

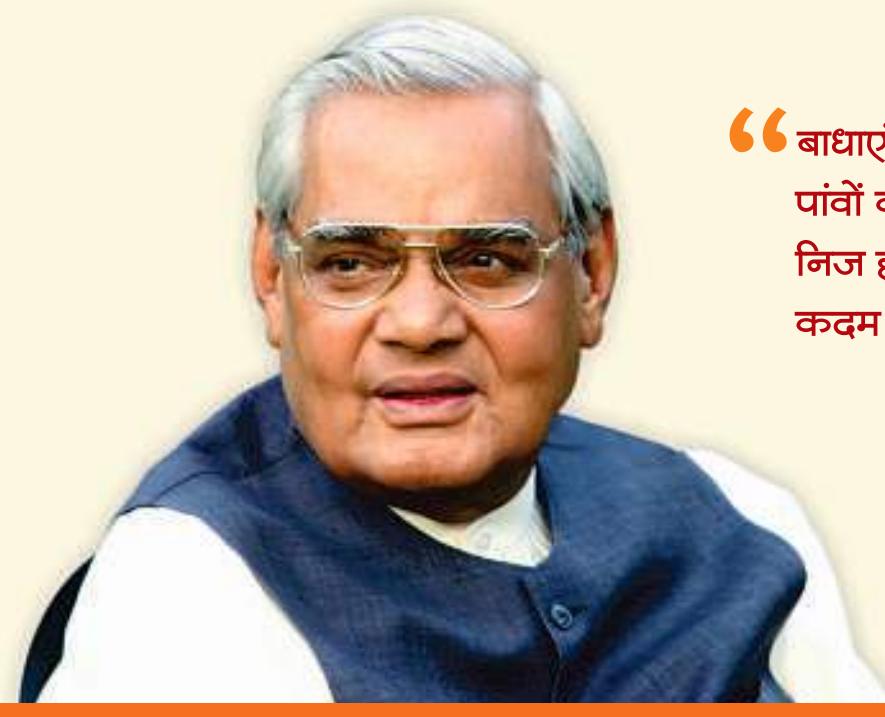


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WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

"Warm wishes and greetings to you and your family on this joyous occasion of Christmas. Let us celebrate the life of Lord Jesus Christ remembering his teachings of love, joy, hope, and peace."

- Arvind Kejriwal



“बाधाएं आती हैं आएं, घिरें प्रलय की घोर घटाएं,
पांवों के नीचे अंगारे, सिर पर बरसें यदि ज्वालाएं,
निज हाथों से हंसते-हंसते, आग लगाकर जलना होगा,
कदम मिलाकर चलना होगा।”

- अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी

(25 दिसम्बर, 1924 – 16 अगस्त, 2018)



राजनीति के युगपुरुष, सुशासन के संवाहक
अप्रतिम वक्ता, पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री
‘भारत रत्न’ अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी
की जयंती पर कोटि-कोटि नमन

“भारत को डिजिटल पथ पर तेज गति से आगे बढ़ाते हुए हर देशवासी का जीवन आसान बनाने के लिए हम सभी दिन-रात लगे हुए हैं। डिजिटल इंडिया सामान्य नागरिक को सुविधा और उनके सशक्तिकरण का एक बहुत बड़ा माध्यम है।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

सुशासन दिवस पर प्रदेश के छात्र-छात्राओं को

1
करोड़

मुफ्त टैबलेट
स्मार्टफोन वितरण
अभियान का
शुभारंभ

युवाओं
के साथ
योगी
सरकार

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान

मंत्री, शिक्षा, कौशल विकास एवं उद्यमिता
भारत सरकार

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के माध्यम से
देख सकते हैं।

सुरेश कुमार खवना
मंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

सतीश महाना
मंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

आशुतोष टंडन ‘गोपाल जी’
मंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. महेन्द्र सिंह
मंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

जितिन प्रसाद
मंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

स्वाती सिंह
राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार), उत्तर प्रदेश

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राज्य मंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

संयुक्ता भाटिया
महापौर, लखनऊ

जय देवी
विधायक, मलिहाबाद

अविनाश त्रिवेदी
विधायक, बरशी का तालाब

डॉ. नीरज बोरा
विधायक, लखनऊ उत्तर

सुरेश चन्द्र तिवारी
विधायक, लखनऊ कैन्ट

दिनांक : 25 दिसम्बर, 2021 | समय : अपराह्न 12:30 बजे | स्थान : भारत रत्न अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी इकाना क्रिकेट स्टेडियम, लखनऊ

सोच ईमानदार, काम ढमदार



सचिव एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

New Delhi

The Indian Express
wishes its readersMERRY
CHRISTMAS

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



70% Omicron patients asymptomatic, 25% patients have no history of travel, indicating presence in community

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE CENTRE FRIDAY said nine of ten persons detected with the highly transmissible Omicron variant were fully vaccinated, emphasising that "vaccine alone is not sufficient to contain this pandemic" and that use of masks and surveillance are key to breaking the chain of transmission.

On Friday, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan released the analysis of 183 Omicron cases detected in India. Significantly, 27 per cent of the cases did not have any history of

foreign travel, indicating the presence of Omicron in the community. The analysis shows that 87 were fully vaccinated (91 per cent), of which three had received booster shots also; only seven were unvaccinated and two were partially vaccinated.

The vaccination status of 73 of those analysed was not known and 16 were not eligible for vaccination.

VK Paul, Member (Health), Niti Aayog, and head of India's Covid-19 task force warned that the Omicron variant has a higher risk of transmission within the households as compared to Delta.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

EXPLAINED
E Stepping up vigil

THE TASK force chief has called for "overarching preparedness" and has appealed to the private sector too to be ready to "re-purpose beds, should the need arise". The private sector's role in managing the pandemic must include oversight of drug, oxygen availability, facility-specific SOPs.

Rise in Delhi case count, neighbouring Haryana & UP impose night curfew

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

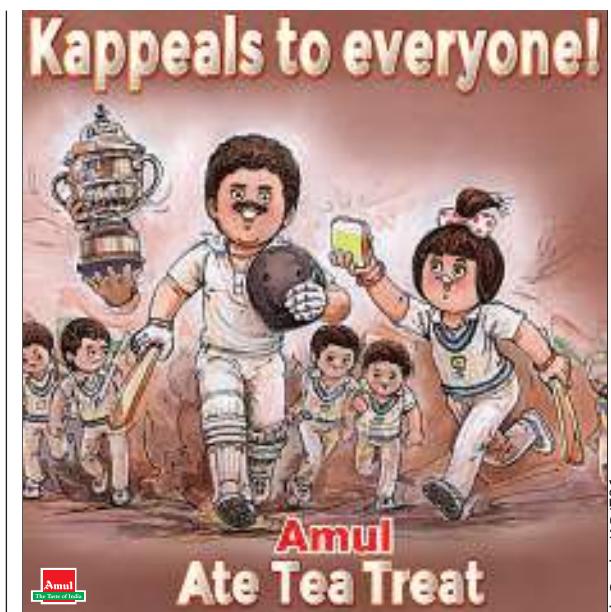
ON THE day the Capital recorded 180 fresh Covid cases, the highest single-day tally since mid-June, its neighbours Uttar Pradesh and Haryana decided to impose night curfew and ban large gatherings.

In UP, the night curfew, from 11 pm to 5 am, comes into effect Saturday night. The crowd at public gatherings and wedding

functions has been capped at 200, while shopkeepers have been instructed not to sell products to customers without masks.

"Our government is working to save lives and livelihood. Follow all guidelines of the Central and state governments to defeat coronavirus," Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said in Ayodhya, as the state recorded 49 Covid cases Friday, taking the number of active cases to 266.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



daCunha/AB/786

In Gujarat, 10 students among 93 AAP members still in jail for protest

VAIBHAV JHA
AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 24

AT LEAST ten college students are among 93 AAP members who have been lodged for the past four days at the Sabarmati Central Prison for protesting outside the BJP headquarters in Ahmedabad against the alleged leak of a question paper for an exam to hire clerical staff by the Gujarat government, according to AAP leaders and court documents.

All of them face charges under 22 sections of the IPC, including criminal conspiracy, sections of the Epidemic Diseases Act and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. The 65 male accused in the group face sexual harassment charges, too.

The 28 women accused obtained conditional bail Friday and will be released soon, the party's legal counsel said.

According to court docu-



On December 21, the AAP protested alleged leak of an exam paper. Express

ments, six of those arrested are between 18 and 19 years of age. AAP leaders said four of the ten students arrested are members of Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Samiti (CYSS), the party's student wing, while six belong to its youth wing.

The CYSS members arrested include Yatin Jiyani (19), an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

UTTARAKHAND
Rahul placates Rawat: he is leader of Cong campaign, not CM face yet



Harish Rawat after meeting
Rahul Gandhi. Prem Nath Pandey

MANOJ G
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

FORMER UTTARAKHAND Chief Minister Harish Rawat will lead the Congress's campaign in the forthcoming Assembly elections in the state. While he will virtually be the Congress's face, the party will not officially declare him as the Chief Ministerial candidate. A decision on the Chief Minister, if the party is voted to power, will be taken by Congress president Sonia Gandhi after the elections.

The decision was taken at a meeting senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had with Rawat and senior Congress leaders from the state, including Uttarakhand chief Ganesh Godiyal, CLP leader Pritam Singh, former state Congress chief Kishore Upadhyay, Yashpal Arya and Rajya Sabha MP Pradeep Tamta.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Rs 150 cr seized from office of UP businessman; BJP, SP trade charges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW,
DECEMBER 24

Currency notes seized at the Kanpur premises of UP businessman Piyush Jain. PTI

Under fire, Teni blackmail target: 5 held for threatening him with new 'son video'

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

HIS SON facing murder charges in the Lakhimpuri Kheri incident, and calls for his resignation growing louder by the day, Union MoS (Home) Ajay Mishra's troubles have now taken a bizarre turn.

On Thursday night, Delhi Police arrested five men, includ-

ing the owner of a Noida-based call centre, for allegedly making 40 calls to the Minister's PA this month, demanding Rs 2.5 crore and threatening to release a video related to the killing of four farmers in Lakhimpuri Kheri on October 3.

"During investigation on a complaint from the Minister's staff, we found that calls were made over VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol), which is not easy to trace. They made 40 calls

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

THE WORLD



OVER 3,500
CHRISTMAS-EVE
FLIGHTS CANCELLED
GLOBALLY

BANGLADESH FERRY
FIRE KILLS 40,
INJURES 150 PEOPLE

PAGE 16

Death in Chhattisgarh village reshapes living with 43 elephants & crop losses

GARGI VERMA
RAIPUR, DECEMBER 24

MANKI BAI Kanwariya (69) was in shock when the beat guards in Chhattisgarh's Korba district picked her up in the middle of the night on December 18 from her ramshackle hut in Podikala village. She was spending the night at the hut to keep a watch on the family's fields. Kanwariya was lucky; just after the beat guards whisked her away, the tuskers arrived and destroyed a hut nearby.

A day later, hardly 20 km from Kanwariya's village, a 71-year-old woman was trampled to death by a herd. Her family



The herd that has been on the move near villages in Korba district of Chhattisgarh. Express

had tried to conceal her in a heap of straw as they made their way out of Tumbahara village, worried that she might not be able

to keep up with them.

Two weeks later, a herd of 43 elephants, one of the largest the villagers have ever seen, is still

roaming the area.

A beat guard from the Pasan range, under which both Tumbahara and Podikala fall, says: "We see such cases in almost every village... Villagers send their elderly to keep a watch over their crop or harvest at night as the young ones work through the day. When they see or hear elephants approaching, the young ones escape, but the older people are stuck, and get targeted."

Chhattisgarh is among the states worst-hit by human-elephant conflict in the country, with more than 10 of its 28 districts affected. As per figures shared by the state government in the Assembly, between

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



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4

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM
THE INDIAN EXPRESS,
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

शुद्धिपत्र

कार्य का नाम : बीकानेर मण्डल के रेलाडी-हिसाबनिटा तथा सुरताड़-विरावाल खंड में TWS Work के कार्य के लिए S&T रो संबंधी कार्य कराना। शुद्धि पत्र द्वारा निविदा संख्या एस.एड.टी. बी.के.एन./ईटी 221 में निम्नलिखित संशोधन किए जाते हैं।

क्र.सं. 1.; संशोधन का विवरण : अनुमति लागत मूल्य रु. निविदा सूचना के अनुसार : 4820069.17; शुद्धि पत्र के अनुसार संशोधन : 4820017.69; नोट :- अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

742-AM/21

Please join us on /NWRailways

MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF TRACK FITTINGS

E-Procurement of Tender Notice No.: TRACK/07 of 2021 E-Tender is invited by the undersigned for the following works:-
 SN.1: Tender No. Track-E-07/12/2021, Brief Description : CGRSP, T-8528, Tender Value: ₹3,13,38,660/-, Earnest Money: ₹6,26,780/-
 SN.2: Tender No. Track-E-07/02/2021, Brief Description : Metal Liner, T-8616-17, Tender Value: ₹2,80,07,780/-, Earnest Money: ₹5,20,150/-, SN.3: Tender No. Track-E-07/03/2021, Brief Description : CGRSP, T-8747, Tender Value: ₹1,00,32,000/-, Earnest Money: ₹2,00,640/-, SN.4: Tender No. Track-E-07/04/2021, Brief Description : R/GPN Liner, T-8751 (60 Kgs) (ii) GPN Liner, T-8762-53 (52 Kgs) Tender Value: ₹22,36,500/-, Earnest Money: ₹44,730/-, SN.5: Tender No. Track-E-07/05/2021, Brief Description : (i) Metal Liner, T-0740 (60 Kgs) (ii) Metal Liner, T-8748-8750 (52 Kgs), Tender Value: ₹93,70,000/-, Earnest Money: ₹1,81,400/- Closing and opening of tender at 11:00 hrs. on 12-01-2022. For details please visit website www.ireps.gov.in

General Manager (Works), Malgaon

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender through
 E-tendering 2021-22
 NIT No. 10-LWS-OPN-IMTE-2021
 Dated : 23.12.2021

1. Name of work : WORK OF CALIBRATION OF MASTER/FIELD IMTE OF DIESEL LOCO AND WAGON WORKSHOP AJMER FOR 02 YEARS (AS PER SCOPE OF WORK)
 2. Estimated cost of work : Rs. 3,98,598.03/- 3. Last Date and time for submission and opening of E-tender : 17.01.2022 up to 15.00 PM E-Tender will be opened at 15.15 PM on same day. Due to indispensable reasons bid opening schedule may change.
 4. Website particular where complete details of e-tender can be seen and participated : www.ireps.gov.in (Note: This is E-tender so tenderer can participate through e-tendering process only on mentioned website within bidding period).

743-AM/21

Please join us on /NWRailways

WESTERN RAILWAY-VADODARA DIVISION

SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT
 E-TENDER NOTICE
 No: S&T/BRC/21-22/28/SIG
 Date:21.12.2021

Sr. DSTE/Vadodara acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. SandT_BRC_21-22_28(SIG). Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. 1. Name of the work with its location: Annual Repair Contract of Alstom make Audio Frequency Track Circuits of Vadodara Division for 3 Years over Vadodara Division, Approx. cost of work: ₹1,17,59,283.06/-, Earnest money to be deposited: Rs 0.00 (Bid Security Deposit to be taken in lieu of EMD). Date & time for submission of e-tender and opening of e-tender: 17.01.2022 @ 15:00 Hours and 17.01.2022 @ 15:30 Hours. Web side particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen etc: [https://www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, 2nd Floor-Annex Building, DRMs Office, Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004.

