RRPUR- 2021-2022/ Dated 21.12.2021

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.

- Nature of work :- a) Execution of clubbed up PWS schemes to different villages of Bijatala, Bisoi, Bahalda, Jamda & Tiring Block under RWS&S Division Rairangpur in the District of Mayurbhanj.
- No. of packages :- 10(Ten) nos.
- Period of Completion :- 11(Eleven) months
- Cost of tender :- ₹10000.00
- Estimated cost :- ₹ 372.16 Lakhs to - ₹ 446.25
- Class of Contractor :- (As mentioned in Tender Call Notice)
- Date and time of availability of bid documents in Portal: -from 10 hours of 30.12.2021 to 17.00 to hours of 17.01.2022
- Receipt of bid cost, bid security, documents: - Online only
- Date & time of opening of technical bid: - Dt. 18.01.2022 at 16.00 hours onwards.
- Other Documents: - (As mentioned in DTCH)
- The bidders have to participate in on-line bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.
- Any addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

**Superintending Engineer
RWSS Division, Rairangpur
OIPR-25010/11/0036/2122**

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-5
ROOM NO. 312, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I,
JHANEWALAN, DELHI-110005**

PRESS NOT No. 14 (2021-22) M-5

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender	E/Money (EMD)	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)	Date of release of Tender (Tender Id.	Last date/time of receipt of tender
1	Boring of tubewells in Shastri Nagar Ward, Sadar Bazar AC-19 under EE (Central)-II.	₹ 49,20,250/-	Exempted vide office memorandum No. F.9/4/2020 PPD and DJB endorsement	500/-	Dt. 21/12/2021 2021_DJB_213245_2	04/01/2022 Upto 3.00 PM
2	Replacement of AC water main from A-290 to A-770, Shastri Nagar, Sadar Bazar AC-19	₹ 28,24,096/-	No DJB	500/-	Dt. 21/12/2021 2021_DJB_213245_6	04/01/2022 Upto 3.00 PM
3	Replacement of old and damaged 450, 300, 250, 200, 150mm dia. C. I. water line near Janta Park UGR to 20 No. Road, Sheel Basti, Baljeet Nagar AC-24 under EE(West)-II.	₹ 32,89,532/-	2020-21/ Misc-II (PT)/971 Dated, 23/12/2020	500/-	Dt. 21/12/2021 2021_DJB_213245_7	04/01/2022 Upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at. <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/- (P. C. Sharma)

Advt. No. J.S.V. 871 (2021-22) Asst. Executive Engineer(TM-5)

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

MEGHALAYA INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION

No. MIDFCIRFP/2021/92/13733 Dated Shillong the 22nd December, 2021

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF SERVICE PROVIDER FOR MEGHALAYA YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND TRAINING

The Government of Meghalaya plans to implement foundational skill development program in all the districts and blocks of Meghalaya to a selected set of youth. For this purpose, Government of Meghalaya is keen to procure the services of an agency/firm.

MIDFC (on behalf of Government of Meghalaya) seeks proposals from above such agencies/firms that can provide soft skill & life skill training to a large section of youth of the state. The details of the eligibility, scope of work & selection methodology has been outlined in the RFP document.

Interested Parties are requested to download the Request for Proposal (RFP) document from <http://mbda.gov.in/tenders> and submit their RFP in prescribed format complete in all respect shall be submitted in the PDF files. The documents are to be sent to midfcmegha@gmail.com before the Proposal due date and time.

Hard copy of proposals shall be submitted on following address: Chief Operations Officer (C.O.O) Meghalaya Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (MIDFC) House No. L/A-56, Lower Nongrim Hills, Shillong East Khasi Hills Meghalaya-793003 (India)

Or

Shri Rajeev Arora, Executive Director, Meghalaya Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Ltd., Meghalaya House, Near Priya Cinema Hall, Kusum Pahar, Capt. Ribhu Saxena marg, Vasant Vihar, Delhi-110057

Last date of submission of proposals is 13.01.2022 before 3:00 PM

For more details please visit <http://www.mbda.gov.in>

-Sd/-
Chief Operations Officer (COO), MIDFC

MIPR No. 1615

**झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय
102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, राँची**

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई-निविदा संख्या:- **140/2021-22/RWD/GRIDIH** दिनांक :- 22.12.2021

मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र० सं०	आईडेंटिफिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1.	RWD/GRIDIH/16/2021-22	बालगोविन्द मिश्र के घर से बैंगलाचो होते हुए सोनतिगही (सोनविही) नदी तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लंब- 2400 कि०मी०)	2,14,03,900.00	दो करोड़ चौदह लाख तीन हजार नौ सौ रूप० मात्र	12 माह
2.	RWD/GRIDIH/17/2021-22	डोमोटाड जमदीश लकुर के घर से शिलैयाटाड भाया बजरंबली मंदिर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लंब- 2000 कि०मी०)	1,25,29,100.00	एक करोड़ पच्चीस लाख उनतीस हजार एक सौ रूप० मात्र	09 माह

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- **03.01.2022**
- ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- **14.01.2022** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।
- (क) मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी, राँची अथवा (ख) जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, राँची अथवा (ग) जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, गिरिडीह में से किसी भी कार्यालय में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि, राशय पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलोड किये गये तकनीकी योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथि:- **17.01.2022** पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से अपराह्न 3.30 बजे तक।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- **18.01.2022** पूर्वाह्न 11.30 बजे।
- निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी चौक, राँची, झारखण्ड, पिन- 834001
- ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं- 0651-2207818
- 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, गिरिडीह के पक्ष में एवं गिरिडीह में भुगतान होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है। नोटल पदाधिकारी
ई-प्रोक्युमेंट सेल

PR260091 (Rural Work Department)21-22*D

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Plot No. C-24, 'G' Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra(E), Mumbai - 400 051.

ISSUE OF DUPLICATE BOND CERTIFICATE

Notice is hereby given that the following Bhavishya Nirman Bond Certificates have been reported lost/misplaced/ not traceable by the bondholders, and NABARD intends to make payment/ issue duplicate certificates in lieu thereof, in due course.

Any person who has a valid claim on the said bond certificate should lodge such claim with NABARD at its Head Office address given above within 21 days herefrom:

Sl. No.	Name of the Investor / Bond holder	Allotment Date	Folio No.	No. of Bonds	Original Certificate No.
1	Prateek Jain	01-Aug-08	310496791	6	20080800005020
2	Anirban Chatterjee	01-Jul-08	310503240	35	20080700004072
3	Rohit Jaiswal (Deceased) Medha Jaiswal (Nominee)	01-Jan-09	310451002 (Deceased Id) 310451011 (Nominee Id)	5	20090100008871
4	Bharatbhai Makodhbhai Vithani	31-Mar-09	310405191	5	20090300014802
5	Ashish Vishwanath Patil	01-Apr-10	311003938	20	2010040000000041
6	Malay Kamlesh Sevai	01-Nov-08	310471739	5	20081100007043
7	Ushma Chirag Desai	01-Jun-08	310515001	5	20080600002064
8	V. K. Sood, (Deceased), (Nominee - Kavita Sood)	01-Nov-07	310582417 (Deceased Id) 310751936 (Nominee Id)	1	20071100000950
9	Archana Sood, (Deceased), (Joint holder - Samit Sood)	01-Nov-07	310582395 (Deceased Id) 310582379 (Joint holder Id)	1	20071100000949
10	Samit Sood	01-Nov-07	310582379	1	20071100000948
11	Ananya Kiran	01-Oct-07	310605743	2	20071000000299

**Dy. General Manager
NABARD**

Place: Mumbai
Date: 23/12/2021

नोट बढ़े >>> तो घेरा बढ़े www.nabard.org

Taking Rural India >>> Forward

I, No 15141570M Rank HAV (Gnr) Rajesh Kumar unit of 60 Medium Regiment resident of VPO –Jol, PO- Mansai, Tehsil-Nadaun, Distt - Hamirpur (H.P.) PIN- 177006 have changed date of birth my wife Sunita Devi from 17.07.1981 to 18.03.1979 vide affidavit no. AX155515 dated 09.12.2021 before Notary Public Suratgarh.