BRC-203

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B. I. T. SINDRI
 (DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, GOVT OF JHARKHAND)
 P. O. SINDRI INSITITUTE, DHANBAD (JHARKHAND) 828123

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Notice Title : Notice for admission to M. Tech.(02 years) on vacant seat (Phase II) date extension session 2021-2023 at B.I.T. Sindri

Notice Reference Number : BIT/931 दिनांक 06.12.21 एवं Notice No. 930 sindri, dated:06-12-21

Corrigendum Type : PR-8694 Science & Technology 21-22: D

Corrigendum Title : Date Extend

सत्र 2021-22 के लिए स्नातकोत्तर अभियंत्रणा (योटेंड 02 वर्ष) Phase II में नामांकन संबंधी सूचना का अवधी

विस्तार (केवल रिक्त सीटों पर)

कार्यालय पर्याप्त 930 सिन्दरी, दिनांक 06.12.2021 के क्रम में झारखण्ड सरकार के अधीनी तकनीकी शिक्षण संस्थान वी० आई० टी० सिन्दरी में स्थानांतर अभियंत्रणा (योटेंड००) के अन्तर्गत विकल्प सीटों पर जेट गेट एवं नन्य कार्यालय करने संबंधी अधीनी दिनांक 04.01.2022 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। वैसे अधीनी विस्तारों पर्याप्त एवं नामांकन लिया है एवं शाखा परिवर्तन करना चाहता है तो केवल अन्तर्गत फार्म भरकर पूर्ण का आवेदन शुरू रखीद अपलोड करेंगे। पूर्ण के विज्ञापन एवं अधीनी विस्तारों के नामांकन संबंधी अधीनी दिनांक 11.00 बजे तारीख जारी किया जाएगा। निविदाकारी द्वारा कार्यालय के साथ शाखा पर्याप्त की जानी वाली निविदाकारी का विवरण निम्नांक है—

कार्यालय पर्याप्त 930 सिन्दरी, दिनांक 06.12.2021 के क्रम में झारखण्ड सरकार के अधीनी तकनीकी शिक्षण संस्थान वी० आई० टी० सिन्दरी में स्थानांतर अभियंत्रणा (योटेंड००) के अन्तर्गत विकल्प सीटों पर जेट गेट एवं नन्य कार्यालय करने संबंधी अधीनी दिनांक 04.01.2022 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। वैसे अधीनी विस्तारों पर्याप्त एवं नामांकन लिया है एवं शाखा परिवर्तन करना चाहता है तो केवल अन्तर्गत फार्म भरकर पूर्ण का आवेदन शुरू रखीद अपलोड करेंगे। पूर्ण के विज्ञापन एवं अधीनी विस्तारों के नामांकन संबंधी अधीनी दिनांक 11.00 बजे तारीख जारी किया जाएगा। निविदाकारी द्वारा कार्यालय के साथ शाखा पर्याप्त की जानी वाली निविदाकारी का विवरण निम्नांक है—

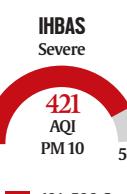
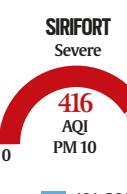
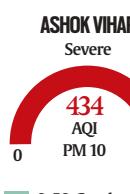
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S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: Dec 25
Partly cloudy sky.
Shallow to moderate fog in the morning.

MAX: 23 | MIN: 8
1.6°C Cabonormal | 0.1°C above normal

IN GURGAON

Namaz offered at 9 locations, police turn back protesters

PAVNEET SINHA CHADHA
GURGAON, DECEMBER 24

AFTER DISRUPTIONS by right-wing groups and locals for several weeks, Friday namaz was offered at nine locations in Gurgaon amid heavy police deployment.

At least 20 men affiliated with Sanyukt Hindu Sangharsh Samiti – a conglomerate of 22 right-wing groups that has been spearheading protests against namaz in open spaces – reached Shyam Chowk at Udyog Vihar, where prayers were yet to start. Police turned them back, informing them the site had been reserved for prayers as per an agreement between stakeholders.

Mufti Mohammad Saleem, president of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, Gurgaon, claimed that police had stopped people from offering namaz at multiple spots. “At several open places where namaz is offered – marble market, Sector 44, Sector 52, DLF phase 3 – police stopped namaz saying that the permission is only for six locations. There is no clarity from the administration regarding the list



After disruptions for several weeks, namaz was offered amid heavy police deployment. Express

of sites. At a dargah at Sector 40, where we were about to offer namaz, police said the land belongs to a school. According to us, the land comes under the Waqf board. Police asked us to produce documents, which we did not have at the time. We told them to call the patwari (revenue record official) and verify. We didn't offer namaz there. By next week, we will check who owns the specified land at Sector 40 and decide accordingly.”

Police sources said at nine locations – Leisure Valley, Shyam Chowk, Shankar Chowk, near Spicejet office at Udyog Vihar,

Sector 42, Sector 69, two sites in IMT Manesar and Sector 3 – namaz prayers were offered.

Parveen Yadav, who led the protesters at Shyam Chowk, said, “We have filed complaints at two police stations and urged the administration to take action against people violating the (Haryana) CM's orders. If there is no action, we will continue our agitation next week.” Yadav was among the group that had disrupted namaz at a park at Udyog Vihar last week and coerced Muslims to chant ‘Bharat Mata ki Jai’ slogans.

Kulbhushan Bhardwaj, legal adviser, Sanyukt Hindu

Sangharsh Samiti, said, “The CM has said namaz in the open is a show of strength and no member of any community should hold regular religious programmes in open spaces. We have submitted a complaint to police stating that CM's orders should be followed, and action should be taken against violators. This is jihad in the name of namaz. After CM's statements, it is quite clear that there are no designated sites for namaz.”

Aman Singh, SHO, Sector 29 police station, said a complaint had been received.

Replying to the issue raised by Congress MLA Aftab Ahmed during the zero hour, CM Manohar Lal Khattar Tuesday had said during the winter session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha, “People of all faiths hold prayers at designated religious places and permissions are given for all big festivals and programmes in open. But by displaying a show of strength provoking sentiments of another community is not appropriate... No member of any community should hold such programmes in open spaces.”

Man abducted, beaten up by family of woman he eloped with; two arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

A 22-YEAR-OLD man was allegedly abducted and beaten up by his wife's family members, who objected to their relationship and wedding. Police said an FIR has been registered and two women have been arrested so far, while raids are on to nab the remaining accused. Two policemen have also been suspended for a delay in filing the FIR.

According to police, the victim, a resident of Rajouri Garden, has known the woman for the last three years. The couple eloped and got married on December 21.

Additional DCP (West)

Prashant Priya Gautam said: “We received a call from Safdarjung Hospital on Thursday about the incident. Based on a complaint by his family, an FIR under sections of attempt to murder and abduction has been registered. We are investigating the matter.”

The man alleged that his wife's family had objected to their relationship from the start and had allegedly threatened him several times.

He told *The Indian Express*: “We had gone to the police station to file a complaint on Wednesday as we had been getting threats from my wife's family. They always had a problem with us. As soon as I came out of the station, I was surrounded by 15 people who picked me up and took me to their house in

Sagarpur, where they assaulted me mercilessly. I felt I would not make it.” He is currently receiving treatment at AIIMS Trauma Centre.

“We stayed together despite the threats. We got married four days ago and had just returned to Delhi when her family came to know about our location,” the man said.

According to police, the woman's family members were “furious” after they came to know about the wedding as the couple are from the same community.

Police said the couple were “forcibly taken” to Sagarpur, where the man was beaten up. The victim was eventually found by his elder brother, who took him to the hospital.

“My brother has many injuries, including to his private parts. We demand justice and have faith in the police...,” said the victim's brother. The couple are currently unemployed.

Police said the incident took place 7 km away from the police station. A senior police officer said, “After reaching Delhi, the couple came to Rajouri Garden police station seeking protection, and police called their family members.”

Police have arrested the woman's grandmother, who has 65 cases against her, including extortion and loot, and an aunt.

“We found lapses on part of our staff and suspended two personnel – an assistant sub-inspector and a head constable,” an officer said.

No exemptions for EWS admissions in pvt schools: DOE

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

PRIVATE SCHOOLS in Delhi can no longer claim exemption from admitting EWS and CWSN (children with special needs) students allotted to them on the grounds of not having enough admissions in the general category this year, the Directorate of Education has ordered.

The allocation and admission of students under EWS and CWSN seats in private schools has been a difficult process this year, with schools reporting fewer admissions in unreserved seats. They are required to reserve 22% seats of their sanctioned strength in entry-level classes for EWS/DG students and 3% CWSN students. The process usually followed is to admit one EWS student for every three general admissions.

Though the process began much earlier this year, admissions against the third draw of lots are still ongoing after 1,000 EWS and 5,000 CWSN seats continued to remain empty.

“The department has received several complaints from parents/parent associations regarding the refusal of private unaided-recognised schools concerned for not giving admission to selected EWS/DG/CWSN children on the ground of fewer general admissions in the academic year 2021-2022. Further, several private unaided-recognised schools are now claiming they got fewer general category students for admission than the sanctioned strength. Thereby, they seek an

exemption in admitting all the EWS/DG/CWSN category students allotted as per sanctioned strength to them, to the extent in proportion of the actually admitted general category students,” read a circular issued Friday by the education department.

The admissions to open seats in entry-level classes in these schools for 2021-2022 had ended on March 31. According to the directorate, it had directed schools to make a representation if it could not fill all general seats in March 2021.

In July, it had issued directions to schools to make all “possible efforts” to fill its general seats before August 31, and to make a representation to the DOE seeking exemption from granting admission to all EWS/CWSN students allotted if it was not able to do so.

Now, the DOE has stated that this window to seek exemption expired on August 31. “This circular dated 09.07.2021 does not apply for exemption from admission of EWS/DG/CWSN category candidates under subsequent draws conducted by the DOE after 31.08.2021... the department has decided not to extend applicability of exemption...”

PUBLIC NOTICE
M/s Jaksons Developers Pvt. Ltd. is pleased to inform that the “City Centre Mall at Plot No. 183, Twin District Centre, Sector-10, Rohini, Delhi – 110085 has been accorded with Environmental Clearance vide Ref. FNo. 21-20/2021-IA-II dated May 21, 2021 from Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India. The copies of the clearance letters are available with the Ministry of Environment & Forests and can also be seen on their website <https://parivesh.nic.in>. M/s Jaksons Developers Pvt. Ltd.

गुरुकुल कांगड़ी (समविश्वविद्यालय) हरिहर निविदा-सूचना
निविदालय की सूखा व्यवस्था एवं संतुलनीयता के लिये प्रकृति-प्रदूषक कर्म/सूखा प्रजेताओं (सरकारी/प्राइवेट, आरएस, आरएसए, एसएसए) को मुद्रणात्मक निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
निविदा सूचक रु 10,00,000/- (रु. दस हजार मात्र) (दोनों निविदाओं के लिए अलग-अलग) तथा सुखा कर रु 5,00,000/- (रु. पाँच हाल्फ मात्र) (दोनों निविदाओं के लिए अलग-अलग) कुलसंधर्य, गुरुकुल कांगड़ी (समविश्वविद्यालय), निविदा के पास में रह, दो अलग-अलग बड़े खालीपान साइटों पर 10,01.20.22 तक एकल पौरी/पौरी तरफ/व्यक्ति द्वारा कुलसंधर्य, गुरुकुल कांगड़ी (समविश्वविद्यालय), हरिहर के कानूनीय निवास से विस्तृत एवं उपलब्ध है।

नोट:- उपरोक्त निविदा आउटरसीस एंडरलीनी के माध्यम से निविदालय में कार्य लेने के विस्तृत रिट संस्था 137/2020, 1703/2020, 1704/2020, 1705/2020, 780/2021 मात्र उच्च न्यायालय ने नीताल, (उ०४०) में विचारणीय है, के अन्तिम निर्णयांश होगी।

कुलसंधर्य

Website : www.gkv.ac.in

Need task force to tackle mosquito breeding: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE DELHI High Court Friday said only “paperwork” was taking place each year with respect to mosquito breeding in Delhi and directed the local bodies to set up a special task force to address the problem. Such units will be headed by the municipal

commissioners, said the court.

Observing that the people continue to suffer, and the authorities have failed in managing and taking corrective measures, the division bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh said, “Every year for the past 20 years, we have been suffering the same thing. And nothing seems to happen. Why does the Commissioner not take the moral

responsibility and tender his resignation? What prevents him?”

The court made the observations during the hearing of a suo motu petition it had taken cognizance of in May of mosquito infestation. On the high number of dengue cases this year the municipal bodies had earlier cited heavy rain as one of the reasons. However, the court said only window dressing was being done and

questioned if the authorities were proactive, “then where is the proof of the pudding?”

It further said the local bodies may need a larger force to check mosquito breeding and carry out fumigation. “You need more active people on the ground. There should be proper monitoring of those who are put to task. Probably there is no supervision...,” said the bench.

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

PROJECT DETAILS

1. Coloniser/Developer	Sternal Buildcon Private Limited							
2. Project Approval	Licence No. 21 of 2020 dated 13.08.2020. Building Plan Approved on 20.10.2020 Memo No. ZP-1426/ADR(A)/2020/18570							
3. Location	Sector 95, Gurugram, Haryana							
4. Provisions Project Area	397 no. of apartments available out of total 1061 number of units in the housing scheme spread over 7.325 acres. As per Policy, 5% of total apartments are available for management quota and 95% of total apartments are for public. Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2000 sq.ft. and One Anganwadi-cum-creche of 2000 sq.ft.							
5. Apartment Details, Allotment Rates & Payment Terms	Apartment details							
Category(Type)	No of Units	Carpet Area sqft (approx)	Carpet Area sqm(approx)	Balcony Area sqft(approx)	Balcony Area sqm(approx)	Allotment Rate of Apartment (all inclusive)*	With application Booking Amount 5%**	On Allotment 20%
2BHK TYPE I	150	585.174	54.364	87.511	8.130	2545242	122887	513424
2BHK TYPE II	80	594.517	55.232	84.928	7.890	2581900	124849	520626
2BHK TYPE III	164	585.562	54.400	87.511	8.130	2546872	122968	513750
2BHK TYPE IV	3	595.637	55.336	84.928	7.890	2586604	125084	521567

*Registration Fees Extra

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

6. Parking	Two-wheeler parking with each apartment
7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment	• Flooring: Rooms Vitrified Tiles, Kitchen Vitrified / Ceramic Tiles, Toilet Anti-Skid Ceramic Tiles, Balcony Anti-Skid / Matt Finish Ceramic Tiles • Windows: M.S. Sections as per IS Codes / Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Doors Frame: Red Meranti / Mild Steel / Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Wall Tile: Ceramic Tiles till 4 Feet / 7 feet high & Oil Bound Distemper Above. • Kitchen Counter Top Green Marble / Granite • Wall: Oil Bond Distemper • Sanitary fitting: ISI marked CP Fittings, W.C & Washbasin • Electric Fitting: ISI Marked. Structure: RCC Frames Structure designed for SEISMIC forces as per latest IS code and NBC Recommendations.
8. Applications Timelines	(i) Apply Online at TCP website (https://edraw.tcp.haryana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home) for submitting application for allotment of dwelling units by e-Draw, starting from date 18.12.2021. For more information, call 7053-121-121 (ii) Last Date of submission of Applications is 01.01.2022.

Eligibility: 1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law. 2. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under ‘Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All’ programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their

FROM PAGE ONE

Omicron cases

That one person who brings the infection from outside, because he didn't wear a mask outdoors, will infect others in the house. This risk is higher in Omicron. We should keep this in mind," he said.

The analysis, in terms of clinical symptoms, also shows that 70 per cent patients are asymptomatic, said ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava. "The infection with Omicron does not necessarily lead to severe symptomatic clinical disease. In India, about a third of all detected cases were mildly symptomatic, and the rest were asymptomatic. Therefore, I want to emphasise that treatment of Omicron in symptomatic individuals remains the same," he said.

According to Bhargava, the predominant strain in India is still Delta, including the recently identified clusters. "Therefore, we need to continue with the same strategy: Covid-19 appropriate behaviour, and ramping up vaccination," he said.

Bhushan said the experience globally, especially from South Africa, at present, shows that most hospitalised patients did not require additional medical oxygen support. "However, we need to be vigilant. Today, we have created a capacity of 18,836 MT of medical oxygen per day. This is a significant increase in capacity after the second surge," Bhushan said.

Paul also emphasised the need for care, especially given the upcoming festival and New Year. "The new variant emerged during this period. Therefore, responsible behaviour is the way forward. Wearing a mask, hand hygiene, and no crowding. Unnecessary travel must be avoided. We can't be in large groups. There needs to be constant vigil. The good old containment and surveillance strategy remains a very major approach to pandemic control. We have the vaccination. But vaccination alone is not sufficient to contain this pandemic. There should be special emphasis on contact tracing and perimeter control," he said.

On Friday, Paul also appealed to private sector hospitals to be ready to "repurpose the beds, should the need arise". The preparedness should span the entire health system. "Private sector will continue to play a very important role in managing the pandemic...we request them to do the audits, and oversight of their drugs availability, oxygen availability, and really go back on their facility-specific SOPs, so that we are truly ready," he

said.

"Human resources are very important. To run the infrastructure, you need teams. Huge effort has been mounted by the government to create teams and train them. Same thing applies to the private sector. Therefore, an overarching preparedness, in the wake of Omicron, is launched and undertaken," Paul said.

On Thursday, when the Prime Minister chaired a high-level meeting, Paul said his first message was on district-level infrastructure preparedness against a possible surge.

Bhushan gave a detailed breakdown of the dedicated oxygen and ICU beds for Covid-19 that are ready in the backdrop of a possible surge: 18.10 lakh isolation beds; 4.94 lakh oxygen supported beds; 1.39 lakh ICU beds; 24,057 paediatric ICU beds; and 64,796 paediatric non-ICU beds.

Bhushan said the experience globally, especially from South Africa, at present, shows that most hospitalised patients did not require additional medical oxygen support. "However, we need to be vigilant. Today, we have created a capacity of 18,836 MT of medical oxygen per day. This is a significant increase in capacity after the second surge," Bhushan said.

Referring to the WHO statement on booster doses that it should be "firmly evidence-driven", Paul said the decision on administration of boosters will be driven by science that is applicable to our situation and vaccines administered in India. "...the WHO document states that introducing booster doses should be firmly evidence-driven...in totality, it has to be driven by science that is applicable to our situation; driven by science that is applicable to our vaccines. What you read largely is about other platform vaccines in different settings, and with a different profile of comorbidities, and age profiles in some ways. So, it must be evidence driven. India's science is very strong. There are intense efforts to culture the virus and we will test our vaccines (against Omicron). Be rest assured the decision for adolescent vaccination and booster doses will be taken on scientific principles and the overarching interest of people of India,"

Paul said.

On booster doses, Bhargava, said, "...a great discussion is going on (about boosters). The Covid-19 working group has debated it several times.. Deliberations are on. We are reviewing all the scientific data from across the world as well as from India: about T-cell response, antibody response, with a particular vaccine and with another vaccine. We are looking at how long it persists after infection."

The health ministry Friday said 358 Omicron cases had been in India; out of this, 114 have fully recovered. Six states have reported more than 30 Omicron cases: Maharashtra (88); Delhi (67); Telangana (38); Tamil Nadu (34); Karnataka (31); and Gujarat (30). Bhushan, also highlighted that the country's first dose coverage has touched 90 per cent of the adult population; however, 11 states – in which the coverage is lower than the national average – are a "cause of concern. These include four large states: Uttar Pradesh (84%); Maharashtra (87%); Bihar (78%); and Tamil Nadu (85%).

Delhi case count

In Haryana, too, the government imposed a night curfew from 11 pm to 5 am between December 25 and January 5. And as in UP, gatherings of more than 200 in public places have been barred until January 5.

After chairing a meeting to review Covid preparedness in the state, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said: "In view of the possibility of increasing cases of Omicron, from January 1, both doses of vaccination have been made mandatory for entry in all institutions related to the public sector. Along with this, gathering of more than 200 people in public places, other programmes, and movement of the public from 11 pm to 5 am will be strictly banned." The state recorded 79 Covid cases Friday, taking the active case count to 343.

While there is no night curfew so far in Delhi, where the active case count is 782, Christmas and New Year gatherings have been banned, and authorities have started conducting raids at bars and restaurants flouting norms.

Rs 150 cr seized

blame game with the ruling BJP and Opposition SP accusing each other of having dubious links with Jain.

According to an official statement, the Directorate General of GST Intelligence in Ahmedabad received a tipoff based on which the search was conducted on Wednesday. Officials searched the factory premises of Trimurti Fragrance Pvt Ltd, which manufactures

Shikhar Pan Masala and tobacco products, and the office and godowns of Ganpati Road Carriers, in Kanpur, the statement said.

The residential premises of partners of Odochem Industries in Kannauj, which supplies perfumery compounds, were also searched. "...huge amount of cash, wrapped in paper, has been found. The process of counting of cash has been initiated with the help of officials of State Bank of India, Kanpur.. The total amount of cash is expected to be in excess of Rs 150 crore," the statement said.

"This is the biggest recovery ever in the history of CBIC," Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) chairman Vivek Johri told ANI news agency, adding that no arrest has taken place so far.

"A case of fake invoicing and fake credit was reported...DGII Ahmedabad team started searches on the manufacturer of pan masala and their supplier. A transporter and a fragrance company of Unnao were also searched as they were providers of fragrance to the pan masala company," he said.

According to the official statement, the transporter allegedly generated multiple invoices in the name of non-existent firms, all below Rs 50,000 for one truck load, to avoid generation of e-way bills while moving the goods.

The transporter also allegedly collected the sale proceeds of such "clandestine supply in cash" and handed it over to the manufacturer after deducting commission, it said.

The officers initially intercepted and seized four such trucks outside the factory premises, cleared without invoices and e-way Bills, the statement said.

"In the factory premises, during physical stock taking, shortage of raw materials and finished products was noticed as the finished products had been cleared clandestinely. The authorised signatory of the company has admitted to have cleared the goods without GST," it said.

More than 200 fake invoices used in the past for transportation of goods without payment of GST were recovered from the premises of Ganpati Road Carriers, it said, adding that Rs 1.01 crore in cash was seized.

Following the seizure of cash from Jain, who hails from the SP bastion of Kannauj, UP BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi accused the Opposition party of getting a "helping hand from corrupt persons and goons".

"Several people close to the SP are being raided by the I-T and ED, in which hundreds of crores of cash is being found. They had accumulated unac-

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EXPRESS **AUDIO**

WHO on Booster doses, Haridwar hate speeches, refugees in Mizoram

Today we discuss the significance of WHO's latest statement on booster doses, how an event in Haridwar saw violent hate speeches being made against the muslim community, and how the Mizoram govt is helping refugees from Myanmar

Gehlot.

Granthi held

Amarjit

that investigations into the Kapurthala incident had not found any evidence of desecration. "The youth was lynched. The investigation is pointing towards a murder," he said at a press conference.

Jalandhar zone IG G S

Dhillon said they were probing the matter as a murder from day one, but wanted to be certain before ruling anything out. Police had maintained from the beginning though that they had found no evidence of desecration.

Amarjit, who was sent to two-day police remand, had been named earlier in a case of a stolen car in 2016, police confirmed. The Nawanshahr police had registered a case under Sections 411 and 483 of the IPC, but the car remained untraced and the case was cancelled by the court in 2019.

It was on Amarjit's complaint that the first FIR in the Kapurthala case, on charges of hurting religious sentiments, was registered. Now charges have been added to it under IPC Sections 302 and 307 (murder and attempt to murder), among others, as well as under the Arms Act.

Denying any desecration of the Nishan Sahib (the religious flag) as alleged by Amarjit, the IG said the accused had called his accomplices before beating the youth to death.

A mob of around a hundred had attacked the youth after granthi Amarjit alleged that he was caught in a bid to desecrate the Nishan Sahib in the wee hours. Three of his videos making the allegations, giving different versions of what happened, had gone viral. In one of them, he urged Sikhs to assemble at the gurdwara and punish the youth before handing him over to the administration.

The youth was beaten up in the presence of senior police officers, as the mob refused to hand him over. Among those present was Kapurthala Senior

Superintendent of Police (SSP) Harkamalpreet Singh Khakh.

The Kapurthala police has sent the photos of the killed youth to police stations across the country to try identify him. His samples have been taken for a DNA test.

The five-member board that conducted his post-mortem found nearly 30 injuries on the youth, mostly sharp, deep cuts, suspected to have been inflicted by a sword, on his neck, hips and head.

Blast suspect

dismissed from service after his arrest in August 2019 and spent two years in jail before being bailed out in September this year," said another senior officer from Khanna.

The hearing in the case was scheduled on Friday in the court of Ludhiana Additional Sessions Judge Shatin Goyal. Police are probing why he visited the court a day before the hearing.

When contacted, Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa confirmed the finding. "He was identified from a tattoo on his body and a mobile phone recovered from the spot," Randhawa said.

Police sources said the tattoo depicted the "Khanda", which is a Sikh religious symbol.

Hours after the blast on Thursday, in which six others were injured, Ludhiana Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar had said that police believe the man was carrying the explosives on his body or was planning to plant them. The blast had occurred in the washroom on the second floor of the court complex.

According to an officer with Khanna Police, Gagandeep Singh alias Gaggi was arrested on August 11, 2019, after 400 gm of heroin was allegedly seized from a car in which two of his accomplices, Amandeep Singh and Vikas Kumar, were travelling in Sector 39 of Ludhiana. An FIR was registered by the anti-drugs STF under stringent sections of the NDPS Act in Mohali.

The officer said that during interrogation, they allegedly revealed that they got the drugs from Gagandeep Singh, who sourced them from Delhi. The police then arrested Gagandeep and allegedly recovered 385 gm of heroin from his possession.

An officer in Ludhiana, who was part of the team that arrested Gagandeep, said: "He had joined the police as a Constable eight years ago and was promoted to Head Constable. He was married and posted at Khanna about eight months before his arrest. During interrogation, he said that he started selling drugs about six months earlier to small peddlers and addicts."

Police sources said they suspect that Gagandeep came in contact with radicalised elements in jail and that they were probing if the blast was linked to the Punjab polls scheduled next year. They said that an NIA team visited Gagandeep's residence in Khanna on Friday evening after his family identified him.

On Thursday, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi had said that the probe into the blast would be linked to investigations in the sacrifice bid at Golden Temple and the FIR registered against SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia.

On Friday, Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju visited the Ludhiana court complex and said the Centre and the state governments will work together to ensure "strong action against the culprits" behind the blast. Rijiju said politics should not be played on sensitive issues, and that Channi has assured full support in the investigation.

NOTICE BOARD

EDUCATION

CELEBRATIONS, EVENTS



SILVER JUBILEE-SHARDA UNIVERSITY

Sharda University celebrated its Silver Jubilee recently. Many embassy officials & ambassadors were present on this occasion. Apart from the employees & officers, former VCs & Registrars were honored by giving mementos. Chancellor of the Univ. PK Gupta said that 25 yrs ago we had entered the education sector with a vision. Its purpose is that the local children should not have to go far away for medical studies including higher and technical. In view of this, undergraduate courses are being run in many subjects from engineering to medical colleges. University's Coffee Table Book & a colorful program too was organized on this occasion.



AWARDS-INST. OF COMPANY SECY OF INDIA

ICSI organized the 21st edition of ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance, 2021, recently. Amit Shah, Home Minister & Minister for Cooperation, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Justice, P Sathasivam, Jury Chairman & Fmr. CJI, was the Guest of Honour. Shah acknowledged the efforts of the Institute for playing a pivotal role in promoting the cause of Good Corporate Governance. With the intent of creating an all-pervasive awareness for good governance in India INC., the award awakens, promotes & recognizes the exemplary performance of businesses & professionals in the field of corporate governance.



SEMINAR- INST. FOR GROOMING PROFESSIONALS

IGP one of the leading coaching academies for CA, CS and CMA exams organized seminars titled - 'CA Inter Sure Shot Success Seminar' for CA Foundation students. The seminars were held recently at IGP's centres at Laxmi Nagar and Janakpuri respectively. The seminar was conducted by CA Ashish Kalra, founder and director of IGP Institute. CA Ashish Kalra Sir gave a direction to the students who have just given CA Foundation exams regarding their future CA journey. The seminar was also conducted in online mode through IGP LIVE App for the expediency of the students as well as parents.



HONOR-GGSIPU

Vice Chancellor, Padma Shri Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Verma was conferred Doctor of Science Honoris Causa by His Excellency, the Governor of Haryana, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya at Manav Rachna University, Faridabad. This honour was bestowed to him for his exemplary contributions in the field of medicine, dentistry and academia. He has also been awarded the 'Dr. B.C. Roy National Award' and the 'State Award' by Government of NCT of Delhi. Dr. Verma has around 180 publications in indexed journals, and a number of chapters in dentistry textbooks.



AWARD- DAV SCHOOL, SRESTHA VIHAR

World Education Summit(WES) recognized DAV School as one of the top notch schools in India in "TOP SCHOOLS OF INDIA RANKING 2021" by elets and Digital Learning Magazine. On this occasion, Principal Suhasini K.Nath received a certificate of Recognition for Top Schools of India Ranking 2021 at a Felicitation Ceremony at elets 22nd World Education Summit 2021 at The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, New Delhi.

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Rev. Fr. Thomas Thoomkuzhy
8-7-1941 to 6-3-2012
Founder and Director
St. Francis De Sales Sr. Sec. School, New Delhi.

St. Francis de Sales School, Janakpuri, New Delhi, founded by Fr. Thomas Thoomkuzhy was established on 10th April, 1978.

The school started functioning on 10th April, with 117 students and had a humble beginning in tents. The high school (9-10) began in the year 1982-83 and the first batch of 61 students appeared for their Class 10 Board exams in 1983 - 84. The school was upgraded to Senior Secondary (11-12) in the same year.

St. Francis de Sales Senior Secondary School, Janakpuri, New Delhi is an unaided recognized Christian minority private institution affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education. As a catholic school, we are working not only for the intellectual, cultural and physical development of our children from the early stages but also for the formation of character by inculcating sound moral principles.

'Faith in God', 'Concern for the welfare of others,' and 'Education of the Human Heart' are the core values upon which the Fransalian Mission has set its goals. 'KNOWLEDGE, SERVICE and CHARITY,' is not only the motto but the firm foundation our school has set for itself.

The aim of the education imparted is to help children to know themselves, to discover their talents, to accept their limitations and to be creative in their own individual ways. This process helps children to develop their ability to relate and reach out to others.

What is the ethos of St Francis De Sales School that sets it apart from other institutions?

An ambience of calm serenity, the red brick edifice of the institution stands testimony to the vision of the missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. Fair and efficient administration, devoted staff and supportive parents, each stakeholder at SFS plays a key role in the wholesome development of our students. From teachers to support staff, each and every person's contribution makes SFS stand out.

Academic standards, quality education, congenial environs, activities galore, audio visual invasion, social service, literacy mission, values of discipline, honesty, hardwork and integrity among students, meticulous planning, mass participation, spick and span premises, spacious well illuminated rooms, sprawling lawns... all set us apart.

At SFS "WE STRIVE TO EXCEL"...

VALUES: Virtues lived and followed by our patron Saint Francis de Sales is our way of life here at SFS. Our students are brought up with these Fransalian values of knowledge, service, charity, gentleness, honesty and integrity. Thus, empowering them for life.

DISCIPLINE: One of the core strengths of our school is the discipline instilled in the personality of each student right from the grass-root level. We firmly believe that discipline is the foundation stone of a meaningful life.

RESONANCE WITH NATURE: SFS is a completely eco-friendly school where it discourages the use of goods that can possibly harm our environment. Various outreach programmes like Van Mahotsav plantation drive, Nature rally, Street plays, etc. are regularly organised to sensitise our students as well as spreading mass awareness among the people with the sole idea to conserve nature.



Fr. B. Anthony Amaladoss, Principal, St. Francis de Sales Sr. Sec. School, Janakpuri, New Delhi



What has your school's role been in helping needy students and people in the neighbourhood?

The integrative approach of the school is to get every student rooted in God with a sensitive, ethically and morally refined heart to reach out with compassion by responding to the needs of the society especially the underprivileged through "FOOD FOR LIVING PROGRAMME" in which food is collected from students and staff and distributed to the poor and needy. Books, uniforms, mobile phones, desktops are provided as per the need.

SFS has also been in the forefront in working towards the success of literacy mission through its initiative of EACH ONE TEACH ONE by students and staff.

What are the other social service initiatives of the school?

With a view to inculcate social awareness, visits to Homes for the aged and sick are an integral part of the school calendar. Daily essentials, clothes, stationery etc. are distributed on a regular basis to various Orphanages. Food kits were also distributed during lockdown for the needy. During the major outbreak of COVID - 2nd wave - meals were provided to the Covid affected families. Cycles were provided to the service staff.

Today, the education sector is very corporatized. In this milieu where does the strength of St Francis lie in providing quality education?