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
e-TENDER NOTICE**

S.No. (1) Name of the work with its location:- "Design, Drawing, Modification, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25KV OHE between Balamath-Kushmahi Including 3rd line of Tori - Shipur section and any other location under Dy. CEE/C/S/MHX". **E-Tender No. ELC/SIMHX/ETEN/ 18/21-22, Approx cost of the work :- 9.70,26,581/-, Cost of Tender form :- Rs. Nil, Availability of tender :- On IREPS website :- www.ireps.gov.in, Earnest money to be deposited :- Not Applicable. Completion period of the work :- 06 months, Date and time for closing of tender: 11.01.2022 at 12.00 hrs.**

**Dy. CEE/C/S/MHX, Patna
PR/1400/CONS/ELEC/T/21-22/28**

**WESTERN RAILWAY-VADODARA DIVISION
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

e-TENDER NOTICE No. DRM-BRC 134 To 138 OF 2021-22

Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C) Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390004 for the following works:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Name of Work	Approximate cost of the work (In Rs.)	Earnest money to be deposited (In Rs.)
1.	DRM BRC 134 of 2021-22 Pratapnagar (PRTN) Cleaning and Disinfection of U/G Sump, Overhead tanks and PVC tanks through mechanical means under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/PRTN for 2 years (4 times in a year).	6,64,711.92	As per bid Security declaration
2.	DRM BRC 135 of 2021-22 Vadodara Division:- Annual maintenance contract for cleaning of underground Drainage and manhole for 24 months under the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (Work) Nadiad.	5,44,294.78	As per bid Security declaration
3.	DRM BRC 136 of 2021-22 Vadodara Division:- Provision of In-situ fabrication of Glued joints at various locations in Vadodara Division.	61,49,052.00	As per bid Security declaration
4.	DRM BRC 137 of 2021-22 Surat - Makapura section:- Pre and Post Tamping track measurement Survey using Timble Gedo Vorsys trolley system in the jurisdiction of DEN(S) BRC.	19,01,606.54	As per bid Security declaration
5.	DRM BRC 138 of 2021-22 (Bridge Zone No.14 of 2021-22). New Works and all ordinary repairs and maintenance work up to Rs. 5,00,000.00 of each for bridge work including Road Over Bridge under the jurisdiction of ADEN(North) Bharuch. (Re-invited)(R-1)	67,69,280.00	1,35,400.00

Date and time for submission of tender and opening of e-tender: Tender is to be submitted on 13.01.2022 before 15.00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15.30 Hrs. **Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased:** Website www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C) Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-4 / W623/NIT of 2021-22 dated 21.12.2021 **BRC-205**

Like us on: www.facebook.com/WesternRly Follow us on: www.twitter.com/WesternRly

I, Sunita Kumari spouse of No 15141570M Rank HAV (Gnr) Rajesh Kumar resident of VPO –Jol, PO- Mansai, Tehsil-Nadaun, Distt -Hamirpur (H.P.) PIN- 177006 have changed my name from Sunita Kumari to Sunita Devi vide affidavit no. AX155512 dated 09.12.2021 before Notary Public Suratgarh.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. CE/2021/13, Date: 21.12.2021

E-Open tender No. -02216474SP to be opened on 13.01.2022 at 11.30 hrs.

SN.-(01) Name of the work with its location:- Fabrication and Supply of: (1) I in 8.5 Diamond Crossing with double slip (Curved Switch) BG for 60 Kg Rails on PSC sleepers lay out with CMS Acute Crossing, Obtuse Crossing, Curve Switch and fastening to RDSO Drg. No. T-6494. (Complete set with fittings) Quantity- 15 Sets (2) I in 8.5 Diamond Crossing with single slip (Curved Switch) BG for 60 Kg Rails on PSC sleepers lay out with CMS Acute Crossing, Obtuse Crossing, Curve Switch and fastening to RDSO Drg. No. T-6493. (Complete set with fittings) Quantity- 13 Sets (3) I in 8.5 Diamond Crossing without slip BG for 60 Kg Rails on PSC sleepers lay out with CMS Acute Crossing, Obtuse Crossing and fastening to RDSO Drg. No. T-6492. (Complete set with fittings). Quantity- 07 Sets. **Location:-** Office of Principal Chief Engineer, East Central Railway Hajipur. **(02) Approx. cost of the work :-** Rs. 8.79,50,415.91 **(03) Earnest Money to be deposited :- Nil (04) Date & Time for closing of tender and opening of tender :-** 11.30 Hrs. on 13.01.2022 **(05) Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen:** Related tender documents can be seen or downloaded from website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

**Dy. CE/TSP/HJP
PR/1406/HQ/Engg./T/21-22/40**

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

First Corrigendum

Corrigendum No. 30212443 Date: 22.12.2021. On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj is issued a following corrigendum related to Tender Opening Date in EPS Advt. Tender No. 30212443A due on 28.12.2021 published against EPS Tender Notice No. 21/85 dated 03.12.2021 and RO No. 1266/21/AN. Tender No. 30212443A Particulars: Tender Opening Date From: 28.12.2021 To: 10.01.2022. Other Terms & Conditions of Tender remain unaltered.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 1266/21(AN)

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०
CIN:U1200UP2003SGC027460

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

निविदा सं० 145 / 2021-22-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अन्तर्गत निजी नलकूप संयोजनों पर मीटर स्थापित करने का कार्य। निविदा सं० 146 / 2021-22-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड तृतीय सासनी हाथरस के अन्तर्गत उपखण्ड प्रथम / चतुर्थ सिकन्दरारक / हसायन के क्षेत्रांतर्गत निजी नलकूप संयोजनों पर मीटर स्थापित करने का कार्य। निविदा सं० 147 / 2021-22-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड तृतीय सासनी हाथरस के अन्तर्गत उपखण्ड द्वितीय / तृतीय सासनी / हाथरस जं० के क्षेत्रांतर्गत निजी नलकूप संयोजनों पर मीटर स्थापित करने का कार्य। निविदा सं० 148 / 2021-22-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड चतुर्थ सासनाबाद के अन्तर्गत निजी नलकूप संयोजनों पर मीटर स्थापित करने का कार्य। निविदा विक्रय तिथि एवं खुलने की दिनांक 10.01.2022 अन्य सम्बन्धित जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वैमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

अधीनस्थ, वि०वि०, हाथरस
8883 / वि०वि० / वि०वि० दिनांक: 22/12/2021

राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचार्थे

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL (APS), NEW CANTT, ALLAHABAD

Tel No : 0532-2420772, email : armyschoolall@gmail.com

School website : armypublicschoolall.org

Sealed tenders for construction of activity room (Porta Cabin) at APS, New Cantt, Allahabad are invited on or before 13 Jan 2022. Details of tenders are at school website.

PRINCIPAL

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD

Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
1.	SE / Computer Centre	CC-26	1

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD

Sl.No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
2.	CE / C / Transmission	T-44	1

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website, www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR / 4215 / Tender / 2021 "தர்ப்பாட்டு மட்டத்தில் துவக்கத்தில், தர்ப்பாட்டு மட்டத்தில் துவக்கத்தில்"

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

ESTATE DEPARTMENT, PATNA

Notice for e-Tender

The Reserve Bank of India invites open e-tenders on MSTC portal from eligible contractors/firms for the following works:

S.No.	Tender	Estimated Value	Last date for submission
1	Supply, Installation, Testing & commissioning (SITC) of Inverter technology floor standing Tower and split Air Conditioner for Bank's Main Office Premises at Patna	Rs. 47.40 lakhs	06.01.2022 (up to 14:00 hrs).

Please refer to our website www.rbi.org.in for further details.

Sanjiv Dayal
Regional Director (Bihar)

Date/दिनांक: 23.12.2021

State Bank of India

LOCAL HEAD OFFICE, KOLKATA
9th floor, Block-B, Samadhi Bhavan, 1, Strand Road, Kolkata-700001
Phone No. 033-22436677, e-mail: agmchil@kolkoil.sbi.co.in

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONSULTANT/ ARCHITECT CUM PMC FIRM

State Bank of India (SBI) invites Expression of Interest from Architect/ consultant firm having minimum 7 years' experience in constructions of Offices, Commercial Complexes, Hospitals, Bank Buildings, Institutional Buildings in sealed two envelopes system (technical bid and price bid) for the pre-qualification of Architectural/ Consultancy cum PMC firm through design competition for rendering comprehensive Architectural Consultancy Services for construction of Bank's buildings at Durgapur, West Bengal. The prequalification criteria, scope of the services to be offered, terms and conditions of appointment and the detailed format etc. for submission of the application form for the purpose can be downloaded from our website www.sbi.co.in under procurement news. Last date for submission of complete application form along with all attachments is on 20.01.2022 up to 5.00 PM.

Place: - Kolkata
Date: 23.12.2021

Assistant General Manager (P&E)

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION
ENGINEER JEYPORE (R&B) CIRCLE, JEYPORE
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)**

B-851

Bid Identification No. C.C.E.J.C (R&B)- 18/2021-22

No. 5568

Date. 18.12.2021

BUILDING WORKS

02 (Two) Nos.

Rs. 10,90,44 Lakhs to 476.31 Lakhs.

07 (Seven) Months to 08 (Eight) Months.

Rs. 10,000/- Each

Bid Security Declaration (Schedule-K)

"B", "A" & "Special" Class according to work

From 10.00 hours of 29.12.2021 to 17.00 hours of 10.01.2022

17.00 hours of 10.01.2022

10.00 hours of 11.01.2022

Chief Construction Engineer Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

**Chief Construction Engineer
Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore
OIPR-34108/11/0023/2122**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA

WORKS DEPARTMENT

Tender call Notice

B-875

Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle-17/2021-22 Memo No. - The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Buildings work as detailed in the table below:

1. Nature of work	2. Building Works
2. No of Work	8 Nos
3. Tender Cost	Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
4. Class of Contractor	A Class, B Class, Special Class and Super Class
5. Availability of Bid document in the Website	From 10.00 AM of 23.12.2021 to 05.00 PM of 01.01.2022
6. Last Date of receipt of tender	01.01.2022 up to 12.00 PM
7. Date of opening of Bid	01.01.2022 at 11.30 AM
8. 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.	Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha OIPR-34127/11/0026/2122

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>"**

Sd/-
**Chief Construction Engineer,
Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
OIPR-34033/11/0019/2122**

SABARMATI RIVER FRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. (SRFDCL)

Office: 2/B Floor, "Riverfront House", B/H H.K. Arts College, Pramukh Swami Maharaj Marg, (Riverfront Road - West), Ahmedabad - 380009
Tel/ Fax: +91 - 79 - 26580430 • websites: www.sabarmatiriverfront.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

SRFDCL invites Expression of Interest from the reputed, well-experienced (design of Irrigation structures and River Bridges) Consultants for the *Consultancy services for designing of barrage cum bridge across the Sabarmati River connecting torrent power plant on west bank to camp Sadar bazar on east bank, Ahmedabad.* Bid document is available on web sites: www.nprocure.com, www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in or www.sabarmatiriverfront.com.