The strength of SFS lies in education through fair-minded, passionate, honest, well-mannered, inspirer, skilled and supportive mentors who have a strong positive impact on the student's attitude and personality. We keep pace in terms of temperaments, priorities and aspiration of the youngsters by constantly upgrading the infrastructure and updating the faculty with the latest technology and teaching methodologies.

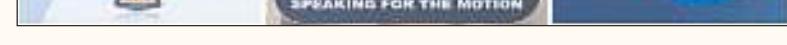
As it is Christmas, how have the teaching of Lord Jesus given you strength and a vision to live a worthy life in the new normal?

From Genesis to Revelation the Bible is an integrated message sharing the love story of God and man. Christmas is a time of loving and forgiving, a call to help, love and share with one another for Jesus Christ was born to save Humanity. The Miracle of Christmas weaves the magic of brotherhood... fills hearts with peace...and causes a weary world to pause...to remember...and to hope.

On X-Mas, what would your greetings and message be for everyone?

Christmas is a time to aspire for a new beginning in our life. Remember Jesus is not found only in cribs and churches, you can find Him in the meek and the needy, the downtrodden and the pretty, in birds and trees and in all we see. Let us deepen our awareness and lead a worthy life by offering our hearts as a gift to Baby Jesus on His Birthday! Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 2022.

St. Francis de Sales Senior Secondary School, Janakpuri, New Delhi will continue to shine radiating its glory and lighting the lives that it touches for years to come.



HIGH LEVELS OF COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION: The school is always open to the ideas and suggestions provided by our parents, teachers and students. We constantly try to incorporate new ideas of curriculum planning, instructions and assessments aligned with national and state standards for the betterment of our students, thus maintaining a clear and shared focus on their all-round holistic development.

EXTREMELY QUALIFIED AND DYNAMIC FACULTY: SFS is proud to boast of its facilitators who are not only highly qualified but also extremely dedicated and dynamic. The success of our students in academics and various co-curricular and extracurricular activities is the fruit of the mentoring, expertise, love and care put in by our meritorious staff. There is a sense of belongingness in each

member of the Fransalian family.

What is the value-based education that you are imparting to your students and their outcome?

SFS works towards the formation of character by moral and value based education through its prayer services, class assemblies with value based themes, bulletin board themes, charity initiatives besides the regular value education and faith formation classes thus rooting our students firmly in the virtues taught by St. Francis de Sales our Patron Saint.

How have you inculcated the philosophy of the school's tagline - Knowledge, Service and Charity, in real life?

SFS stands sentinel with the candles of

Knowledge, Service and Charity burning in a combined effort to produce light which imparts a ray of hope. Knowledge helps the students to attain skills which enable them to serve as productive individuals and thus make positive contributions to society through selfless service which is charity. SFS moulds individuals who perceive that service to God is service to humanity and vice-versa.

The Covid pandemic was unprecedented and devastating. Could you share how your school made the great shift to hybrid teaching and to keep the students, teachers and the school community engaged?

Covid-19 sent the world to a grinding halt. The educational landscape changed overnight, the disruption of academic programmes hindered the learning graph. At

SFS Delhi, we metamorphosed, reshaped and innovated our educational apostolates to sustain and succeed. Online and digital culture became an integral part of our educational system and we adapted to the NEW NORMAL. Our faculty explored, learnt and mastered the new tools and techniques of the virtual world from PPT's, WhatsApp, Videos, ZOOM to GCL. Our students channelised this adversity with their creativity, compassion and honed their innate skills and talents. To foster creative thinking and nurturing the competitive streak among students a plethora of competitions and activities were organised.

Special days were celebrated with elan on virtual mode. We went ahead setting benchmarks one after another, evolved and optimistically continued our mission with a RAY OF HOPE.





VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS
1,22,740

	TOTAL CASES		Total	Vacant
	HOSPITAL BEDS	ICU BEDS		
Dec 23	118	57	1	61,322
Dec 24	180	82	0	62,697
Total	782*	14,16,928	25,103	3,22,89,000

*Total active cases

HIGHEST DAILY CASE LOAD SINCE JUNE 16

100% first dose coverage as Delhi cases touch 180

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

WITH 180 new cases of Covid-19, Delhi reported its highest daily tally since mid-June on a day when it reached the milestone of 100% first dose vaccinations. There are 14.8 million adults eligible for vaccination in Delhi, as per the government.

Around 71.3% of the eligible population has received their second shots as well. Amidst the omicron scare, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had urged the Centre earlier this week to allow booster shots.

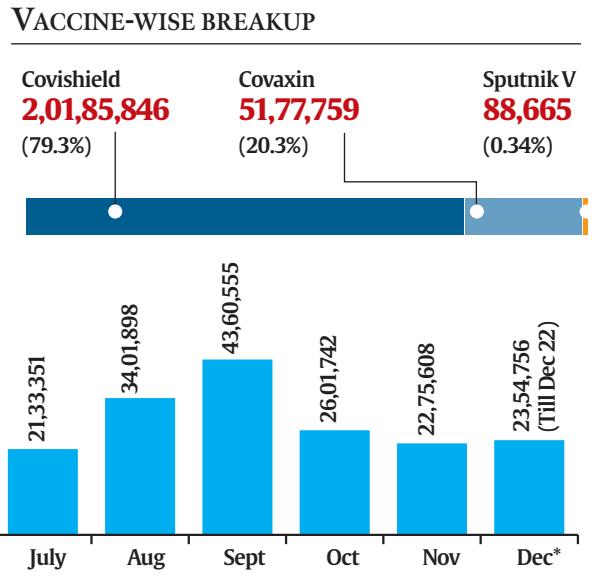
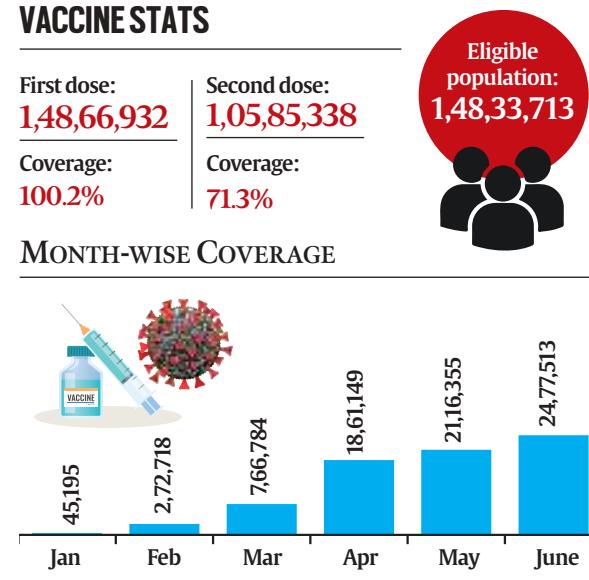
"Delhi completes the first dose to 100% eligible people – 148.33 lakh. Salute to doctors, ANMs, teachers, ASHAS, CDVs and all other frontline workers. Congratulations to DMs, CDMOs, DIOs and all district functionaries," the CM tweeted on Friday afternoon.

The 180 new cases on Friday is the highest since June 16 when 212 cases were reported.

This week, Delhi recorded over 144 new cases of Covid-19 on average each day, according to the data, as opposed to just over 70 cases a day on average during last week, and 51 cases the week before that.

There is an increasing trend in the number of cases, despite all Delhi residents receiving at least one shot of the vaccine. The previous sero surveillance conducted in September said 97% of Delhi residents had antibodies against the Sars-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19.

The latest surge could be



BRIEFLY

Delhi Metro:
Field trial of
indigenous
system begins

New Delhi: The Delhi Metro Friday entered into the 20th year of its operations and marked the occasion by commencing a field trial of a first-ever indigenously developed signalling technology, and unveiling an exhibition on its journey at Kashmere Gate station. The field trial of the first-ever indigenously developed i-ATS technology (Indigenous - Automatic Train Supervision) for Metro's Red Line (Rithala-New Bus Stand, Shaheed Sthal) was inaugurated by Durga Shanker Mishra, secretary in the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Chairman, DMRC via video conferencing, officials said. PTI

New campus
for Indira
Gandhi varsity
for women
being set up

New Delhi: A new campus that can accommodate around 25,000 students is being set up for Indira Gandhi Technical University for Women at Narela. The technical institute has been operating at Kashmere Gate near the Ambedkar University campus so far. On their fourth convocation, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia had announced that a new campus was being developed on a 50-acre land in Narela.

Woman found
dead in park:
One arrested

Gurgaon: Two months after a 25-year-old woman was found murdered in a park in South City-1 area, police on Friday arrested a 37-year-old man for allegedly strangling her to death after she refused to marry him. On September 23, the woman was found dead in a park, with injury marks on her head. ENS

People flowing like a river, situation frightening: HC on Sarojini Nagar crowd

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE DELHI High Court Friday said that the state of affairs in Delhi's Sarojini Nagar market is frightening and rapped the New Delhi Municipal Council and Delhi Police for allowing illegal vendors to operate from there. The court also took note of videos showing a huge rush of shoppers at the market, saying that people are "flowing like a river" there, and summoned the Sarojini Nagar SHO to court during the day.

The division bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh directed the DMCA to visit the market and assess the situation, in the wake of rising Covid cases, and pass necessary directions.

It said that 80,000 people will go to a market there only when a large number of persons are selling goods there, and if their number is limited, then the number of visitors will also reduce.

"If you (authorities) were to implement our orders, not permit squatters over there who are not having valid licences, there would be no such problem," said the court, adding that there was complete dereliction of duty.

Observing that there could a stampede where hundreds of people may lose their lives, the court said that the market has already witnessed a bomb blast in the past. "Just think if a small bomb were to go off, how many people will die and also because



The court also took note of videos showing a huge rush of shoppers at the market. Tashi Tobgyal

of the stampede," it added.

The court had in October said that not more than 3-4 informal vendors are to be permitted for every 10 shops in a market under the Master Plan, but the number of vendors in the market has exceeded the limit.

"Since there are 200 shops in the Sarojini Nagar Market, 60-80 vendors may be permitted," it had noted.

NDMC and Delhi Police were on September 13 directed by the court to ensure that illegal encroachments are cleared from the market and that they do not return. While the police and municipal body submitted that action was being taken, the court asked whether it should

believe them or what it has been seeing on ground. The court also warned the local SHO that he will face suspension if there is non-compliance of court orders.

"If you think you can so brazenly violate the orders of the High Court, then we will tell you what we can do. If there is any loss of life because of Covid or stampede or any other incident in this market, you persons will be personally liable for that. Because we know when you want to do something, nothing can stop you from that. The State, municipality, the police, enough power is there with you to take action," said the court.

It also directed police to work out a movement plan for people who visit the market and said authorities need to ensure that there is no overcrowding there. It also ordered that goods seized from hawkers and vendors, who are found illegally operating from there, shall not be released to them without the court's order.

The court asked authorities to install poles with chains and mark the ground in the market with white paint so as to specify the area within which shopkeepers and squatters have to carry out their activities. The court also said NDMC will ensure proper and effective fencing of the market is done.

It also directed police to work out a movement plan for people who visit the market and said authorities need to ensure that there is no overcrowding there. It also ordered that goods seized from hawkers and vendors, who are found illegally operating from there, shall not be released to them without the court's order.

This weekend,
shops to open
on odd-even
basis at marketEXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

SHOPS AND street vendors at Sarojini Nagar Market will follow odd-even operations on Saturday and Sunday, after large crowds of shoppers were seen at the market over the past few days.

An order to this effect was passed by Vasant Vihar SDM Ankur Prakash Meshram on Friday, in order to "prevent the market from becoming a super spreader for Covid-19".

Some shops will open on Saturday, while others will open on Sunday, depending on the numbering, said Kuldeep Singh Sawhney, president, Sarojini Market Shopkeepers Association.

A meeting of all stakeholders of Sarojini Nagar market was held on Friday. It was decided at the meeting that the Director (Enforcement) of the New Delhi Municipal Council and the SHO, Sarojini Nagar police station, will ensure that no unauthorised vendors are operating in the market and that there are no encroachments.

They are also required to ensure that entry to the market is only from gate number 1, 3 and 5, and exit from gate number 2, 2A and 4.

All shopkeepers are required to ensure their staff is vaccinated.

Representatives of market associations will take full responsibility for ensuring Covid-appropriate behaviour.

Enforcement up
across city; club sealed for violationsGAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

WITH DELHI seeing a slight uptick in Covid cases, the district administrations have strengthened the enforcement drive across the city. All 11 districts each have deployed 25-100 enforcement teams and flying squads to carry out surprise inspections and raids at public places such as markets, malls, pubs, restaurants, and bars to ensure no large social and cultural gatherings take place.

On Thursday, Delhi Police and the South District administration sealed and registered an FIR against a popular club in Mehrauli for crowding and violating Covid protocols. "As many as 600 people were at the pub; there was no social distancing," said Sonalika Jiwani, South District Magistrate.

The enforcement drive has been stepped up after the DDMA on December 15 banned social, cultural, and festive gatherings during Christmas and New Year and put a 50% cap on the seating capacity in restaurants and bars.

"We have increased enforcement from December 22. More than 100 teams are on ground and there is strict enforcement of Covid protocol at markets, malls, restaurants, and bars. All sub-district magistrates along with their teams are personally monitoring the situation on ground," said Sonalika.

"We have also increased prosecution and are challaning those

not wearing masks or maintaining social distancing in public places. In last two days, 500 challans have been issued," she added.

Both the South and Southeast districts are home to several popular clubs, pubs, restaurants, and malls. As per officials, Covid cases, especially of the omicron variant, are being reported largely from South, Southeast and Southwest districts.

The Southeast District has increased the number of enforcement teams from 19 to 25 in two days. This will be increased to 35 if cases go up in the district.

"We have deployed 10 special teams with 40 officers to carry out raids in market areas. Lajpat Nagar is one of the largest hubs as far as markets are concerned in the district. These teams target peak time in the evenings (7-7.30 pm) and conduct surprise checks, raids and prosecute violators," said Southeast District Magistrate Vishwendra.

The district administration is also focusing on other areas where cases are increasing.

"Tracking and containing clusters is very important as both omicron and delta variants are highly transmissible. We have 89 active cases in our district; of these 71 cases have been contained in 18 zones," said the DM.

He further said separate teams have been deployed to conduct raids and surprise inspections at bars and pubs. "On Wednesday night, an FIR was filed against a pub operating in the basement of a hotel for crowding and other violations," said Vishwendra.

To ASSESS THEIR NUMBERS, IDENTIFY PROBLEM AREAS

For monkey census in city, forest dept reaches out to wildlife body

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

Chief Wildlife Warden of Delhi.

The committee was constituted on the orders of the Delhi High Court, issued during the hearing of a petition on the population of monkeys in the city and their conflict with people. It includes representatives from the veterinary services of the MCDs, representatives of the animal husbandry unit of the Delhi government, and the Deputy Conservators of Forests.

The Forest Department has already written to the WII, said a senior official. The intention is to identify those areas where



Monkeys that are caught by the MCDs are released at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary. Archive

the monkey population is in conflict with people more often, the official said.

The department also intends to request the WII to train monkey catchers for their "skill upgradation". The WII will be requested to prepare a module for training animal handlers and catchers.

Monkeys that are caught by the MCDs are released at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary. The enforcement committee had also noted that before releasing monkeys at the sanctuary, the Deputy Conservator of Forests should arrange to verify

and examine the medical certificate from a veterinary doctor certifying that the monkey is free from communicable diseases.

"When the monkeys are brought to the sanctuary, the veterinary wing of the MCD concerned certifies that they are fit to be released into the sanctuary. If this certification is not available, we keep them at the rescue centre here and observe them for 15 days. If there are no complications, we release them. We have a limited veterinary set up, while the MCDs already have established veterinary units," said an official

of the South Forest Division. At the meeting of the enforcement committee, the Chief Wildlife Warden also suggested that the Development Department of the Delhi government may provide veterinary doctors to the Forest Department on deputation, if they are available. In 2018, the Forest Department had been considering sterilisation of monkeys and had submitted an affidavit to the High Court with timelines for the same. This, however, is now off the table, another senior official of the Forest Department said.

GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



NO UNCERTAINTY

THAT HARISH Rawat wanted the Congress leadership in Delhi to give an unambiguous signal that the party's campaign in Uttarakhand will be under his leadership is now known. But one of the many reasons which made him restless was interesting. One gets to hear that a couple of businessmen, who have business interests in Uttarakhand, had met him in Dehradun. They offered him financial support. The same businessmen later met a leader in Delhi. Perhaps they wanted to make sure that they were betting on the right person. The central leader was evasive on whether Rawat will be the chief minister if the party is voted to power. And the word reached Rawat. Needless to say, he got upset. A veteran of many battles, Rawat has now pushed the party to signal that he will lead the party into elections. In other words, he is the face and will hold pole position in the CM race post elections if the party finds itself in a position to form the government.

THE ENVOY

CANADA ON Friday named Cameron MacKay as the next High Commissioner to India. He succeeds Nadir Patel, who left earlier this year. MacKay was Canada's ambassador to Indonesia and Timor-Leste from 2019 to 2021. He joined the Canadian Foreign Ministry in 1995 and has served as director of regional trade policy from 2008 to 2010, director general for China trade policy from 2012 to 2013, director general of the Trade Negotiations Bureau from 2013 to 2015 and director general of the Trade Sectors Bureau from 2015 to 2017. Most recently in Ottawa, he served as director of operations at the Privy Council Office's Foreign and Defence Policy Secretariat. Abroad, he served at Canada's permanent mission in Geneva from 2001 to 2006, as Canada's ambassador to Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua from 2010 to 2012.

BREAK FROM TRADITION

IN A break from tradition, Minister of State PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions Jitendra Singh, after delivering the valedictory address on the conclusion of the Second Capacity Building Program in Field Administration for senior officials of J&K Administrative Service in New Delhi, did not hand out mementos to the officers. The officers had just gone through a two-week training in administration, and usually, like in most government events, mementos are handed out to the participants as well as trainers. But while felicitating the officers, the minister announced that the government will stop the practice of handing out mementos – which is an unnecessary government expenditure. So the 29 officers of J&K Administrative Service from 1999 to 2002 batches, who underwent training, received special mentions from Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances at Friday's event.

Brahmpura return gives Akali Dal shot in the arm ahead of Punjab election



Ranjit Singh Brahmpura

The significance of Brahmpura's re-joining the SAD could be gauged from the point that Parkash Singh Badal and Sukhbir, his son, went to his house in Chandigarh Thursday.

Lauding Brahmpura, Parkash Badal said if he got the opportunity to become the Punjab CM five times, the former had a "big role" in it. Brahmpura too said, "I was on leave from my parent party for some time in the same manner in which a fauji goes on leave for some time."

TMC trying to 'divide Goans': Former MLA, 4 others quit party

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, DECEMBER 24

WITHIN THREE months of joining the Trinamool Congress, former Goa MLA Lavoo Mamledar on Friday resigned from the party with four others. In his resignation letter submitted to party chairperson Mamata Banerjee, Mamledar said the party was trying to "divide Goans on the basis of religion".

Mamledar, a former MGP MLA from Ponda, joined the TMC on September 29 and was among the first ten people from Goa to join along with former chief minister and now TMC Rajya Sabha MP Luizinha Faleiro.

While the party has been inwards the AITC is purely communal in nature".

The letter signed by Mamledar, Ram Mandrekar,



Lavoo Mamledar (fourth from left) was among the first 10 Goa leaders to join the TMC. Courtesy: TMC

ducting politicians, activists and members of civil society since it announced its decision to contest the upcoming Goa legislative assembly election, this is the first set of exits it has seen.

"We will go according to our mission and vision to bring about

Cong 'casting aspersions' on constitutional authority: govt

Respect has to be commanded: Jairam Ramesh



Pralhad Joshi (left) and Jairam Ramesh

duced the temple of democracy to a theatre of street fight. The Chairman, deeply pained, reached out to the opposition to break the stalemate. The opposition came back in multiple voices which were unclear and contradictory at the same time. Duplicity beneath some weak conciliatory overtures."

"When the Chairman reached out in a concrete manner, the response proved that the intention beneath the conciliatory talk was that the House not run. Now in order to somehow create the opposite narrative, senior members of the Congress party such as Jairam Ramesh by casting aspersions on the functioning of a Constitutional authority, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, do a disfavour not only to the truth, but to democracy itself," Joshi said.

Ramesh responded sarcastically to the statement. "I hope the mention of my name in Pralhad Joshi's statement defending an unconstitutional and illegal suspension of 12 MPs is not a prelude to my suspension for the forthcoming Budget Session. This regime... is simply not interested in any meaningful discussion..." he said. Replying to Joshi's charge, Ramesh said, "As far as Joshi's accusation is concerned, I have always believed respect has to be commanded, not demanded."

It was "both astonishing and saddening" that the... opposition, especially senior members of the Congress party, have deviated from the well-known truth about what transpired in the recently concluded session..." he said, arguing that "opposition appeared committed to hampering the running of the House".

"It was painful, when some members of the opposition re-

Uttarakhand Congress committee member assaulted by party workers

mer chief minister Harish Rawat, party leaders said on Friday.

Senior party leaders present at the party office, however, rushed to Shah's rescue and took him aside. Some party workers also shouted slogans against Shah inside his chamber. The workers later said the matter has been settled.

State committed to give incentive to farmers who repay crop loans, says Ajit Pawar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

THE MAHA Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government is committed to provide an incentive of Rs 50,000 each to farmers who repay crop loans regularly under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Loan Waiver scheme, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said on Friday in the state Assembly.

Pawar was responding to a question raised by Shiv Sena MLA Prakash Abitkar on the status of the incentive schemes.

While conceding there has been delay in fulfilling these promises, Pawar expressed concerns over revenue shortfall. "The state revenue has reduced by Rs 1.5 lakh crore amid the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

"However, once the situation returns to normal and the financial condition improves, the government will ensure each farmer, who regularly repay crop loans, gets Rs 50,000 as incentive," Pawar added. "The government has disbursed Rs 20.29 crore to 31.81 lakh farmers," he said.

After coming to power in the state two years ago, the MVA government had announced a complete crop loan waiver up to Rs 2 lakh for farmers under the scheme. It also introduced a scheme under which a farmer with more than Rs 2 lakh debt had to repay the additional loan to avail the waiver up to Rs 2 lakh.

CONGRESS INFIGHTING IN POLL-BOUND UTTARAKHAND

Harish Rawat wins first round against Delhi's lightweight appointee

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

IN A scene now increasingly familiar in the Congress, the party high command on Friday summoned its Uttarakhand leaders Harish Rawat, Pritam Singh, Ganesh Godiyal, Kishore Upadhyay and others, to Delhi for a meeting with Rahul Gandhi Friday, as differences in the state unit spilled into the open two months ahead of assembly elections in the state.

The reason was also notably familiar: the growing rift between Rawat, former chief minister and the Congress's tallest leader in Uttarakhand, and AICC in-charge of the state Devender Yadav, a lightweight Delhi politician. After Rawat made his displeasure pub-

lic in a cryptic post, Godiyal, the PCC president, had thrown his weight behind the veteran.

A 49-year-old two-time MLA, Yadav belongs to a wealthy family in Delhi with interests in both business and politics. His father Mahender Yadav, also known as Pradhanji, was a Congress politician.

A civil engineering degree holder, he entered the Congress "organisation system" some 20 years ago when the then Indian Youth Congress chief Randeep Singh Surjewala inducted him in his committee as a national general secretary.

In 2002, Yadav fought his first

election. It was to the Delhi Municipal Corporation. He served as a corporator twice, 2002 and 2007, from Samaypur Badli. In 2008, he was elected to the Delhi Assembly from Badli seat. When the Congress suffered an unprecedented rout in 2013, Yadav was among the eight Congress candidates who managed to weather the storm.

His second stint as an MLA was brief since Arvind Kejriwal resigned as chief minister in February 2014 and fresh elections were held a year later. This time Yadav lost, like all the other Congress candidates.

The Congress, however, re-

warded him in 2017, appointing him as an AICC secretary. Yadav was part of the AICC team involved in the party's successful

election efforts in Rajasthan. In 2019, he was appointed working president of the Delhi Congress. Yadav lost again from Badli in

Assembly elections held last year. However, there was no dent in Yadav's fortunes, and in September last year, he was appointed in charge of Uttarakhand.

Yadav's insistence on collective leadership was not a surprise given the Congress's reluctance to name a CM candidate before polls.

However, Rawat, and many said legitimately, felt that the stress on collective leadership took away his primacy and made him one among the equals. His contention was that the party should give him the lead role even if it didn't officially appoint him as the CM face.

Adding to Rawat's insecurity was Yadav's proximity to working president Ranjeet Rawat. Once a close associate of Harish Rawat, Ranjeet Rawat was said to have



A photo tweeted by AICC Uttarakhand in-charge Devender Yadav (left) with Rahul Gandhi at a recent rally.

New Delhi

BRIEFLY

NEW DELHI
Nepal PM to visit India next month

Kathmandu: Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba will visit India next month to take part in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and is also expected to meet his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, according to a media report on Friday. He is leaving for India on January 10. The Kathmandu Post reported. Sources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said a meeting between Prime Minister Deuba and Modi is very much likely, the report said. The biennial Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit is scheduled for January 10-12.

Ludhiana blast burst water pipe, vital clues feared washed away

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

A DAY after an explosion in a Ludhiana court killed one person and injured six others, security agencies are struggling to reach a conclusion on the nature of the bomb because some clues are said to have been washed away after a water pipe burst.

"The nature of explosives is still being ascertained as the blast caused a water pipe in the toilet to burst, washing away the explosives. Forensic teams are still working at the spot to pick up traces. It might take some time but a conclusion will be arrived at soon," a senior security establishment officer said.

Sources said investigators and forensics teams have found remains of a container, a damaged mobile phone, remains of a detonator and shrapnel from the spot. "It appears that the explosion occurred while the IED was being assembled. Assessment of the damage caused to the structure do point to use of high-grade explosive or an easily available explosive in large quantities. But until traces are forensically examined, it will be difficult to say for sure," an officer involved with the probe said.

Sources said the nature of the blast also pointed to the fact that the intention of the perpetrators of the attack was to cause extensive damage to life and property.

Determining the nature of the bomb and the make of the IEDs are likely to help investigators as-



Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju at the district court complex in Ludhiana on Friday. Gurmeet Singh

certain which groups have used such assembly in the past.

The development comes at a time when security agencies have flagged increasing activity of pro-Khalistan groups in Punjab which have been aided by regular dropping of arms, ammunition and IEDs through drones flown from across the border. In fact, in the recent past, 43 drone sightings have been reported by Punjab Police close to borders near Amritsar and Pathankot.

Punjab Police has found multiple instances of drones dropping even RDX and tiffin bombs in the past couple of years. According to the BSF, there have been over 70 drone sightings this year at Punjab and Jammu borders.

Intelligence agencies had also issued alerts to Punjab Police about possible attacks at crowded places and vital installations in the state by pro-

Khalistan groups. Inputs had suggested these groups were armed with explosives smuggled from across the border.

The Centre Thursday dispatched teams from the National Investigation Agency and the National Security Guard to the blast spot in Ludhiana. Sources said the case may be handed over to the federal counter-terror probe agency. NIA sources, however, said no formal order had been received by the agency so far to take over the case.

The NIA has in the past one year registered seven cases of terrorism in Punjab with regard to pro-Khalistan groups such as Babbar Khalsa International and the Sikhs for Justice. In five of these cases, chargesheets have been filed. In fact, Punjab, along with Jammu and Kashmir, is one state where NIA is probing the highest number of terror cases currently.

Punjab reaches out to Centre over blast probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 24

PUNJAB CHIEF Minister Charanjit Singh Channi said he had reached out to Union Home Minister Amit Shah for help in the investigation into Thursday's blast at a court in Ludhiana, and the Centre had sent teams. "We need the Centre's help as Punjab does not have the equipment to check the kind of RDX used in the blast," the CM said.

Channi added that the investigation so far had shown that the only person who died in the blast was the one trying to set it up. "No one has taken responsibility for the blast yet. Neither have we got any indications (of who might be behind it)," he said.

On the Akali Dal accusing his government of politics in the registration of a case against SAD MLA Bikram Singh Majithia, the chief minister said he could not ignore his conscience. "I realised that he (Majithia) was responsible for ruining the youth of the state by spreading the menace of drugs. I did not want any excesses against anyone. When I was myself convinced that these people were responsible for the drug menace, we took action. Now, Majithia has absconded."

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 24

AGRA POLICE has written to the Uttar Pradesh government seeking permission for prosecution sanction against the three Kashmiri students who were arrested for sedition and other charges after the Pakistan cricket team's victory over India in the T20 World Cup match in October.

The accused, meanwhile, have sought a transfer of their case from Agra to Mathura.

Sources said Agra Police have sent all details of the case to the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government to verify and decide on prosecution approval.

In October, the three Kashmiris – studying at an Agri engineering college under the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme for J&K students – were arrested for allegedly sending WhatsApp messages "against the country" after the match. The court will decide on the police plea on Tuesday. Special public prosecutor Ajay Misra submitted before the court that Fadnavis had in an interview on March 23 said he had submitted documents to the Union Home Secretary related to the alleged corruption in transfers of police officers. The application filed before the court sought access to these documents for its probe.

Advocates in Agra refused to represent the accused, prompting their families to approach Mathura-based lawyer Madhuvan Dutt. Dutt said Friday he has filed a petition to seek a transfer of the cases against the three from Agra to Mathura, apart from their bail plea pending before the Allahabad High Court.

Document leak: Mumbai cyber police summon ex-CM Fadnavis as witness

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

IN ITS probe in connection with the documents' leak case, Mumbai cyber police have summoned former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis to record his statement as a witness, a magistrate's court was informed on Friday.

Police have approached the court seeking documents from the Union Home Ministry citing an interview given by Fadnavis in March. The court will decide on the police plea on Tuesday.

Special public prosecutor Ajay Misra submitted before the court that Fadnavis had in an interview on March 23 said he had submitted documents to the Union Home Secretary related to the alleged corruption in transfers of police officers. The application filed before the court sought access to these documents for its probe.

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Prosecution sanction has been sought under sections 124-A (sedition), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 505 (1)(B) (with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public, or to any section of the public) of

Court rejects SAD leader Majithia's bail plea in drugs case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MOHALI, DECEMBER 24

THE DISTRICT court Friday dismissed the anticipatory bail application of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikramjeet Singh Majithia in connection with the drugs case.

The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Sandeep Singh dismissed the bail application after hearing the arguments put forth by both the prosecution and the defence.

Earlier, during the arguments in the court, the prosecution, while replying to Majithia's application, had submitted the record pertaining to the case as directed by the court Thursday.

The prosecution also informed the court that the FIR is not "politically motivated" and there are strong grounds to register the case. Nonetheless, the defence once again raised the issue and termed the case "politically motivated".

Majithia, who was booked under Sections 25, 27-A and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act by the state police, had applied for an anticipatory bail at the district court on Thursday.

The application was filed on the basis that the case against him was a "poll plank" and a case of "witch-hunting".



At St John's Church in Thane on Christmas Eve. Deepak Joshi

Christmas celebrations at Karnataka school 'disrupted'

DARSHAN DEVAIAH BP
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 24

AFTER KARNATAKA witnessed attacks on churches and prayer halls in the last few months, members of a right-wing group allegedly engaged in a verbal altercation with the management of a Christian convent in Mandya district over the celebration of Christmas in a school.

The Christmas celebrations at the Nirmala English High School in Pandavapura, a town in Mandya district about 160 km from Bengaluru, was allegedly interrupted by a group

of Hindu Jagaran Vedic members on Thursday. A video of the incident has been widely shared on social media.

In the video, men can be seen engaged in a verbal spat with the management over Christmas celebrations. They also questioned the school authorities, asking why Hindu festivals like Ganesha festival were not being celebrated.

This was the second attack on the day when Karnataka Legislative Assembly passed the anti-conversion Bill.

According to the management of the school, the members of the right-wing group

barged into the institution and began questioning the school management.

Headmistress of the school, Kanika Francis Mary, said, "A few people, claiming to be members of a right-wing group, came to the institution and objected to the celebration of Christmas and asked us to celebrate Ganesha festival and hang a photo of Goddess Saraswathi in the school. They also made allegation against us that we are converting students, which is not true."

The school management also said that they would be filing a complaint with the Mandya police.

"With deep sorrow, IAF conveys the sad demise of Wing Commander Harshit Sinha in the flying accident this evening and stands firmly with the family of the braveheart," the IAF tweeted.

Police said that further details of the crash are awaited and an Air Force team is also reaching the spot.

"This evening, around 8.30 pm, a MiG-21 aircraft of IAF met with a flying accident in the western sector during a training sortie. Further details are awaited. An inquiry is being ordered," the IAF tweeted from its official handle on Friday evening.

The security breach occurred when Thiruvananthapuram Mayor Arya Rajendar's car allegedly tried to become part of the President's convoy which was heading towards the venue

Police: Hizbul militant killed in encounter in J&K's Anantnag

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 24

A MIG-21 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district during training sortie killing its pilot on Friday evening.

"We got information today evening that a MiG-21 aircraft of the Indian Air Force crashed in Sam in the area under the Desert National Park (DNP). The aircraft had taken off from the Jaisalmer Air Base," said Jaisalmer SP Ajay Singh.

Singh added that he was rushing to the spot and the Air Force has been intimated.

"The plane crash was first spotted by a forest guard after which the local police were informed," said the SP.

"With deep sorrow, IAF conveys the sad demise of Wing Commander Harshit Sinha in the flying accident this evening and stands firmly with the family of the braveheart," the IAF tweeted.

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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 24

A HIZBUL Mujahideen militant, involved in the killing of an inspector and BJP workers among others, was killed in an encounter with security forces in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, police said.

A police spokesperson said a cordon and search operation was launched in Mumantal Aarwani area of Bijbehara in the south Kashmir district based on inputs about the presence of militants there.

"During the search operation, as the presence of the trapped terrorist got ascertained, he was given ample opportunities to surrender. However, he denied the surrender opportunity and instead fired indiscriminately upon the joint

search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter," he said. In the ensuing encounter, the terrorist identified as Shahzad Ahmad Seh, a resident of Sehpura in Kulgam, was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of the shootout, the spokesperson said.

"As per police records, the man was a categorised terrorist linked with proscribed terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen and was part of groups involved in several terror cases," he said.

Seh was involved in the killing of police Inspector Mohammad Ashraf Bhat in Anantnag last year, he said. "He was involved in the killing of three BJP workers at YK Pora, Kulgam in October last year. He was also involved in the killing of a BJP sarpanch and his wife at Lal-Chowk, Anantnag on August 9 this year," the spokesperson said.

Security breach alleged during Kovind's Thiruvananthapuram visit

Thiruvananthapuram: Central agencies are probing the alleged security breach that happened during President Ram Nath Kovind's visit here, official sources said on Friday.

The security breach occurred when Thiruvananthapuram Mayor Arya Rajendar's car allegedly tried to become part of the President's convoy which was heading towards the developments.

The President was in the state capital on Thursday for unveiling the statue of P N Panicker, considered the father of library movement in Kerala.

Owaisi: Video edited to mislead, to distract from Haridwar meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

AS AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi said his party would file an FIR over the hate speeches made at a religious meeting in Haridwar, a video was circulated of him allegedly making threatening remarks. On Friday, Owaisi said the video, shared among others by BJP leader Shehbaz Poonawalla, had taken just 1 minute of a 45-minute speech to convey the wrong impression that he was trying to spread violence and said it was meant to distract from the Haridwar meeting.

Tweeting two videos of his speech, made in Kanpur on December 12, he said, "I did not incite violence or give threats... As you can see... I was talking about police atrocities in Kanpur and addressing such cops who think

they have immunity to violate people's liberties because of Modi-Yogi... I said do not confuse our silence for acquiescence."

On those drawing a connection between what he said and the speeches made at the Haridwar meeting, released a video statement Friday saying the case against him was a sign of "the frustration of the militant/orthodox elements within the Muslim community". Dressed in saffron robes with a tilak on his forehead,

call for "genocide of Muslims". "One of the speakers even said he wanted to kill our former prime minister Manmohan Singh. How can it be justified..."

Asked about the speech by The Indian Express, Owaisi refused to talk about it, while saying that the meeting at Haridwar had given a

year-old elderly person called Mohd Rafiq had his beard pulled and was urinated upon. The person who did this was an SI, Gajendra Pal Singh. Is this your izzat (decency)? ... Why do you hate our beards?... I want to tell those policemen that remember my words, Yogi will not be CM forever, Modi will not be PM forever... We Muslims might be silent now due to the exigencies of the times, but remember that we are never going to forget your atrocities... Allah, with his might, will destroy you. We will always remember. Times will change, then who will come to save you? When Yogi goes back to his mutt, Modi goes to the mountains, he may start living there, then who will come? We won't forget, remember that... That a Muslim autorickshaw driver was attacked by Bajrang Dal rioters as his child tried to save him. Didn't it happen right here in

Kanpur?... That child is like my child. I will ensure that her pain is not forgotten... And if you believe that you can hit us with lathis, people saw on TV that a man is carrying his innocent child, and police personnel are hitting him with sticks. The man is pleading that his child will get injured... A man is sitting in a car, and a policeman says, are you trying to be a hero, I will show you... If today you are threatening people due to the clout of your uniform, pretending to be hero, tomorrow, you will be zero."

In his tweet, Owaisi said: "It's an essential part of my faith to believe that Allah does not allow injustice... Assuring people of Allah's justice gives hope... Why is it offensive to remember how police have treated Muslims in UP? We cannot forget the oppression that was meted out to Anas, Suleiman, Asif, Faisal, Altaf, Akhlaq, Qasim, and hundreds of others."

In a video of a purported speech made by Owaisi in Kanpur on December 12, he said, "At Kanpur Dehat Rasoolabad Police Station, an 80-year-old elderly person called Mohd Rafiq had his beard pulled and was urinated upon. The person who did this was an SI, Gajendra Pal Singh. Is this your izzat (decency)? You treat an 80-year-old like this? If this is true, it's not a shame but we

feel pained... I want to tell those policemen that remember my words, Yogi will not be CM forever, Modi will not be PM forever... We Muslims might be silent now due to the exigencies of the times, but remember that we are never going to forget your atrocities..."

A farmer from Bheek Deo village, Rafiq was arrested on December 7 for allegedly attacking sub-inspector Gajendra Pal Singh and head constable Samar Singh in March when they had gone to intervene in a domestic violence registered against him by his daughter-in-law.

"We arrested Rafiq (67) on December 7 and recovered his service pistol from his possession. Rafiq is lodged in jail," said Pramod Shukla, Station House Officer of Rasoolabad, adding that Rafiq was facing seven cases.

From THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021

Stories on upkeep of dams, mines winners in Regional category

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

SOME OF the most impactful entries for the 2019 Rammath Goenka Awards came from regional media that focused on how official apathy had cost human lives.

Aniket Vasant Sathe of *LokSatta* is the winner in the Regional Media (Print) category while Sunil Baby of *Media One TV* is the winner of the Regional Media (Broadcast) category.

In a series of stories, Sathe exposed the poor conditions of the major dams across Maharashtra and how their neglect was one of the reasons that led to large-scale destruction across cities during the floods of 2019. His series of articles offered deep insight into the sys-



Aniket Vasant Sathe



Sunil Baby

impacted lakhs of people living around dams.

Maharashtra has the highest number of dams in the country and 296 of them were in need of urgent repair. A big challenge faced by Sathe was to gather information from vari-

ous government bodies and thoroughly understand the technicality involved in dam engineering. "There are more than 1,300 dams in Maharashtra that are taller than 10 metres. I had to collect information on each of these

dams and study audit reports, which are released periodically," he said.

The Maharashtra Government ultimately took note and approved 10 per cent of the budgetary provision on water repairs for dam safety. After reviewing the equipment required, repair and replacement work started on a war footing.

Through his story, *The Burning Mines*, Baby, the winner in the Broadcast category, explored the phenomenon of subterranean fire in Jharia, Jharkhand, which was first reported more than a century ago. Over the years, the scale of the problem has grown, fuelled by unscrupulous practices. Baby tracked the story of deaths caused by people falling into the trenches that suddenly open up in the scorched earth,

or by inhaling toxic emissions. The survivors live in fear of explosions given that steam and smoke rise from the floor of their houses.

These mines are owned by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Baby's story exposed how the public sector company had failed to ensure a safe environment for the people of Dhanbad.

"I had to stay for three days in Jharia and do three stories. The place was hell on Earth; the land and air both were on fire," said Baby.

The reporter further exposed how privatisation of mines had aggravated the underground fire. The story stood out because it highlighted the plight of the poorest of the poor in a land rich in natural resources over which they had no right.

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मुख्यमंत्री उद्यम क्रांति योजना

मध्यप्रदेश के सिंचित युवाओं को स्वरोगराम के लिए बैंकों के माध्यम से कोलेटल की क्रण और घाज अनुदान सहायता

सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश

IN LETTER TO BOARD

Schools leaked CBSE Class 10, 12 papers to students, Tamil Nadu schools body alleges

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 24

A CONSORTIUM OF CBSE-affiliated schools in Tamil Nadu has sought the nullification of the first phase of board exams for classes 10 and 12 this year, citing large-scale "corrupt and fraudulent practices" in a letter to Board officials in Delhi.

The CBSE Schools' Management Association (CSMA) — which represents around 350 schools in the state — flagged alleged incidents of manipulation, including leaking of answers to school students through WhatsApp and hard copies. CSMA said this was due to poorly planned changes and sudden implementation of a new assessment system this year.

Amidst a pandemic, the first phase of the Class 10 and 12 exams for multiple-choice questions (MCQs) began in November, and will conclude on December 30. The second phase of the exams, for descriptive answers, is scheduled for March 2022.

The outfit has demanded that authorities scrap the phase one examinations with immediate effect.

The marks secured by the students "are not the true reflection of their potential and preparation... (and) it is incumbent that the marks awarded to the students are not given any credence", CSMA said.

"It is absolutely necessary to scrap the results of the Term I examination completely and the new pattern should be introduced only after adequate time is granted to the students and teachers, after the flaws in the existing system are completely ironed out," the body said in a letter addressed to the Delhi office of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

The CBSE's spokesperson was not available for comment on Friday.

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

DRAW THE LINE

BJP may think Haridwar hate speeches rally its base in an election year, but it's only empowering the lumpen within

THE UNABASHED AND abundant hate speech on stage at a religious conclave in Haridwar was deeply offensive. The open Muslim-baiting and exhortations to Hindus to take up arms, the calls for violence and genocide, the toxic fantasy of a "Hindu rashtra" where there is no masjid or madarsa, directly challenge the letter and spirit of the constitution. In the aftermath, many have also rightly pointed to the apparent double standard — a comic can be arrested for statements he didn't make, an activist for an NGO toolkit, while police and the administration in Dehradun have been notoriously slow to act in the days after the open spewing of communal poison. And yet, it must also be said that even as cases against activists and comedians point to the weaponisation of law to shrink spaces for free expression, the problem showcased in Haridwar requires a political more than a legal response. For a start, and most of all, it needs the BJP, as the ruling party in the state where the event took place, and also as the political ideology and organisation that was intimately addressed and invoked from the stage, to distance itself from the frenzy of hate, and to repudiate it.

Ashwini Upadhyay, former Delhi BJP spokesperson, was present at the "Dharma Sansad", other speakers have been photographed with prominent BJP leaders. Upadhyay has a track record: He was arrested in August for an event in Jantar Mantar where hate speeches were heard loud and clear. To argue that these are elements of the frothing fringe is missing the point because the party's complicities run wider and deeper. Its politics has often, implicitly and explicitly, sanctioned and emboldened the spectres of "Hinduism in danger" and the Othering of the Muslim minority, which were the main messages from Haridwar. In the run-up to the assembly elections in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, this polarising rhetoric will increase. The Haridwar conclave, therefore, underlines the political challenge for a party that talks up its achievements in governance, speaks of "sabka vishwas", and a "new India" for all, while also aiming for a majoritarian consolidation. The question after Haridwar is: Does the BJP consider the vile grandstanding and threat-making there an acceptable form of political discourse? If it doesn't, if it thinks that a line was crossed at Haridwar, it needs to say so.

Of course, the BJP can shrug off responsibility for the conclave, and choose to keep silent, while hoping that this will rally its base ahead of key elections. That would be a let-down. Because even as Haridwar showcased the threat of unchecked intolerance, it also presents the mainstream political party with an opportunity. To draw the red lines of what is politically acceptable, and what is not, in a diverse democracy. If it doesn't, it will send another signal to the lumpen within that they can get away — even if they call for murder.

MENDING FENCES

Foreign secretary's visit showcases Delhi's careful balancing act on Myanmar, lays out the challenge

FOREIGN SECRETARY HARSH Vardhan Shringla's two-day visit to Myanmar, the first by a high-ranking Indian official since the coup in February, points to a subtle recalibration in India's approach to Naypyidaw. To begin with, India had kept a distance from the hardline position taken by the US and Europe that sought to censure and sanction the junta for ousting Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy after they swept the parliament elections. Delhi had also appealed for the restoration of democracy in Myanmar and even mildly criticised the sham trial that sentenced Suu Kyi to four years' imprisonment, later reduced to two years, in one of the numerous cases filed against her, earlier this month. During his visit, Shringla met the military brass, members of the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and some civil society leaders. However, his request for an audience with Suu Kyi was denied.

New Delhi took a maximalist position on Myanmar when the military pulled the curtains down on the fledgling democracy in 1962 and held on to it until the 1990s when the then PM, P V Narasimha Rao, decided to engage the junta. The change of stance followed the realisation that the sanctions regime imposed by western democracies forced Myanmar into the orbit of Beijing. The situation is not very different today though the democratic impulse in Myanmar, a legacy of the pro-democracy movement of 1988 and the partial restoration of democratic government since 2015, has been manifesting in street protests. The coup and the subsequent isolation of Myanmar by the US and its allies has pushed the junta closer to Beijing. India's relations are also complicated by a long and porous border that runs through a hilly terrain, frequented by insurgent groups operating in Nagaland and Manipur. Naypyidaw has been sympathetic to India's security concerns in recent years. But the recent attack on an Assam Rifles officer and family in Manipur, close to the Myanmar border, suggests that the threat from insurgent groups is far from over. Besides, tribes in Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur have ethnic bonds with their counterparts across the border, which explains the influx of refugees following the military action in Myanmar.

It may be prudent for Delhi to engage with the junta and use its good offices to persuade Naypyidaw to restore the democratic system in Myanmar while ensuring that India's own interests are protected. Shringla's visit hints that, for now, India is willing to hold back the democracy pitch and allow realpolitik to dictate the terms of the relationship.

CRAFTING THE IMAGE

With a literary sensibility, filmmaker KS Sethumadhavan helped develop Malayalam cinema's unique idiom

WHEN K S Sethumadhavan made his first Malayalam film, *Gnana Sundari*, in 1961, cinema in Kerala had just started emerging from the shadow of its older cousin in Tamil Nadu. By the time he made his final Malayalam film, *Venai Kinavukal*, in 1991, the filmmaker, who died this week in Chennai at the age of 90, had become one of the figures responsible for Malayalam cinema developing its own idiom.

While the bulk of Sethumadhavan's work was in Malayalam, his oeuvre included some fine films in Telugu and Tamil, including National Award-winning films, *Stri* (1995) and *Marupakkam* (1991). His filmmaking debut was with the Sinhalese film *Veeravijaya* (1960) and he also made a brief foray into Hindi cinema, directing *Julie* (1975), a remake of his own 1974 Malayalam hit *Chattakari*, and *Yehi Hai Zindagi* (1977).

But it was in Malayalam cinema that he found his greatest success and where he had the most lasting impact. Along with contemporaries such as P Bhaskaran, Ramu Kariat and A Vincent, he laid the foundation for a distinctive filmmaking language, rooted in the ethos of Kerala, tapping into the wealth of Malayalam literature for its power — Kariat's *Chemmeen* (1965), based on the novel of the same name by Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai is a towering achievement from this period. Sethumadhavan was the one who developed a special reputation for bringing the best of Malayalam writing to the silver screen, including Thakazhi (*Anubhavangal Paalichakal*, 1971), Kesavadev (*Odayil Ninnu*, 1965), Parappurath (*Aranazhika Neram*, 1970) and M T Vasudevan Nair (*Oppol*, 1981). Sethumadhavan won several Kerala State Film Awards, besides 10 National Awards and the J C Daniel Award, the Kerala government's highest honour in cinema. Over the three decades that he remained active, his work never stopped appealing to audiences, even as their tastes changed. It is this rare kind of success that proclaims a giant of cinema. Sethumadhavan, undoubtedly, was one.