Interested consulting firms having similar experience are requested to submit the bid with required details up to **16.00 Hrs. January 18, 2022.**

Date: 23-12-2021

SRFDCL

DELHI JAL BOARD

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW)-I

KILOKRI SPS : JAL VIHAR : LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI- 110 024

e-mail: delhijalboardesdw@gmail.com ; Ph. 011-29813170

PRESS NOTICE INVITED TENDER NO : 13 (2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date / time of receipt of tender through e-Procurement solution
1.	Improvement & Servicing of 930 HP 11 KV Motor of set No. 1 at Ring Road SPS.. (Tender ID : 2021_DJB_213211_1).	I/Rate	21.12.2021 at 04:07 PM	03.01.2022 at 01:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://delhi.govtprocurement.com>)

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 868 (2021-22)

Sd/-
(K. S. Rai)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW)-I

STOP CORONA, WASH YOUR HANDS, WEAR MASK & MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE

KALYANA KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

Central Office, Sarige Sadana, Main Road, Kalaburagi-585102

No. KKRTC/Co/CSP/470/2021-22 Date : 20-12-2021

"E"- AUCTION NOTICE

Scrap Vehicles and Materials available at various units of KKRTC will be sold through e- Auction to be conducted by M/s. M.S.T.C. (A Govt. of India undertaking), **The e-Auction schedule is as under:-**

Scrapped Materials: 10.01.2022 To 12.01.2022, Scrapped Vehicles: 13.01.2022

The interested Bidders may log on to www.mstccommerce.com for further details and registration. They may also contact M/s. M.S.T.C. Ltd, at below mentioned address for needful clarification.

Address: M/s. M.S.T.C. Ltd., No. 19/5, 19/6, 3rd Floor, Kareem Tower, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Namrata Mathur W/O Naresh Singh R/o 1/1 Ram Kishore Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054. Have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Namrata Seth. 0070766194-1

I, Manoj Chauhan S/o Satyapal Chauhan R/o 19, Khirki Village, Malviya Nagar, Delhi-110017 have changed my name from Manoj Kumar to Manoj Chauhan for all future purposes. 0070766213-1

I, LAKSHMI PERLA Dependents of SANTOSH.P resident of H.NO.23-10-06, CHINNIPILLI STREET, VZM, A.P.-535002 have changed my Name from LAKSHMI PERLA to PERLA LAKSHMI vide Affidavit dated 22-12-2021 before Baljit Singh (Notary) BCP Delhi. 0040596655-2

I, Komal Khanna W/o Manpreet Singh R/o GH-13/821 Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Komal Kaur Gulati after marriage 0040596655-1

I,INDERJIT.S/O RAM DULARE,R/O FLAT.No-B-1201,NIRALA EDEN-PARK, AHINSA KHAND-2, INDIRAPURAM,GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH 201014, changed my name to INDERJEET YADAV. 0040596699-4

I, Babu Lal Sarose S/o Bhola Nath R/o 8-A, Navsena Apartments, West Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi declare that Babu Lal Sarose and Babu Lal Saroj is the same person that is me 0040596653-1

I, Arfa Begum, W/o Amjad Khan R/o-B-84,Veena Enclave, Nangloi,N.Delhi -110041,Have changed my Name from Annu to ARFA BEGUM both are same person. 0040596674-5

I, Usama S/o Mohammad Furqan R/o H.No.6798, Gali Beri Wali, Ahata Kidara, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Mohammad Usama for all purposes. 0040596591-6

I, Sonu Negi S/o Shri Mangal Singh Negi R/o Kamalpur Kamal Vihar, Gali No. 14, A-Block, Burari, Kamalpur Majra Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Sunil Negi 0040596645-1

I, Shiv Bhavan Yadav S/o Sh. Dadu Lal Yadav R/o H.No.C-7/21, Behind Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Hospital, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi-110085 declares that my name has been wrongly written as Shiv Bhavan Yadav in my PAN Card No.AAXPY6859Q instead of Shiv Bhavan Yadav. My correct name is Shiv Bhavan Yadav which may be amended accordingly. 0040596591-5

I, Satya W/O Shri Mahender Kumar R/O DDA Flat no.2, Pocket-F, Shaikh Sarai Phase-I New Delhi-110017, Have changed my name from Satya to Satyavati for all future purposes. 0040596665-1

I, Sakshi D/O, Mahender Panwar R/o K-2, Vatika India Next, Sector 83 have changed my name to Sakshi Pawar for all purposes. 0040596649-1

I, Prashant S/O Ramesh Kumar R/O-221, Sector-9, Bahadurgarh,Jhajjar Haryana-124507,Have Changed my Name to Prashant Bhardwaj. 0040596665-8

I, Nirmla Panchal W/O Om Parkash Panchal R/o.H.No.33, Gali No.2 Natthu Colony, Ballabgarh have changed my name to Nirmala Panchal. 0040596699-10

I, Mukesh Kumar S/o Sh. Ram Swoop R/O 23/9, 3rd Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi-110060 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Pihu Bokolia to Priyavandana Bokolia for all purposes. 0040596591-8

I, Aman Dass S/o Munna Dass, R/O BE 165, USF Hari Nagar BE block Delhi, have changed my name to Aman Nick. 0040596699-9

I, Mahesh Kumar S/o Shri Mam Chand R/o H.No.72, Near Rajdhani Enclave, Vikas Marg, Delhi-92, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mahesh Sharma, use for all purpose in future. 0040596664-1

I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS RAJINDER KAUW /SARABJEET KAUR W/O BALVINDER SINGH R/O H.NO.6/185, DDA FLATS, KALKAJI, NEW DELHI-110019, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME SHALL HEREFTER BE KNOWN AS SARABJEET KAUR. 0040596658-1

I, Chandra Shekhar Ram S/O, Dukkhi Ram R/o 1199, 2nd Floor, Dda Flats, Kondli Ghauri, Mayur Vihar, Phase-3, Delhi-110096 have changed my name to Chandra Shekhar 0040596674-1

I, Abin Punnsse S/o Abraham Punnsse R/o H-6, Type-3, Mirdard Lane, M-MC Campus, I.P.Estate, Central Delhi, Delhi-110026 have changed my name to Abin Abraham for all purposes. 0040596591-7

I,SAJJAN KUMAR AGRAWAL S/O RAM KARAN DAS R/O A-8, SANGAM APARTMENT,SECTOR-9,ROHINI,DELHI-110085. CHANGED MY NAME TO SAJJAN KUMAR. 0040596679-2

We,Ranjana Ojha,W/O- Shailendra Kumar Ojha,S/O- Avadhesh Kumar Ojha,R/O- Hare Krishna Dham,B-2,Ashok Vihar,Phase-2,Delhi-110052, have changed name of our minor daughter DOB- 29/10/2012 Ankita to Ritisha Ojha. 0040596674-2

I,t is for general information that I,Neeraj Gupta,W/o Late.Somit Gupta R/O-D-71 Sector-12, Noida,U.P.,declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Priyanka Gupta in my minor son Arush Gupta(14Years) School-Record.The actual-name of mine is Neeraj Gupta, which may be amended accordingly. 0040596671-10

I,hitherto known as Garima Sharma,D/O Bhagwan Das Arora-residing at,6D,Block-B, SFS-Flats, East-of-Kailash, Shrinilwaspuri, South-Delhi-110065, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Garima Arora. 0040596685-10

I,Sohan Pal Singh S/o,Raj Kumar Tyagi R/o-WZ-12B, Gali-No.12, Ramgarh Colony,New Ramesh-Nagar, R.Delhi-15,have changed my name to Sohan Lal Tyagi. 0040596679-6

I,Mohd. Ayub Khan S/O Phuman R/O V-25,Sector-C, Bhagwati Vihar,Uttam Nagar,New Delhi-110059, Have Changed my Name to Ayub Khan. 0040596685-9

I,Shri Kumar,S/o-Shiv Narayan, R/o-B-320, Dera Gazi Khan Parwana Road, Pitampura, Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Shashi Bhushan. 0040596685-3

I,Satvinder kaur,W/o-SH. Harvinder singh,R/o-A-241,J.J. Colony, Choukhandi,Tilak Nagar,Delhi-110018,Have Changed my Name from Jasvinder Kaur to Satvinder Kaur for all future purposes. 0040596674-4

I,Sanjay Kumar,S/O-Late Shri Dev Raj Bajaj,R/O-WZ-235, Street.No-04,Sri Nagar,Rani Bagh,Shakur Basti,Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Sanjay Bajaj. 0040596685-7

I,Sagar Rathee S/o Sh.Rajiv Rathee, R/O.No. 286/16,Jatwara-Mohalla, 8-Biswa, Tehsil Bahadurgarh Distt.Jhajjar (Haryana), have changed my name, from Sagar to Sagar rathee. 0040596685-6

I,SARITA W/O ANIL KUMAR SINGHAL R/O BH-14,EAST SHALIMAR BAGH,DELHI-110088,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SARITA DEVI SINGHAL. 0040596679-4

I,Rita Srivastava,W/O Gaurav Srivastava R/o,WZ-22A, Third-Floor, Gali.No.13, Krishna-Park, Tilak-Nagar,Delhi-110018,have changed my son's name from Aaryan Srivastava to Aryan Srivastava,for all Purposes. 0040596699-5