JANAKI NAIR

IT IS A Christmas gift like no other. In keeping with its recent yearning to clone a Nava Bharat, namely, emulate the worst practices of states like Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka has pushed through the Legislative Assembly a Bill, ironically called the Protection of the Right to Freedom of Religion Bill. From a state known for its big, pioneering and inclusive political ideas, Karnataka is fast becoming a polity exclusively driven by small-minded, punitive and divisive (social) goals. Once envied for having a bureaucracy which enjoyed independence, the state and its institutions have become subservient to national goals of becoming a "Hindu Rashtra" in which the rule of law has become a reign of terror. The proposed Act not only infantilises all women, SCs, STs and other vulnerable and marginal groups, but criminalises any attempt to change faiths.

The new Bill was pushed through without providing much evidence of what it is remedying, or consultation with affected groups, or even with the Opposition. It did not even wait for the report of its own Legislative Committee to survey all Christian churches in preparation for an anti-conversion law, particularly in the officially acknowledged "backward" districts of Yadgir, Chitradurga and Vijayapura. Apart from incorporating provisions to interfere in interfaith marriages, the Bill also targets institutions which, on suspicion of "conversion", may forfeit their licenses! Who knows what will follow in hundreds of educational and medical institutions run by the minorities?

The BJP government hurtles towards completing an agenda begun with its usurpation of power in 2019. For a state (Mysore) that had been completely free of the cow protection movements that raged in the Indo-Gangetic region from the 1890s on, even in the 1920s and 1930s, a new reverence for 3.5 crore livestock was in the passing of "The Karnataka Prevention Of Slaughter And Preservation Of Cattle Act, 2020", with the conspicuous and unprecedented conduct of a 'cow puja' in the legislature building. An exhaustive report (by Sylvia Karpagam et al) on the impact of the 2020 Act, compiled in September 2020, just six months after the Act was passed, reveals a

Nava Karnataka

State BJP is pushing for an ethnicised Hindu nation.
Proposed anti-conversion law is latest example

Forum (AIPF), Gaurilankeshnews.com) recorded as many as 71 reported cases in South Kanara alone between January and September 2021. PUCL Karnataka has also documented 39 attacks on churches between January and November 2021. Economic boycott of minority businesses is another strategy that is now gaining popularity. In Koppal, there has been a call to shut down Muslim establishments. In Chitradurga, a tehsildar has called for an enumeration of all Christians.

But that is not all. The new prohibitions

have criminalised economic activity and engendered in its place an entirely "informal"/illegal economy in which the police/authorities and vigilantes are allowed to extort, confiscate, and even arrest, while remaining untouched by any system of accountability. Finally, although the law was intended to target the lives and livelihoods, nutritional status and well-being of Dalits and Muslims in Karnataka, the report has shown widespread economic distress in all sections of the farming community as a consequence, with the only beneficiaries being large-scale abattoirs and meat exporters. In short, the meat trade has not been abolished but has only changed hands — away from small-scale Muslim and Dalit businesses largely oriented to domestic business to large-scale non-Muslim export businesses.

This seems to be exactly what the anti-conversion Bill will promote: A subcontracting of the punitive powers of the state to anonymous, assorted groups "protecting" the Hindu religion — a new layer of "rentiers". It approves of the non-state groups that impose an arbitrary and capricious "reign of terror" in the name of a "rule of law". This is a clear abdication of the state's duty towards the development of its underprivileged and marginalised sections, and a push to encourage the fight over limited opportunities and goods. "Sustainable communalism" in the form of "citizen's" groups acting to intervene in or prevent any form of camaraderie, friendships, partnerships or intimacies, particularly between Hindu women and men of other communities, has already been converted into a fine (and acceptable) art.

A joint fact-finding committee (consisting of the People's Union for Civil Liberties-Karnataka (PUCL-K), All India Lawyers Association for Justice (AILA), All India People's

Institutions until the age of 21, I have remained a conscientious atheist, which I believe (as Gandhi is said to have pointed out) is morally superior to the absolute corruption of those who speak in the name of religion. Events in Karnataka deeply and corrosively undermine its own long heritage of radical religiosity. But they also fatally wound all morality, humanness, ideas of privacy, and the sense of self that is the birthright of every Indian citizen.

The writer is former professor of history, JNU



VALSON THAMPU

CRIBS, CAROLS, CARDS, cakes are not universal. Manger is rural and the Magi, King Herod and Caesar Augustus have all vanished from sight. But, Christmas remains, and is deemed universal. Only what addresses the core human condition can be universal.

The clue to this universality is provided by St. Luke. Jesus was born in a cattle-shed and laid in a manger, he writes, because there was "no room for him in the inn". This might seem just a factual statement, which it is not. To understand why it is symbolic, and why it is the key to the universality of the Nativity episode, we have to see it in relation to the contrast between the Old and the New Testaments, in the middle of which the Christmas event exists.

In the Old Testament, history is shown to be shrinking, beginning with Adam and Eve, who represent embryonic humankind. Since their fall from grace, biblical awareness is shown as shrinking to "a chosen race", and then to a "faithful rump" within it. This, in turn, shrinks to the one man, Jesus Christ. The reality of there being "no room in the inn" pertains to this spiritual pattern of shrinking. In the spiritual vision of the Bible, room-less-ness, or homelessness, is the byproduct of godlessness.

This aspect of the human condition has been intuited in a variety of ways by thinkers across the centuries. Man is born free, wrote Rousseau, but everywhere he is in chains. Shakespeare's Macbeth feels, "cabin'd, cribbed, confin'd". Dostoevsky's Raskolnikov and Tolstoy's Nekhlyudov share the same predicament. Victor Hugo's Jean Valjean finds the world an extended prison. They, and a host

WHY CHRISTMAS IS UNIVERSAL

It warns of the shrinking of human condition, calls for renewal

of other characters, are emblems of the "room-less-ness" that marks human existence. In a sense, this room-less-ness is the source of all of human suffering. There is no "room" for being fully and freely human, except perhaps for the privileged, in any system in the world. Freedom of thought and expression, right to equal opportunities for growth and development, are all romantic ideals, hardly enjoyed by all in history. Inter-personal relationships are plagued by room-less-ness.

The room-less-ness that Jesus encountered at this birth becomes a central concern in his life and teachings. Addressing this universal reality Jesus said, "Abide in me, and I in you". God is the home of the homeless, which is the "tiding of great gladness for all humankind" that Christmas is. In that sense, Christmas is also a mandate to be hospitable to everyone, which is subsumed in the commandment, "Love your neighbour like yourself". Christmas is wherever human beings accept and love each other for no other reason than that they are human.

Social and emotional room-less-ness issues from the shrinking of the human person. Individuals in their millions are homeless — including those who own mansions — because human personality has shrunk to such an extent that there is no room except for oneself in one's world. Ingratitude, on which Shakespeare's Lear agonises, is a universal aspect of this. In its operative principle, ingratitude is nothing but the incapacity to be with even those who have done you a good turn.

The same applies also to the incapacity for

faithfulness of which Judas Iscariot is a synonym. What does it mean to "betray" a fellow human being? Is it not that "the other" is perceived as a burden or an inconvenience? Infidelity and ingratitude are country cousins. Jesus had to be betrayed by his own disciple to highlight the reality that the capacity for fidelity is rare. Yet another aspect of the same syndrome is the incapacity for justice. Consider the "trial" of Jesus. He was tried several times. Each time he was found "not guilty". The verdict? "Crucify him." Surprising? Well, should not be. Man's incapacity to treat fellow human beings justly is a fact of life and history.

The Christmas event denotes God's redemptive intervention in human predicament, characterised by our incapacity to be fully human. To be human is to be hospitable to fellow human beings. It is to accept and love the other, warts and all. Life exists on the foundation of inter-dependence. But inter-dependence becomes a torment when the capacity to be human shrinks. In man-woman relationships gender-war displaces complementarity.

Spirituality seeks to reverse this "shrinking of the human person"; whereas religion takes advantage of it. There is "no room" for "the other" in religious communities. This is lamentably so in what Christianity has come to be. To be a follower of Jesus is to be under the mandate to love even one's enemies. Christianity has absolutely no excuse whatsoever for dividing human beings into "us" and "them".

The writer was principal of St Stephen's College, Delhi



DECEMBER 25, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

SHAHI TO VISIT INDIA

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT ZIA-UL-HAQ has announced that Foreign Minister Agha Shahi would visit India soon for "important consultations" which he hoped would lead to better understanding between the two countries. Pakistan was studying an Indian communication on a no-war pact offer handed over by ambassador Natwar Singh. While some aspects of the Indian response to Pakistan's offer was positive, others needed clarification. General Zia said. Stating that Shahi had received an invitation from External Affairs Minister P Narasimha Rao to visit India for consulta-

tions, the Pakistani ruler said, "these consultations are important not only for Pakistan but also for the one billion people of the region". General Zia said his country "wanted a tension-free atmosphere and friendly relations with all countries".

UDF TO STAKE CLAIM

THE CONGRESS (I)-LED United Democratic Front decided to approach the Kerala governor seeking to form a ministry on the "basis of the majority it enjoys in the state assembly". This was announced by the Congress (I) leader K Karunakaran after a day long discussion with the front's coor-

dination committee. Asked how he could claim majority when he had the support of only 68 members including the rebel RSP MLA, Karunakaran said he was confident of the front's majority.

POLISH STIR ENDS

COAL MINERS OCCUPYING two pits in Southern Poland in protest against martial law began ending their sit-in, Warsaw Radio reported. It said 700 men left the Ziemiowit and Plast mines despite harassment by trade union activists. Several hundred men are below ground at the pits near Tyche in the Silesian coal mine.

New Delhi

Happy tech new year

Law needs to keep up with changing technology. If it does not, or if we go back to considering a ban on these instruments, we will be left years behind in this technological leap that has been embraced by others



OPENING ARGUMENT

BY MENAKA GURUSWAMY

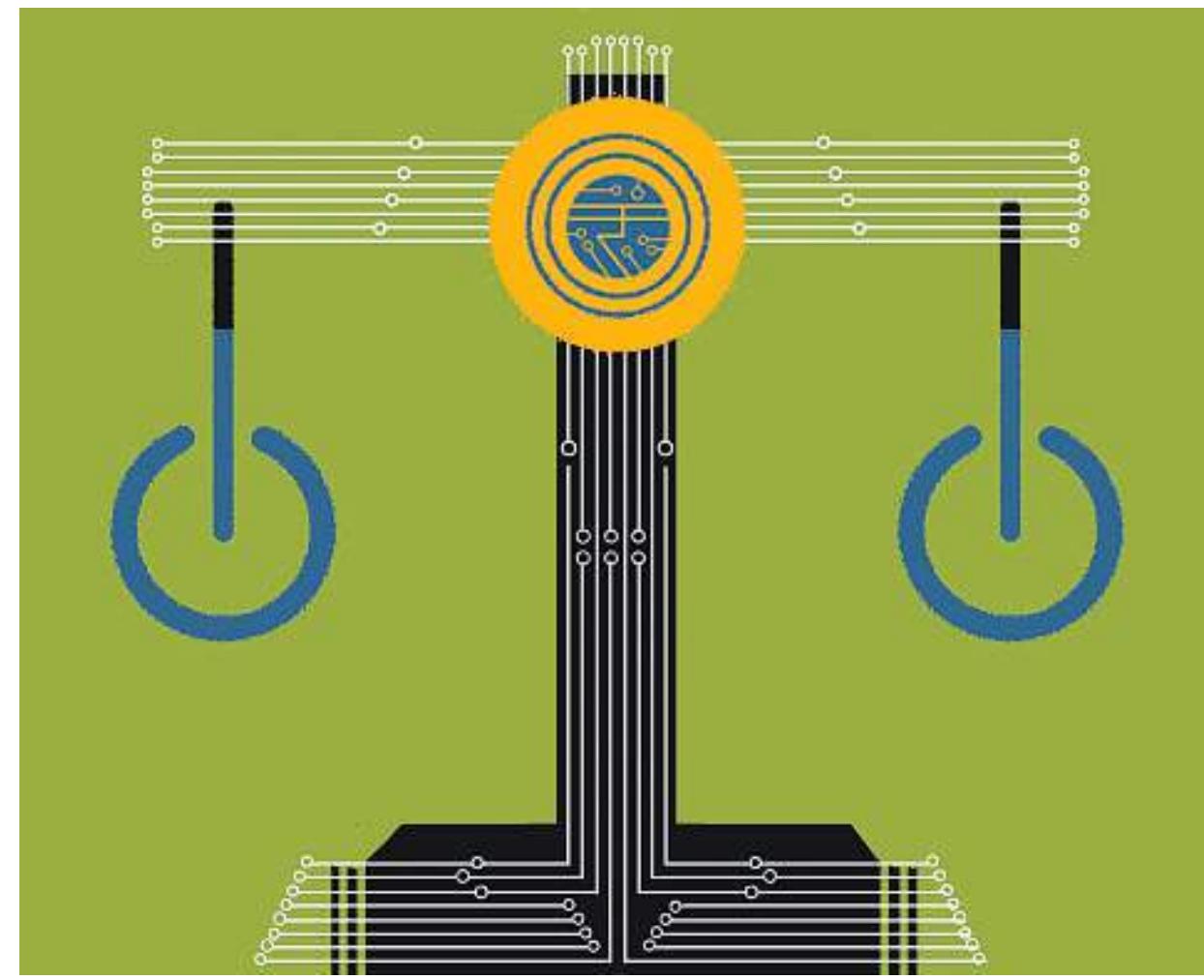
AS 2021 COMES to an end, I think back to the dramatic changes in technology that the law, lawmakers, courts and lawyers are being forced to confront. Technology has outpaced the law, and lawmakers are being challenged by how quickly "we the people" have embraced technological transformations. Constitutional and policy challenges abound, pertaining to what we read, what we view, how we transact and who knows how we do all of this.

Some of these challenges include: Ought digital media platforms be regulated as press or otherwise? Should Over The Top (OTT) streaming services self-censor or be censored? Who is accountable for procuring and deploying spyware like Pegasus? How do we regulate the bias within artificial intelligence that governs so much of our lives today? What must traditional anti-discrimination law do to keep up with the bias in algorithms?

In probably no other area are lawmakers required to appreciate science and technology than in cryptocurrency. With 10 crore users of cryptocurrency and crypto assets in India, this ever-expanding market is almost entirely unregulated. The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, that was widely expected to be tabled in Parliament in the Winter Session, has been held back.

As I wrote in my last column ('Who's afraid of crypto', IE, December 11), the initial foray by the state, in the form of the RBI, was to ban any banking transaction with a person or entity who held or dealt in cryptocurrencies – essentially a death knell for the medium itself. The Supreme Court struck back with a nuanced decision that found this ban disproportionate and hence unconstitutional. While our government still thinks about the way forward, let us look at the best practices or legislative models that have been adopted. Essentially, countries where cryptocurrencies and crypto-assets are legal have frameworks that mandate KYC (know your customer), AML (Anti-Money Laundering) mechanisms and demand adherence to CFT (Combating Financing of Terrorism) requirements.

The research firm Triple A tells us that Singapore, where roughly 10 per cent of the population is crypto-owners, has the Payments Services Act, 2020 that has streamlined both traditional and cryptocurrencies under one law. The law also provides a framework to obtain licences to operate crypto businesses. Singapore's philosophy on cryptocurrencies is best explained by Ravi Menon who heads the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). He explained that the best approach was not to ban, but to put in



C R Sasikumar

place "strong regulation". He further added that MAS believes that amongst the potential benefits of blockchain technology is that it enables applications where "it was important to know the history of ownership and transfer of value especially when there was no trusted central party or where reliance on a central party was too costly."

Similarly, Switzerland has also favoured the strong regulation model overseen by an already established financial regulator. The Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) that oversees the country's financial markets mandates that all virtual asset service providers, including cryptocurrency exchanges must be licensed. KYC, AML and CFT procedures must be strictly complied with. These are the checks on the use of cryptocurrencies and crypto assets that could facilitate criminal enterprise.

Let us now move away from small countries like Singapore and Switzerland to a large constitutional democracy like the US. The US does not consider cryptocurrency to be legal tender but defines cryptocurrency exchanges to be money transmitters. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) treats cryptocurrency as property for US federal taxation purposes. Exchanges must obtain requisite licences from the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network and implement the standard AML and CFT requirements that have become the norm in most jurisdictions that regulate cryptocurrencies.