I,Ranjeet Singh S/o Surender Jit Singh R/o-H.No.2 KH-9/10-9/11,Block-B,Gali.No.10, Swardoop, Nagar Delhi-110042, changed my name to Ranjit Singh. 0040596679-5

I,Rajinder Kumar S/o-Banarsi Dass,R/o H.No.CGN-023,DLF Tower N.DLF Capital Green, Phase-1,.15 Shivaji-Marg Delhi-110015,have changed my name to Rajender Aggarwal. 0040596679-9

I,Paramjit Singh S/o Santokh Singh R/o A-57, Lok-Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Paramjit Singh Gaba. 0040596699-2

I,Paramjeet kaur,W/o Paramjit Singh R/o A-57, Lok-Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Paramjeet Kaur Gaba. 0040596699-3

I,POOJA SONAVA,Spouse of, ASHISH SONAVA,resident of, VI+PO-BAMBORI TEH-CHOTTISADRI,DIST-PRATAPGARH, RAJASTHAN -312614,have changed my name,from POOJA SONAVA to POOJA PANCHOLI,vide-affidavit,dated-22.12.2021. 0040596695-4

I,Nilesh Kumar S/o Chhote Lal R/O D-420, MIDUPUR Colony, New Delhi-110063,have changed my name to Nilesh for all purposes. 0040596679-8

I,Naresh Kumar,S/o Chottu Lal R/O-F-185, Shakurpur Delhi-110034,Have lost my DDA AND NOC Certificate Flat No. 132, Ground-Floor, Plot.No.21, Pocket-6,Nasirpur Dwarka-Delhi. 0040596695-2

I,NISHA,W/O SURESH KORI, ADD-D-23,GALI NO-8,LAHARI COLONY,EAST ARJUN NAGAR SHAHDARA DELHI-110032, CHANGED my name to NISHA KORI,permanantly. 0040596683-7

I,Ms.Natasha Rajora,D/o-Sh.Ved Prakash,Mother Name-Sunita Rani,Birth Date-01-10-1994, aged-27,Birth place Rohtak, (Haryana)R/o-H.No.1240,Vikas Marg,Sec-51,South city-II, Gurgaon,(Haryana),have changed my,name,from Natasha to Natasha Rajora,for all future purposes. 0040596679-10

I,Smriti Vigi W/o Piyush Kapoor R/O-405, Sector-30, Faridabad have changed my name to Smriti Vigi Kapoor after-marriage. 0040596699-6

I,Manoj S/O-Ishwar Singh R/O,H.No-145, MCD-Flats Nimri Colony-2, Ashok-Vihar Ph-4,Delhi-110052,have changed my name to Manoj Choudhary. 0040596671-7

I,Mohan Lal Bairwa,S/o Radhe Shyam Bairwa,R/o B-143, Gali.No.3,Mangla puri phase-2,Palam Colony,New Delhi-110045 changed my name to Mohan Lal. 0040596683-9

I,Mohammed Nasir Ansari,S/o Mohammed Hasim Ansari, R/O-B-2/51, B-Block,Gali No.11, Dashrath Puri,Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Md Nasir. 0040596683-10

I,Manoj Kumar,R/O-2031,2nd-floor,Multani Mohalla, Rani-bagh, delhi-110034,have changed my minor daughter's name,from Nishtha to Harshita. 0040596685-4

I,Mahesh Aggarwal,S/o Satyapal Aggarwal R/O-91, 1st-Floor, Type-4, North-West Moti-Bagh, Delhi,have changed my name to Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal. 0040596699-7

I,MEENA RANI GUPTA W/O RAHUL GUPTA R/O 29 BLOCK-BD PITAMPURA DELHI-110088 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MEENA GUPTA. 0040596671-3

I,LAL BACHCHAN,S/O DAMODAR,R/O RZ-26P/7A, Gali-No-36, INDRAPARK PALAM-COLONY.SOUTH WEST-DELHI-110045,Inforn That My correct-Name is LAL BACHCHAN AND RAJU MANDAL both are the same person.That My LIC-Policy No:330830023. 0040596671-4

I,Kundan,S/o-Shashi Bhushan, R/O-B-320, Dera Gazi Khan Parwana Road, Pitampura, Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Kundan Kumar. 0040596685-2

I,Jugesh Chittoria,S/o Bhagwan Das Ho.No-84,UGF, Pkt-16, sector-20, Nithari, Rohini,New Delhi-110086, changed my name to Jugesh Chittoria. 0040596671-8

I,Jaskaran Singh S/O- Avtar Singh R/O- WZ-G/45,Sant-Nagar Extn Tilak-Nagar Delhi—110018,Have Changed My Name To Jaskaran Singh. 0040596683-6

I,Japjeet Singh,S/O Sukhvinder Singh Dhalival R/O,K-4/11, Model Town-ii,Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Japjeet Singh Dhalival. 0040596671-6

I,INDRA KUMARI W/O-DEEPAK CHAUHAN R/O-256,VILLAGE-PASVARA TEHSIL-GARHMUKTESHWAR HOLI CHOOKBAHADUR-GARH HAPUR,U.P-245208,Changed my name to INDRA CHAUHAN. 0040596699-1

I,Farha w/o Mohd.Irfan,R/O N-12, ground-floor, jagat Ram park,Laxmi-Nagar,Delhi-110092,have changed my name,from Alnoor to Farha,for all,future purposes. 0040596683-5

I,FIROS BAGAM W/O ALLA WALA R/O 2204 RODGRAN LAL KUAN DELHI-6,HAVE CHAN GEN MY NAME TO FIRDOS BAGAM. 0040596683-11

I,Dishita Bisht,D/o Sh.Karan Singh Bisht R/o.H.No.B-102, BPTP Park Serene, Sector-37D,Gurugram,Haryana-122001,have changed my name,from Dishita to Dishita Bisht,for all purposes,in future. 0040596695-3

I,Deepika Sharma,R/O-304, Arunodaya Apartments, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018, have changed my Minor son's name,From Jai Amit Bakshi to Jai Sharma,for all purposes. 0040596671-1

I,Deepika Amit Bakshi,D/O Bhupender kumar Sharma R/O-304,Arunodaya Apartments, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Deepika Sharma,for all purposes. 0040596671-2

I,Chhaya Hemrajani W/O, Aekaansh Punwani,have changed my name to Chya Punwani for all purposes post wedding. 0040596695-1

I,Barkha W/O Pradeep Kumar Dubey,R/O E-43&42,E-Block, Mansarampur,Uttam Nagar,Delhi-59 have changed my name to Barkha Dubey. 0040596683-3

I,BHUVAN CHANDRA,S/o Sh. Sadanand Padeliya,R/o H.No.230,Street.No.11, Sant-Nagar,Burari,Delhi-110084, have changed my name,from BHUVAN CHANDRA to BHUVAN CHANDRA PADELIYA,for all,future purposes. 0040596685-5

I,Ashok Sharma S/o-Banwari Lal,R/O Flat No.304,Tower-V3, Kingsbury-Tower, tdi city, kundli, Sonipat, Haryana-131028,have changed my name to Ashok kumar,for all future purposes. 0040596671-5

I,Arjuman W/o Late.Mohd Jameel Siddiqui,R/o-181/4, 2nd-Floor, Zakir Nagar, Okhla,New Delhi-110025, changed my name Arjuman to Babra Siddiqui,for all future purposes. 0040596683-1

I,Anuradha Goei Alias Anuradha Gupta Alias Radha Gupta,W/o-Pankaj Gupta and D/O-Shravani Goyal,R/O H.No.3013/11 D, Gali.no.18,Ranjapur Nagar,Patel Nagar,S/O Central,Delhi,Delhi-110008,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anuradha Gupta for future. 0040596674-6

I,Nisha,W/O SURESH KORI, ADD-D-23,GALI NO-8,LAHARI COLONY,EAST ARJUN NAGAR SHAHDARA DELHI-110032, CHANGED my name to NISHA KORI,permanantly. 0040596683-7

I,Ms.Natasha Rajora,D/o-Sh.Ved Prakash,Mother Name-Sunita Rani,Birth Date-01-10-1994, aged-27,Birth place Rohtak, (Haryana)R/o-H.No.1240,Vikas Marg,Sec-51,South city-II, Gurgaon,(Haryana),have changed my,name,from Natasha to Natasha Rajora,for all future purposes. 0040596679-10

I,Smriti Vigi W/o Piyush Kapoor R/O-405, Sector-30, Faridabad have changed my name to Smriti Vigi Kapoor after-marriage. 0040596699-6

I,Manoj S/O-Ishwar Singh R/O,H.No-145, MCD-Flats Nimri Colony-2, Ashok-Vihar Ph-4,Delhi-110052,have changed my name to Manoj Choudhary. 0040596671-7

I,ATUL S/O RAM AWATAR R/o B-103, G-2, SURYA NAGAR, CHANDER NAGAR, GHAZIABAD (UP) have changed my name to ATUL UPADHYAY. 40596683-2

I,ANIL KUMAR TYAGI,S/O SUKHMARJ SINGH TYAGI R/O 272,BRAHMAN PARA,TOKH RAM KI-KOTHI, BURARI, DELHI-110084.CHANGED MY NAME TO ANIL KUMAR. 0040596685-1

I,ANIL KUMAR S/O PREM CHAND R/O BH-14,EAST SHALIMAR BAGH,DELHI-110088,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANIL KUMAR SINGHAL. 40596679-3

I,AAKRITI,D/O-VIJAY KUMAR, ADD-A-47, A-BLOCK SAINIK NAGAR, D.K.MOHAN GARDEN WEST DELHI-110059,Changed my name to AAKRITI SAXENA, permanently. 0040596683-4

I,Vandana Panchal W/O Amit Panchal R/O H.No.172, Gali No.16, Onkar Nagar, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035, have changed my name to VANDANA for all future purposes. 0070766207-1

I,Trishana D/o Anil Kumar,R/o H.No. B31, Village Dayalpur, Karawal Nagar Delhi,have changed my name to Trishna Choudhary. 0040596699-8

I,Satyanand S/O Jai Bhagwan Upadhyay, R/O Near S B College, Maula Bag, Arrah, Bhojpur, Nawada, Bihar-802301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Satyanand Upadhyay. 0070766195-1

I,S.K. Ansar Ali S/o S.K. Hasen Ali R/o-3/1/A, Motinagar, N-Delhi-15,have changed my minor son's name Minhuz Ali to Minhaj Ali.D.O.B.-01/06/2007. 0040596679-7

I,Renu Wadhwa, W/O Shri Vaibhav Wadhwa, R/O-F-25/141, Sector-3,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name from Renu Bala to Renu Wadhwa for all purposes. 0040596674-1

I,Ranjit Singh S/O Amar Singh, R/O R-324, Hno-320 To 333, Bhram Puri, Nangal Raya, South West Delhi-110046, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ranjeet Siingh. 0070766193-1

I,Rajinder Kumar s/o Uttam Chand,R/O H.no.RZ-39A/1, Mahavir enclave, New Delhi, have changed my name to Rajinder Kumar Mehra,for all purposes. 0040596679-1

I,Adesh Jindal,R/O G6/25-26 Sector-11 Rohini Delhi-85, Change My Name to Adesh Kumar Gupta For All Purposes 0040596683-8

I,Raghubir Singh, S/O Shri Dashrath Singh, R/O D-6/233, Sector-6, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Raghubir Singh. 0040596674-3

I,RAVI KUMAR,S/O GAJAY SINGH,R/O Plot.No.324, SF-2, Gyan Khand-First, Indirapuram,Ghaziabad(UP) have changed my name to RAVI SINGH. 0040596671-9

I,RAMA RAO PERLA Dependents of SANTOSH.P resident of H.NO.23-10-06, CHINNIPILLI STREET, VZM, A.P-535002 have changed my Name from RAMA RAO PERLA to PERLA RAMARAO vide Affidavit dated 22-12-2021 before Baljit Singh (Notary) BCP Delhi. 0040596652-1

I,Qyamuiddin S/O Mehbob Ali R/O-7000, Gali Karkhane Wali, Beri Wala Bagh, Azad Market, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Qayamuiddin. 0070766210-1

I,Pallavi Singh D/O Rambali Singh, W/O Arjun Singh Chaudhary R/O Villa No.5, 3G Homes Crimson Villas Kadugodi Road Kadugodi Plantation Bengaluru Karnataka-560067. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Payal Singh. 0070766197-1

I,Narendra Kumar S/O Ashok Kumar R/o-S/33-5/33A, F/F, Gajju Katra, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Narendrakumar. 0070766209-1

LOST & FOUND

It is notified for the public information that,my millder-buyer agreement,allotment letter,letter of possession offered and,letter of acceptance of possession of property bearing,no.D-7/13,Exclusive-Floors,DLF Phase 5,Gurugram(Hararyana) has been lost.If found,please return to Satyendra-Verma,D-7/13, Exclusive Floors,DLF, Phase 5,Gurugram (Hararyana) .M/No.+91-9837008315. 0040596695-12

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF
Sh. Ajay Garg, ADJ-01,
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi
GP-08/2021
Harjinder Kaur Petitioner
Vs
The Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors. Respondent
The General Public
Through State
Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Whereas a petition under section 8(2) of the Hindu minority and guardianship act 1890 for the permission to sell (share of the minor) immovable property is D-81, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028, has been filed.
Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person having objection for granting permission to sell the aforementioned property may file the same in the court personally or through counsel on or before the next date of hearing **22.01.2022**.
Given under my hand the seal of the court on the 21th day of December,2021.
ADJ-01
Patiala House Courts New Delhi

LOST AND FOUND

ORIGINAL SALE DEED OF RESIDENTIAL PLOT BEARING NO. 121, ABHAY KHAND -2, ADMEASURING 162 SQ METERS, AKANKSHA RAJASW ADHIKARI SEHKARI AWAJ SAMITI LIMITED, GHAZIABAD BELONGING TO MR. KASHI NATH SHUKLA S/O LATE SH KAILASH NATH SHUKLA, C-35, SECTOR 30, NOIDA -201301 HAVE BEEN LOST. FIR HAS BEEN LODGED IN CRIME BRANCH, DELHI POLICE VIDE LR NO: 1024994/2021 DATED 07/12/2021. FOUNDER MAY SEND TO: KASHI NATH SHUKLA, C-35, SECTOR-30, NOIDA-201301, (M)-9971902024

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Shri Mahesh Chand S/o Late Shri Pancha Ram, R/o House No. AD-33, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088, has instructed me to notify for general information that they have severed forthwith all the relations with his son namely Shri Keshav Chand and his wife Mrs. Seema Rani, from all his movable and immovable properties. Anybody who deals with them in any manner shall be doing so on his/her own responsibilities and my client shall not be responsible for their acts of omission and commission.
Sd/-
KAMESHWAR PRATAP SINGH
(ADVOCATE)
Ch. No. 438, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE
I Mahesh Chand Sharma am the owner of Property bearing no 53, Pocket 13, Sector 3, Block C Rohini New Delhi. One of the original title deed of this property i.e. Supplementary deed registered vide document no 21571 Book no. 1, vol 2761 pages 197-198 at Sub registrar VI, Delhi on 27-09-2002 executed between H. S. Sachdeva and Puspika Singh (through her attorney Minilal Sh Sharma) and Mahesh Chand Sharma has been lost. An FIR has also been filed with Police in respect of the above lost original deed. I intend to create an equitable mortgage on the said property for a loan/credit facility from State Bank of India, SME NSP branch, Bldr code 04381.
Punit Jain (Advocate)
303 Aggarwal Tower, CU-Block, Pitampura, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mohd. Iqbal S/o Mohd. Sadiq has lost the original title page of Conveyance Deed dated 02/05/2005 registered before the concern registrar vide Document no.5380 in Addl. Book no. 1, Volume no. 1539 on page 3 to 4 registered on dated 02/05/2005 executed by DDA in favour of Mohd. Iqbal S/o Mohd. Sadiq, in respect of Property i.e DDA built up UG Flat bearing no. 48-G on Third Floor, Block-B, Dishaad Garden, Delhi. Any person possessing the above said lost documents and using them in any manner will do so at his/her own cost and are legally liable. My client shall not be responsible for the said documents in any manner at any point of time. If Any person/organization/bank etc. has any claim to waive the above said relevant property, the same should be lodged to me and also with the above stated branch of state bank of India, Karnakadwala within 15 days from the date of this publication, post expiration of which, any claim, right, title or interest or objection, if received or received shall be treated as null and void and shall be treated as waived.
NARENDRA KUMAR, ADVOCATE
CHAMBER NO-321, 3rd Floor, DISTRICT COURT KARKARDOOMA,DELHI

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be, it known to general public at large, under instructions from and on behalf of my client, Smt. Anjana Aggarwal, W/o Sh. Praveen Kumar Aggarwal, R/O 983, Mohalla, Farm Nagar, Gualaithi, District Bsr. U.P. 245408, being the owner and is possession of the property bearing khasra no. 32/2, Gali No. 2, Village Liabapur, Swardoop Nagar, Delhi, that our client is the sole and absolute owner of the said property, as per the decree and judgment dated 09.11.2017 passed by the court of DL ASCQ, NCT, South District Court civil suit no. CS SCJ 6351/13/2016, titled as "Anjana Aggarwal V Umakant". The execution pending against the same is pending before the similar court. If anybody deals, executes any documents or takes over the possession of the said property, in any manner, he/she shall do so at his/her own risk, costs and consequences. My client shall not in any manner liable and responsible for the same.
Sd/-
TANU SINGHAL
ADVOCATE
(D-4018/2017)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Re: Entire Ground Floor without roof terrace rights (the said floor), part of Property bearing No. 347A/2B, area measuring 100 sq. yds., Out of 200 sq. yds., built on Plot No. 112, falling Khata No. 1536/62, situated in Village Chandrawali alias Shohdara, abadi Bhola Nath Nagar, R.S. Block, Gali-No. 13, Ilaga Shohdara, Delhi-110032.
Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc., that our client, Mr. Pradeep Verma S/o Mr. Prabhu Dyal Verma R/o H. No. 2174/

Arsenal’s ads for crypto ‘fan tokens’ banned in Britain

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, DECEMBER 22

PREMIER LEAGUE club Arsenal’s promotion of fan tokens broke advertising regulations and have been banned in Britain for taking advantage of consumers’ inexperience in cryptocurrencies.

The London team said fan tokens were used to encourage participation and were different to cryptocurrencies, which are virtual currencies used as a means of payment.

The Facebook and website posts included a video featuring players Ben White, Calum Chambers and Kieran Tierney.

The Advertising Standards Authority said in an announcement Wednesday the ads took advantage of consumers’ inexperience or credulity and trivialized investment in crypto assets, failed to illustrate the risk of the investment and did not make clear the “token” through the Socios company was a crypto asset, which could only be obtained by opening an account and exchanging with another cryptocurrency.

Token buyers can also make money in return by trading the digital assets at a price determined by the market’s supply and demand, and ultimately by the team’s performances and actions, so can fluctuate significantly.

Owners can sell and trade their tokens using Chiliz, one of the many cryptocurrencies based on blockchain technology.

Socios lists almost 50 partnerships with clubs, including Premier League champion Manchester City, Barcelona, Juventus and Paris Saint-Germain. The clubs and Socios tout the tokens as a means of giving fans a say in decision-making but that is often reduced to votes on which songs to play ahead of games rather than anything substantial.

However, some of the clubs have faced issues given the lack of regulation of the space. Last month, Manchester City suspended a partnership with a cryptocurrency startup named 3Key that appeared to have a minimal corporate presence.

Britain’s Financial Conduct Authority categorizes the tokens as crypto assets, a complex and sophisticated investment subject to frequent change in value and one that could potentially lead to large losses.

“We acknowledged that the ads did not promote the fan tokens as an investment or financial product,” the advertising watchdog, the ASA, said. “However, the product was a crypto asset regardless of how it was promoted and the ads did not contain any information that capital gains tax (CGT) could be payable on profits from

EXPLAINED

What are ‘fan tokens’ and why supporters buy them?

FAN TOKENS are a type of NFT (non-fungible token) which is a digital-only asset. Like Bitcoin and similar digital currencies, fan tokens are volatile assets and their value can drastically change overnight.

Fans can purchase said crypto tokens with real-world money to gain access to exclusive content and augmented-reality games. Among other rewards and perks, the fan token holders also get to vote on mostly minor decisions related to their clubs. These fan tokens are created by a crypto platform called Socios. According to the Socios website, fan tokens “give you the status of a true influencer. Step up and help your team take the right decisions by voting on all their official polls...”

Earlier this year, Lionel Messi’s signing on fee at Paris St Germain includes some of the French club’s cryptocurrency fan tokens. Using these tokens, fans can vote on decisions including kit designs, goal music and the team’s destination for a pre-season tour.

investing in crypto assets. We therefore considered the potential tax implications were not made sufficiently clear to consumers considering investing in it.”

The club said it promoted the tokens responsibly by reminding fans they only needed one token to vote in decisions, and that they should only purchase what they could afford. It also urged buyers to seek independent financial advice if required.

“The ads trivialized investment in crypto assets and took advantage of consumers’ inexperience or credulity by not making clear that CGT could be payable on profits from investing,” the ASA said. “We concluded the ads were irresponsible and breached the code.”

The Arsenal Supporters’ Trust has previously raised concerns about the Socios partnership.

Bronze comes with a reality check for Indian hockey

Asian Champions Trophy result shows path ahead won’t be straightforward

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DECEMBER 22

THE ASIAN Champions Trophy might lack an overall context but for India, the last one week has shown that their path to an Asian Games gold, and through that to the Paris Olympics, won’t be as straightforward as many would have imagined.

On almost all counts – be it depth of talent or the amount of investment, the number of matches they play or the scale of recent achievements – the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallists are head and shoulders above the rest of Asia. Curiously though, the team has struggled to translate that dominance on the field, as evidenced by their performance in Dhaka over the past week.

South Korea scripted a stunning comeback, equalising with 0.01 seconds remaining, to beat Japan 4-2 via a tie-breaker to win the gold medal. India, meanwhile, huffed their way past a resilient Pakistan, who haven’t qualified for the last two Olympics, beating them 4-3 to finish third in the five-team tournament. It was a classic India-Pakistan match: free-flowing attacks, porous defences, lacking structure and discipline but providing plenty of goals.

But looking at the bigger picture, however, the bronze medal at the Asian Champions Trophy holds little significance. If anything, it has only extended India’s wait for a continental title.

The last time India outrightly won an Asian competition was four years ago, when the Sjoerd Marijne-coached team clinched the Asia Cup. Since then, they have lost in the semifinals twice – in the Asian Champions Trophy this week and at the 2018 Asian Games – and the only final they reached during this period, at the ACT in 2018, got washed out due to heavy rain.

India only have themselves to blame for being unable to stamp their authority on Asian hockey, despite routinely pulling off podium finishes at global events. On most occasions, complacency and indiscipline have contributed to the slip-ups. And India nearly tripped once again on Wednesday against Pakistan.

Nothing illustrated this better than India’s plight in the closing stages of the match. After overcoming a 2-1 half-time deficit, India secured a two-goal cushion in the final quarter. But soon after going 4-2 up, they relaxed, allowed Pakistan to reduce the margin, then made clumsy tackles in desperation, leading to the team getting reduced to nine men, which nearly cost them the match.



India defeated Pakistan 4-3 in the third-fourth place contest on Wednesday.

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Tough act to follow

The reason India finished on the podium at the Olympics was that they stuck to the game plan, were always strong on the ball, made sharp runs off possession, played aggressively without sacrificing their structure, and maintained a high level of discipline.

Half of the players from the medal-winning side were rested for this tournament as coach Graham Reid used this event to give opportunities to some players who hadn’t played internationally for more than two years. The lack of exposure showed throughout the competition in terms of decision-making with the ball, off-the-ball running and the general inability to cope with the

pressure and intensity of the games.

In the last two years, owing to the pandemic, India had focused single-mindedly on preparing for the Olympics. But the Junior World Cup and the Asian Champions Trophy have shown the amount of work that needs to be done to bring those outside the Olympic core group up to standard.

The fact that India fielded a largely second-string side in this competition can’t be an excuse either as other teams have had it worse. Pakistan, for instance, couldn’t even train properly for a couple of years due to paucity of funds while South Korea hadn’t had meaningful international games for this duration. Japan, like India, had rested some of their Olympic stars.

Still, India couldn’t beat South Korea, lost to Japan and struggled to beat Pakistan. Malaysia, who didn’t travel to Dhaka due to Covid-related travel restrictions but will most certainly compete at the Hangzhou Asian Games where the stakes will be higher, will only make it trickier for India.

Since the purpose of this competition was to give the players some match time, India won’t panic yet. But as the team heads into a busy 2022, the Asian Champions Trophy will serve as a timely wake-up call.

Zverev predicts forming Big 3 with Djokovic, Medvedev

REUTERS
DECEMBER 22

OLYMPIC CHAMPION Alexander Zverev is confident a changing of the guard is almost complete in men’s tennis with next year’s big silverware likely to be shared between Novak Djokovic, Daniil Medvedev and himself.

Germany’s Zverev beat Djokovic en route to gold at the Tokyo Olympics and then ended the year by winning the ATP Finals title for the second time. Djokovic won three of the year’s Grand Slam titles but his old rivals Rafa Nadal and Roger Federer failed to add to their collections with the trio tied on 20 majors each.

World number two Medvedev beat Djokovic in the US Open final while Zverev reached two Grand Slam semis. Heading into the next season Federer, 40, is recovering from knee surgery while Nadal, 35, is in the early stages of his comeback from an injury.

“I think next year could be very similar to the last six months from this year,” Zverev, named German Sportsman of the Year this week, told Eurosport Germany’s *Das Gelbe vom Ball* podcast. “Before, there used to be always talk about Nadal, Federer and Djokovic – now the big titles were the Olympics, U.S. Open, Turin (ATP Finals) and Wimbledon, and they were all won by Medvedev, Djokovic and me. I don’t expect it to be any different next year.”

Zverev believes the number one spot is a viable target. “I know I’m not far away from it, but for that I also have to win tournaments and Grand Slams,” he said. The 24-year-old could become number one if he wins the Australian Open and Djokovic misses the tournament because of its Covid-19 vaccine stance.

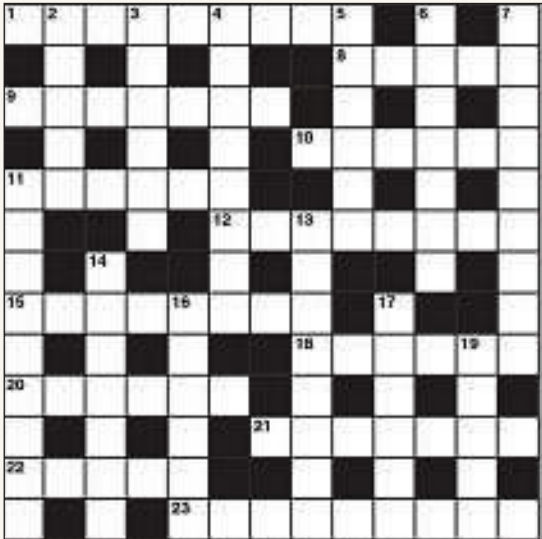
“The situation with Novak and Australia is still a big question mark,” he said. “Of course, I hope that he will be allowed to play, that’s very clear. There are thousands of mathematical calculations, if he doesn’t play Australia and I win the Australian Open, then I’m number one in the world and so on and so forth.”

Before, there used to be always talk about Nadal, Federer and Djokovic – now the big titles were the Olympics, U.S. Open, Turin (ATP Finals) and Wimbledon, and they were all won by Medvedev, Djokovic and me. I don’t expect it to be any different next year.”

ALEXANDER ZVEREV, WORLD NO. 3



CROSSWORD 4619



ACROSS

- 1 Tasty fruit centre in a new assortment (9)
- 8 Jump over net (5)
- 9 She made her name in drama (7)
- 10 Sharp reminder (6)
- 11 Presumably he likes painstaking people (6)
- 12 The area isn’t developed well (8)
- 15 US visitors to Europe have probably come across it (8)
- 18 Naughty ladies men dream of (6)
- 20 Valiant choir somehow held a note (6)
- 21 When the graceful child arrived (7)
- 22 Clergyman in drink is confused (5)
- 23 Not solemn perhaps, just sleepy (9)

DOWN

- 2 Fair lady who improved her English (5)
- 3 Ill-fated US soldier trapped in overturned wagon (6)
- 4 Flier is embarrassed by the take-off (8)
- 5 Trace elevating oriental game (6)
- 6 She comes to a fishy end (7)
- 7 Banality strangely interests (9)
- 11 The point of a savage attack (9)
- 13 Not saying much but understood on the vessel (8)
- 14 For about a pound a girl sees part of America (7)
- 16 Is included amongst those who are against rumours (6)
- 17 Craft in which wives seldom excel (6)
- 19 A number make money and gain experience (5)

Solutions Crossword 4618: Across: 1 Baby-sit, 4 Peach, 7 Also, 8 Grasping, 10 Spirit lamp, 12 Beetle, 13 Ostend, 15 Impoverish, 18 Consumes, 19 Limb, 20 Ridge, 21 Raiment. Down: 1 Beads, 2 Bassinet, 3 Turtle, 4 Past master, 5 Amid, 6 Haggard, 9 Fieldmouse, 11 Definite, 12 Bouncer, 14 Coher, 16 Habit, 17 Enid.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

_____ is just a _____ of one’s whole life. - Muhammad Ali (3,3,,6)

CPAEE



COILED



JUORR



ERUDDG



SOLUTION: PEACE, JUROR, DOCTOR, DRUDGE

SUDOKU 4693

Difficulty Level 1s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4692



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL



ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You may have every right to be pleased with your prowess at work. However, over the next few weeks you will have to face up to a number of hard choices which will affect your personal life and colour the way other people see you. An emotional adventure will be well worth it, though.



TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Is there some way in which you can rearrange your work to reflect your creative aspirations? Certainly there are many intriguing ideas afoot, all of which could form the basis of an interesting experiment. Yet the results will not be clear for another two months at least.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You can ignore family pressures or domestic irritations no longer. Today’s intense lunar angles will compel you to deal with all long-delayed questions coming to the fore. Don’t expect instant agreement or approval. But, then, you are growing used to waiting.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Important discussions may be more difficult than you anticipate. The simple reason is that everybody seems to place such unrealistic hopes on the outcome. Stick to your guns for now, and keep a close eye on the reactions of people you live with.



LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Financial news may not be pleasing, but the net result could be positive if it enables you to reorganise your affairs. There are some commitments which cannot be changed, but you still have some room for movement. And that, at least, has to be the best news.



VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Today’s planetary aspects will offer you a shot in the arm, shaking you out of any complacent corners or ruts you’ve been hiding in. Don’t expect dramatic events just yet, you may have to wait a few more days before the lie of the land is clear.



LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Something may happen to worry or upset you. Perhaps you will feel that other people are blaming you unfairly for things you haven’t done. However, such concerns are illusions which will be dispelled when the facts are known. But that won’t be until next week.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You’ll enjoy social activities all the more if you are ready for anything, and happy to join in without worrying about the consequences. Don’t be hung up on excessively conventional standards of behaviour. After all, you really don’t have to be the same as everyone else.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

It is professional rather than private affairs which are the focus of your concern today. The last thing you want to do is get involved in a quite unnecessary public slanging match, so watch your step, and give partners time to catch up with your desires.



CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

The planets are on your case so to speak. The cosmos is expecting you to do your duty by combining self-interest with your higher principles. Quite apart from such lofty questions, you are still experiencing powerful travel stars. Sometimes you just have to pack and get going.



AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Check out new investment opportunities, and don’t be unduly concerned if a previous course of action now appears to be distinctly unpromising or unprofitable. Act fast but keep your options open, for although your planets are concealing their intentions at the moment, you don’t have long to wait.



PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

There’s a burst of turbulence in the cosmic atmosphere today, so expect stormy weather emotionally. Even if you keep your cool, partners are determined to pick a fight or provoke you somehow. And what you have to do now is keep very calm and never rise to the bait.



I believe all athletes should be free to voice their concerns and sports should never flinch from making those points. But it is still better to have open dialogue and sporting relationships than pulling up the drawbridge.”

SEBASTIAN COE
WORLD ATHLETICS PRESIDENT

IPL: CVC Capital set to get all clear

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 22

CVC CAPITAL Partners, an investment firm, whose links to online betting and gambling companies had been a sticking point after its successful bid for the new Ahmedabad IPL franchise, is set to get the all clear from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). CVC Capital will be given a 'Letter of Intent' soon as the three-member legal committee has given the green signal, a BCCI source said. CVC was the second highest bidder when two new IPL teams were auctioned in October. CVC had won the rights to own the Ahmedabad franchise for Rs 5,625 crores, while Sanjiv Goenka's RPSG Group bagged the Lucknow franchise for Rs 7,090 crore. A day after CVC was announced as the successful bidder for the Ahmedabad franchise, reports emerged that they have links with betting companies abroad. Under the 'portfolio companies' list on the CVC Capital Partners' website is Tipico, a sports betting and online gaming company, and Sisal, a betting gaming and payments, consumer/retail company. The CVC has invested in Formula 1, football and rugby and IPL franchise ownership will be their first entry in the Indian cricket market.

In its recent BCCI annual general body meeting, the BCCI office-bearers had apprised about the CVC development. The members were informed that CVC has two funds, European funds and Asian funds. While its European funds have links with (sports) betting companies, where betting is legal, its Asian fund is clean. CVC had invested from their Asian fund, a BCCI official had said. The BCCI has also decided to extend the deadline for the two new IPL teams to sign three players before the mega auction set to be held in February. The earlier deadline for new teams to sign players was December 25. On the day CVC won the bid for the Ahmedabad team in October, former IPL Commissioner Lalit Modi, had questioned the BCCI decision on allowing betting companies to buy IPL teams. "I guess betting companies can buy an IPL team. must be a new rule. Apparently, one qualified bidder also owns a big betting company. what next? does BCCI not do their homework? what can Anti-corruption do in such a case? #cricket," Modi tweeted.

Auction on Feb 7-8

PTI adds: The BCCI is planning to hold the two-day mega Indian Premier League auction on February 7 and 8 in Bengaluru, a senior BCCI official said on Wednesday. It could well be the last mega auction that BCCI might conduct as most of the original IPL franchises want it to be discontinued. "Unless the COVID-19 situation worsens, we will have the IPL mega auction in India. The two-day event will be held on February 7 and 8 and like other years, we plan to hold it in Bengaluru. Preparations are underway," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity. There were reports that auction will be held in the UAE but as of now, BCCI has no such plans. However with the emergence of Omicron variant of COVID-19 and cases on the rise, the situation will remain fluid but if there are restrictions with regards to overseas travel (unless all owners decide to use charter planes), conducting it in India will be less of a logistical nightmare. This year's IPL will be a 10-team affair with Sanjiv Goenka owned Lucknow franchise along with venture capital firm CVC owned Ahmedabad making their debut.

The BCCI has also decided to extend the deadline for the two new IPL teams to sign three players before the mega auction set to be held in February.

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

I've never run away from pressure, it brings the best out of me as a person

South Africa Test captain Dean Elgar reflects on the unique aspects of the leadership role in his country, and how he sees the upcoming series against India unfolding

SRIRAM VEERA
DECEMBER 22

You are the senior-most player and Test captain now. How has the team culture and environment within the team changed over the years?

There has been a massive transformation. When I started in 2012, the culture was strong but it was old-school mentality. There were a lot of big strong personalities then that ran the team pretty well. But now the culture is very strong too. We have made every player feel welcome as much as possible. Even with the younger guys, we have tried to make them feel as if they have been here for a few years already. I think that's because they are more comfortable with the environment. We have also lost a lot of players, but we also have some young players which can be good as they bring a different spinoff to the environment and it's something for me to get used to as well. It's a work in progress, of course, but it's a lot stronger than what other people outside think of us.

How difficult is it to be captain of a country like South Africa? How are you handling the pressure with so many things happening?

It depends how you handle that pressure. I have to see it as a privilege, and not a curse, burden. South Africa has its own challenges with regards to a lot of dynamics that make up South Africa; it's pretty unique and special. I don't think there is another country in the world that has to deal with this kind of dynamics in the society. I have never run away from pressure, I think it brings the best out of me as a person. My personality gravitates towards such challenges that come with the job. I kind of enjoy it. There is always light at the end of the tunnel even though it can seem like a small light sometimes! There is always a glimmer of hope.

Being captain of South Africa isn't just a cricket job; there are so many moral dynamics involved from inclusiveness, racism, and such. No other cricketing captain has to face this kind of pressure.

They are important for our social development. The way we have gone and the way things are right now in the team, I have never seen it better. The way guys respect each other and respond to one another is pretty special.

It's one of the biggest challenges, of course. I have to connect with each and every one who is playing and who potentially will



Dean Elgar, the tough-as-nails opener, is now South Africa's Test captain tasked with leading the Rainbow Nation through a difficult transition period. Reuters

be coming into the team. I am fortunate that I have very good relationships with everyone right now. I have been around long enough and they know the kind of man I am.

There has been a bit of break now as I am not part of white-ball cricket but when we meet now, I don't see problems in getting them back on my side and moving together.

It's about finding a balance in the roles within oneself. Away from the field, you have to be a friend and someone who is willing to listen and learn. On the field, you have

to kick into a different personality almost, as a leader. It's one of the biggest challenges - having good people around you is important. You have to talk and learn.

Did you also have to educate yourself to be more socially aware about, say, what it means to be a young Black cricketer or the challenges Afrikaans face?

As a cricketer in South Africa, you must be able to have those conversations with the guys. You can't be in a bubble. It happens by having conversations with players, understanding them, the issues. The conversations we have had in the past have been good from

an educational point of view. It's still a work in progress. We mustn't stop learning about each other. We have to sit down and listen more. Listening is such an important skill in my role. Also speak, so that they understand you. Be honest in your communication.

I have spent a lot of time talking with Temba Bavuma. We know each other for many years, from A sides and for Proteas. Over time, we have been able to make one another comfortable with each other, to be able to speak to one another about all these things and it's been a learning curve for all of us.

And guys need to know that you are not going to use it to your own advantage. Trust and being comfortable with each other. I think I have got that with my team-mates.

Have those conversations and the whole lived experience of the transition, not just in a cricket team but in the country, changed you in some ways?

Definitely. It has certainly made me more emotionally attached to the guys. It makes me a bit more concerned and wary about the past. It definitely is a massive learning curve. We all have a unique story, be it black, white, Afrikaans, English Afrikaans; in South Africa, it's just that we have a lot more diversity.

Moving to cricketing matters, you have had 10 different opening partners in the last five years. Has it affected you?

It's been quite a lot and has been disruptive. I didn't think it would affect me as a

player but as it has gone on, it has been a bit of a setback to my career. I am not going to use that as an excuse. It has put me in a more resilient position. It has not made me a better player or a worse player but has helped me develop as a character. Moving forward, I hope we have a solid opening pair with myself and Aiden Markram.

World over, there seems to be some sort of opening pair issues.

It looks like it. Perhaps the T20 influence. I don't have the answer to it. It's a specialised position and sometimes people forget the basics and fundamentals. But that's my opinion.

You are seen as a fighter, someone who doesn't give up or give an inch to the opposition. How did that personality develop?

From my childhood, I guess. I have always had to work hard. Back in my teenage days, going against adults, I would be stubborn, refuse to let them get me out. Even in the backyard, I would refuse to let the adults get me out. Childhood plays a massive role in the kind of person you are. I have a job to do. My job is there to go out, get runs, and get my team in a position to win. My character off the field is totally different to the character on the field. I am not there to make friends on the field. I am not going to let anyone walk over me.

Your interesting battle with Ravichandran Ashwin is going to resume. Looking forward to it?

Definitely, it has been a talking point. Ash is a world-class spinner. He has got the upper hand against me in India, but I have also done pretty well against him. We have had battles in county cricket too - the pitch I remember there was like Nagpur, I guess (laughs). The ball spun quite a bit. It doesn't matter where you play in the world, it will be a tough battle. He is one of the best. There is a lot of mutual respect.

What makes someone like Jasprit Bumrah tough for an opener?

He is a world-class bowler and South African conditions suit him a lot with bounce and extra seam movement. It's another great challenge. There are other good pace bowlers too in India; so, it should be a good contest.

You have a good bowling attack but have lost quite a few senior batsmen like Hashim Amla, Faf du Plessis and AB de Villiers. Still see advantage at home?

Yes, we have to be mindful of that loss of experienced batters; you can't fill those positions quickly but it has given a lot of opportunities to a talented young pool of batsmen. It's going to be a challenge going into a big series knowing that we might have one or two young inexperienced batsmen. But they have performed in domestic cricket. It's an opportunity and if you don't grab them, there are other people waiting. We have an upper hand that we are playing in South Africa, we know our conditions

more than India but then India are the best team in the world. We know that they are coming here to try and beat us, which they haven't done before. It's going to be a tough contest but I am pretty confident since we are playing at home.

You have a Kolpak returnee in Duanne Olivier, the bowler coming back to play for you. A word on him.

He is a massive player for us. He has been given the opportunity because he has done well in domestic cricket.

People left because they weren't given opportunities in South Africa. Every player has a choice and they actually took a massive gamble in going there and it has paid off for them. I don't see any problem with that. If a young talented player feels they have to go overseas to explore opportunities, so be it.

You must have read about the captaincy changes in India. Virat Kohli is just the Test captain now and Rohit Sharma takes over the white-ball role. Do you think all these changes might unsettle India? How has your experience of playing India changed over the years?

I don't see it affecting India too much. I think Rohit and Virat are similar stature players and characters. Rohit is quieter than Virat but India will still have a winning mindset. They are still going to be in a good leadership position. Virat is still the Test captain and he has lots of years left for India as a leader. India will still be quite a good team.

India's travel record has been brilliant in the last few years. That's one thing Virat has obviously wanted to do and they came out and competed well in Australia, in England, here.

How is the situation with the Omicron variant progressing?

Our bio-bubble is world class. The situation isn't ideal but within the bubble, things will be good for the guys. I am pretty confident.

How do you think Bavuma has come on as a leader and player?

As a leader, he has come leaps and bounds. There is a lot of responsibility on Temba's shoulders being given such a big honour to captain the white-ball teams. In Test cricket, as a player, he needs to work hard on his game but he is just one innings away from realising his potential as a Test batter. He is a very talented batter and needs to turn those 30s-40s into hundreds. And then, he can be on his way. He is not far from being a very good Test cricketer.

Finally, advantage South Africa or even Stevens?

I think we are still the favourites going into the home series. Even though we haven't played a lot of cricket in recent times, we have been good in what we have played. Anything can happen in Test cricket and India certainly is a very good side. Virat would no doubt want to come and beat South Africa in South Africa. This series is going to be so good. I can't wait for it to start.

Ajaz dropped from New Zealand Test squad

Wellington: New Zealand have left out left-arm spinner and history-maker Ajaz Patel from their squad for the upcoming two-match Test series against Bangladesh. The left-arm spinner created history earlier this month, when he became just the third man to take 10 wickets in an innings against India at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

Rachin Ravindra and Daryl Mitchell were the two spin bowlers in the squad. Speaking of Ajaz's exclusion, New Zealand head coach Gary Stead admitted the left-arm spinner is unfortunate to miss out. He, however, insisted that they were following a 'horses-for-courses selection policy'. "You do feel for Ajaz after his record-breaking display in India. However, we've always applied a horses-for-courses selection policy and believe the players selected best fit the way we want to take on Bangladesh here at home," stated Stead in a statement.

The injury-enforced absence of Kane Williamson means Tom Latham will stand in as New Zealand's captain for the series. **ENS**

BRIEFLY

Mendy charged with another count of rape

Chester: Manchester City player Benjamin Mendy has been charged with another count of rape. The France World Cup winner is now accused of eight offenses against five different women, including seven counts of rape relating to four women. He appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday for a hearing ahead of his trial next year. The earlier charges are three counts of rape alleged to have happened in October 2020, sexual touching this January, one count of rape in July and two counts of rape the following month. Mendy was suspended by City when he was charged in August. Mendy has been refused bail & is being held in a prison in Liverpool. He joined City from Monaco in 2017 and has won the Premier League three times. **AP**

After Worlds silver, Srikanth back in top 10

New Delhi: Riding on his historic World Championship silver, India's Kidambi Srikanth jumped four places to regain his place in the world's top 10 in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings. The 28-year-old from Guntur was rewarded for his final finish in Huelva, Spain as he grabbed the 10th position in the rankings. Young Lakshya Sen, who also secured a maiden bronze at World Championship in his first campaign at the event, jumped two spots to the 17th position but B Sai Praneeth slipped two places to be at the 18th spot. H S Prannoy's quarterfinal finish in Spain saw him improve six places to the 26th spot. In women's singles, two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu remained static at seventh place, while Saina Nehwal, who is recovering from multiple injuries, is at the 25th place. **PTI**

Jeremy's category likely to be axed in Paris

New Delhi: Battling to survive as an Olympic sport, weightlifting's world governing body is likely to introduce six new divisions among a total of 10 for the 2024 Paris Games, retaining only four from the Tokyo edition, a move that will see Indian teen sensation Jeremy Lalrinnunga's current category being lopped off the roster. The proposal needs to be approved by the International Weightlifting Federation's General Council before being sent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for its nod. The proposed weight categories for Paris 2024 include five each for males and females. They are 61kg, 73kg, 89kg, 102kg and +102kg for men, and 49kg, 59kg, 71kg, 81kg and +81kg for women. **PTI**

Cases will be isolated but games will go on: CSA medical officer

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THE BCCI and Cricket South Africa have mutually agreed that the upcoming Test and ODI series between the two teams will continue even if there is any COVID-19 case among players or support staff and close contacts will not be forced into isolation, the host board's medical officer Shuaib Manjra has said. India will start their three-match Test series against the Proteas on December 26 at the Centurion followed by Tests in Johannesburg (January 3-7) and Cape Town (Jan 11-15).

The Tests will be followed by three ODIs on January 19, 21 and 23.

While there is a specific agreement that BCCI can pull out of the tour in case situation in South Africa, where the new variant Omicron was found, worsens, a senior official said that

they are not contemplating any such move as of now. "There is an agreed medical protocol between Cricket South Africa (CSA) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)," Cricket South Africa provided Manjra's, said. "Considering that everyone within the Bio-Secure Environments' (BSE) and the broader cricket ecosystem will be vaccinated, any positive case will isolate within their designated hotel room if clinically stable, or an alternate space within the hotel," he added.

Respective team doctors will take care of the players in case any of them test positive for the virus. "They will remain under the care of their respective team doctors. Any contacts (close or incidental) will continue playing and training with non-pharmaceutical interventions strictly observed. All team members will undergo symptom screening and COVID-19 testing daily, and the tour will proceed as planned," he added.