One of the most important lessons to absorb from the US is the revenue potential of cryptocurrencies and crypto assets. On August 10, 2020, the US Senate passed a \$1

trillion bill aimed at improving infrastructure in the country. To assist in paying for this, the bill includes a provision of taxing cryptocurrency brokers. This will enable the collection of almost \$28 billion in tax revenue over a decade. This highlights the potential revenue any state including India can earn by regulating and taxing cryptocurrencies and those who deal in them.

As always with regulation and taxation comes responsibility. In September 2021, the US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued the first sanction against a crypto-exchange, designating the exchange SUEX as a "malicious cyber actor". According to the Treasury Department's press release, over 40 per cent of SUEX's known transactions are associated with illicit actors including criminal ransomware actors.

In India, the need of the times is thoughtful legislation and rigorous regulation of cryptocurrencies and crypto-assets that are already here and being used. If we do not do so or if we go back to considering a ban on these instruments, we will be left years behind this technological leap that has been embraced by other jurisdictions and our own people. It is time for the law to now keep up.

There is much to think about as the year comes to an end. In the meanwhile, Merry Christmas, seasons greetings and a very Happy New Year, dear readers. Have a safe and joyous year ahead and do remember to keep masking.

The writer is a senior advocate who practices law at the Supreme Court

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"There are many legitimate reasons to take issue with that country's conduct in the 'war on terror', but the resurgence of militancy should be a common concern that pushes Pakistan, Afghanistan and the US to formulate a joint strategy against it."

—DAWN

Torchbearer and guiding light

Vajpayee paved the way. MP has simplified laws and procedures to ensure speedy delivery of services



SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

does not face problems in receiving essential services. As a result, land record modernisation under Digital India has increased the use of new modes of services delivery, along with the digitisation of records. We have ensured the digital availability of land records, and the speeding up of online land-mortgage processes. As a result of these innovations, people have started receiving information and necessary records at record speed.

We have ensured that copies of certificates such as khasra, khatauni, and local resident certificates are delivered easily to people on their mobile phones from the CM Janseva portal. This portal has been developed to deliver important citizen services via a single point. So far, we have provided benefits to more than 66,000 people through this service, effectively reducing the cost of accessing these services, streamlining administrative processes, and strengthening accountability and responsiveness.

Keeping with the ideals of *anyodaya*, we have expanded the presence of public service centers from the tehsil to the gram panchayat level. In the coming year, each gram panchayat that has a population of more than 5,000, will be provided with doorstep services by establishing kiosks for public services.

During the tumultuous period of the Covid lockdown, we were able to effectively meet the challenges posed by the pandemic and provided relief to the people by launching 24-hour corona helplines at the district and state level, especially for the migrant labourers.

I believe that it is the duty of a government to create public welfare schemes and extend their benefits. Our government has successfully delivered on this promise along with ensuring good governance. We have focused on providing fast and effective services to citizens.

In keeping with our vision of providing essential citizen services in a speedy and hassle-free manner, we have set up appropriate structures to encourage *janbhagidari* (people's participation) in the development and monitoring systems by setting up Deendayal Committees at the village, janpad and district levels. In 2010, we came up with a unique Public Service Guarantee Act to guarantee the delivery of public services efficiently. We have brought over 500 public services within the ambit of this law, which are being delivered successfully. We launched the CM Helpline 181 to resolve public complaints pertaining to facilities provided by the state government. This has also become an easy way for the public to participate in the development of welfare policies by registering their demands and suggestions. So far, we have successfully resolved the issues of about two crore citizens.

Other than bringing amendments in laws, we have simplified rules and procedures to ensure that the common citizen

The writer is chief minister of Madhya Pradesh

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LAND FRAUD

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Find the plot' (IE, December 24). The way the kith and kin of those close to power have rushed in to buy land in Ayodhya gives credence to the belief that a lot of wrongdoing is underway in these land negotiations. Though a probe has been announced by the UP government, it is more a cover-up than anything else. It is for the Opposition to seize the initiative and keep the heat on.

ijai Pant, Hempur

HATE SPEECH

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Haridwar hate speeches target minorities, call for violence; DGP says illegal' (IE, December 24). A Dharam Sansad meet should be a platform for deliberation on religion, ethics, morality and spirituality. But the one held at Haridwar and Uttarakhand on December 17 to 19 saw heads of various religious organisations spewing communal venom. Will the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the Bharatiya Janata Party merely distance themselves from this event or condemn it and uphold the sanctity of the Constitution?

L R Murmu, Delhi

BOOSTER MATTERS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Immunity top-up' (IE, December 24). In spite of experts alerting the need for booster doses at an early stage, Indian authorities have adopted a wait and watch approach. Now the WHO has also advised booster doses for priority groups. Issues such as what is the ideal immunity top for the country's vaccine recipients and who should be prioritised for booster shots must be resolved at the earliest. This shouldn't detract from the task of completing the primary vaccination goals.

Around 40 per cent of the country's adult population has not completed the primary vaccination. That should be a cause of worry with the Omicron assuming threatening proportions.

Radha Kataria, Kanpur

SECURITY CONCERNS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The road to Naypyidaw' (IE, December 24). India has gained significant strategic space in Myanmar with ambitious investment proposals in a range of areas of mutual significance at different phases of implementation. A strong and friendly government in Naypyidaw is in India's interest. Unlike Western countries, India has to live alongside Myanmar, and so it doesn't have the luxury to endorse one particular political ideology. India's porous borders with Myanmar and its difficult terrain have been misused by anti-India elements. A cooperative regime across borders is necessary for India's security interest. India, however, should use its good offices to broker a deal between the military junta and the political parties to lay the path to democracy.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

Play-and-live

We need to replace 'do-or-die' as sport's clarion call

PULLELA GOPICHAND

I'VE HAD SECOND thoughts, and my second thoughts have done double-takes, wondering why the cliché "do or die" has been allowed to go on this long in sports vocabulary. In three words, the most affirming of joys of sport get killed, and are replaced by a sense of bitter desperation to succeed that puts indescribable pressure on athletes competing at any level. Do-or-die needs to be replaced by play-and-live as sport's clarion call.

So in my opinion the answer lies in the way we look at sports, and identify talent. As a matter of fact, the words talent identification should not be spoken of at an early age and scientific sporting analysis should not be done at a young age as is the norm.

Instead of this, imagine a scenario where children are exposed to several sports, grow a healthy relationship with physical activity, and then we use sports science at age of 17 or 18 to check if the kids have the potential to be world-beaters or not. This will ensure that only those who have a realistic chance to make it to the top at the world level continue chasing the difficult dream beyond 17/18, even accounting for late bloomers, whose potential will be clear by this age.

This could change for some sports, but by and large at 17 or 18, the decision has to be made whether you are good to be world-class or you need to look at other careers. I am sure with the right kind of scouting and sports science, we will be able to guide students/parents to make the right choice and to use the learnings of sports to propel and catapult them into a new and more successful career which would serve them their whole lifetime. Even top individuals who are in the system should be taken care of by giving them exit

The value of this diminishes when you hang on to a sport more than is necessary, where it turns detrimental, as it is not possible to start a new career if one overstates their welcome in sports. Feeling lost then is a common occurrence.

So in my opinion the answer lies in the way we look at sports, and identify talent. As a matter of fact, the words talent identification should not be spoken of at an early age and scientific sporting analysis should not be done at a young age as is the norm.

Instead of this, imagine a scenario where

routes at various levels — at 22, at 25 even.

At each of these stages, we should have programmes which will ensure that these sportspersons are taking the learnings of sport and using them in other fields which are beneficial to themselves and to society at large.

Although sports itself has huge opportunities whether it be coaches, commentators, sports administrators etc, I would encourage sportspersons to even look at different fields altogether, not necessarily only from the sporting ecosystem. The exit from sports at various levels needs to be supported and celebrated so that we have more people using sports as a jumping board for bigger and brighter careers. The shelf-life of a sportsperson is short, unpredictable and hugely beneficial, but unless used properly it can be detrimental to his or her own growth.

Strangely, and almost as a paradox, there are an increasing number of management gurus looking towards sports to offer and impart various business and life lessons, inculcating the importance of playing a sport. Several successful people candidly admit the role that sports have played in their journey. It is uncanny that film stars, businessmen, politicians and bureaucrats are talking about how sports has contributed to their well-being and helped forge a strong character.

Even at the elite level, it is likely that professional athletes will struggle to have a clean exit path. And that makes us wonder as to why sports, which is an excellent tool for learning and excellence, imparting valuable lessons to

those who are successful in life, can also lead to dire consequences for those who wish to make a career out of it.

The question arises that with such a high failure rate — in many sports, the Olympic quota for every weight category is one per country — what happens of the large numbers who miss out and do not get a chance even as funding is channelled into their training.

The sad reality is that we cannot know which of the 95 per cent or more will be a failure. But it is certain that 95 per cent or more are surely going to drop out. We focus on the 5 per cent or less. At the policy level, we almost tend to ignore the existence of the rest — who play but don't make it big — which is a huge percentage.

The exit from sports need not be a painful/failure-related experience where it is akin to a steep fall. Failure hurts, it hurts your morale, hurts your confidence, sometimes the body and if one does not exit properly, it starts to make one negative, and when you actually come out of the sport it's too late to learn or pursue new things.

If this was education, I am sure they would've changed this long ago. But we do not have a mechanism to make all of them champions under the present understanding of sport. It's time for sports to adopt: Play and live and leave behind do-or-die

The writer is a Sydney Games Olympian, All England champion and national head coach of badminton



New Delhi





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

How Webb Telescope will seek to unlock universe's secrets

AMITABH SINHA

PUNE, DECEMBER 24

THE EXCITEMENT in the scientific community is similar to what had accompanied news of detection of the gravitational waves in 2016, or the release of the first ever 'photograph' of a black hole in 2019. This time, no major scientific discovery is being announced. Rather, it is the potential for many such discoveries that is creating the buzz.

Around 6 pm India time on Saturday, NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), the largest and most powerful space telescope ever built, will be launched from French Guiana, on the northeast coast of South America, on the European Ariane 5 rocket. It is the same space facility and the same rocket that the Indian Space Research Organisation uses to launch its heavier satellites.

JWST is an engineering marvel comparable to the earth-based Event Horizon

Telescope that produced the photograph of the black hole, or the LIGO that detected the gravitational waves. It is widely expected to unveil many secrets of the universe, particularly those related to the formation of stars and galaxies in the early period – the first few hundred million years – after the Big Bang.

Time machine in space

Powerful space telescopes, like JWST or the Hubble Telescopes, are often called time-machines because of their ability to view very far-away objects. The light coming from those objects, stars or galaxies, which is captured by these telescopes, began its journey millions of years earlier. Essentially, what these telescopes see are images of these stars or galaxies as they were millions of years ago. The more distant the planet or star, the farther back in time are the telescopes able to see.

Images and data sent by Hubble, which has been in operation since 1990, orbiting the Earth at 570 km, form the basis for much of our un-



JWST being mounted on Ariane 5. NASA

derstanding of the early universe and the formation and destruction of planets, stars and galaxies. It has seen deeper into the universe than any other instrument and taken the most iconic photographs of stars and galaxies.

JWST is much more powerful and has the ability to look in the infrared spectrum, which will allow it to peer through much deeper into the universe, and see through obstructions such as gas clouds. As electromagnetic waves travel for long distances, they lose energy, resulting in an increase in their wavelength. An ultraviolet wave, for example, can slowly move into the visible light spectrum and the infrared spectrum, and further weaken to microwaves or radio waves, as it loses energy. Hubble was designed to look mainly into the ultraviolet and visible regions of the electromagnetic spectrum, JWST is primarily an infrared telescope, the first of its kind.

Engineering marvel

JWST will also be positioned much

deeper into the space, about a million miles from Earth, at a spot known as L2. It is one of the five points, known as Lagrange's points, in any revolving two-body system like Earth and Sun, where the gravitational forces of the two large bodies cancel each other out. Objects placed at these positions are relatively stable and require minimal external energy to keep themselves there. L2 is a position directly behind Earth in the line joining the Sun and the Earth. It would be shielded from the Sun by the Earth as it goes around the Sun, in sync with the Earth.

JWST has one large mirror, with a diameter of 21 feet (the height of a typical two-storey building), that will capture the infrared light coming in from the deep universe while facing away from the Sun. It will be shielded by a five-layer, tennis court-sized, kite-shaped sunscreen that is designed to block the heat from Sun and ensure the extremely cool temperatures that the instruments are built to operate at. Temperatures

on the sun-facing side can get as high as 110°C, while the other side would be maintained at -20° to -230°C. The extremely cold temperatures are needed to detect the extremely faint heat signals from the distant galaxies. The mirror as well as the sunscreen are so large they could not have fit into any rocket. They have been built as foldable items and would be unravelled in space.

The job

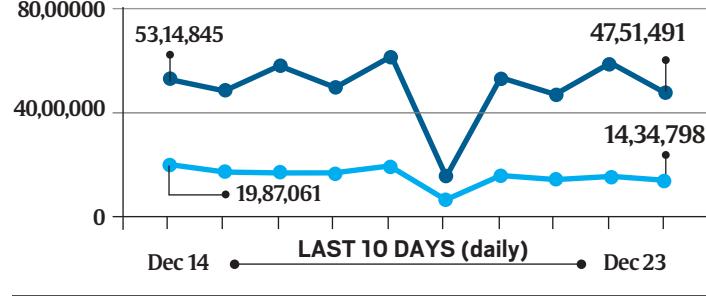
At its heart, the instruments on board JWST have very simple functions – an infrared camera will take images of astronomical objects, while spectrometers would break the incoming infrared light into different colours for analysis. But with these seemingly simple operations, scientists are hoping to unlock information that would significantly improve mankind's understanding of the universe and throw some light on at least a few of the never-ending mysteries of nature.

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

INDIA TOTAL DOSES **14,03,163,063**

(1st DOSE: 83,29,21,633; 2nd: 57,02,41,430)

■ First dose ■ Second dose



DOSES ON DEC 23, BY STATE

TOP 5

State	Doses
Uttar Pradesh	14,34,874
Maharashtra	5,56,337
Madhya Pradesh	5,42,227
Bihar	3,95,406
Telangana	3,70,161

BOTTOM 5*

State	Doses
Punjab	50,581
Chhattisgarh	1,11,229
Delhi	1,22,908
Kerala	1,51,973
Assam	1,56,644

*Excluding states smaller than Delhi by population (Census 2011)

ACTIVE CASES **775**
from Dec 22

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Dec 23 figures updated on Dec 24

Kidney transplant & vaccine response

KIDNEY TRANSPLANT recipients tend to mount impaired antibody responses against emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants after standard two-dose Covid-19 vaccination, according to new research published in the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*.

The study covered 173 kidney trans-

plant recipients and 166 healthy controls with different vaccination schedules between December 2020 and June 2021. Following vaccination, fewer kidney transplant recipients developed neutralising antibodies than healthy controls, the study found.

Source: American Society of Nephrology

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'Tokenisation' in online transactions postponed by 6 months: here's why

SUNNY VERMA & GEORGE MATHEW

NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has pushed back the implementation of card-on-file (CoF) tokenisation norms by six months to June 30, 2022 following representations from industry players and digital payment platforms.

While most leading banks including SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank are ready for the switchover, other stakeholders – mostly merchants – have argued that their backend systems were not in place, and that they anticipated disruptions in online transactions should the new rules kick in on the original January 1 date.

Under the new guidelines, online players are required to delete all credit card and debit card information stored on their platforms, and replace them with "token" in order to secure the card data of customers.

In addition, "industry stakeholders may devise alternate mechanism(s) to handle any use case (including recurring e-mandates, EMI option, etc.) or post-transaction activity (including chargeback handling, dispute resolution, reward/loyalty programme, etc.) that

currently involves/requires storage of CoF data by entities other than card issuers and card networks", the RBI has said.

What is tokenisation?

In September this year, the RBI asked merchants to stop storing customer card details on their servers with effect from January 1, 2022, and to instead adopt CoF tokenisation for domestic online purchases.

Tokenisation refers to replacement of actual credit and debit card details with an alternative code called 'token', which will be unique for a combination of card, token requester, and device. A requester is an entity that accepts a request from the customer for tokenisation of a card, and passes it on to the card network to issue a corresponding token. The device can be the customer's phone or computer.

A tokenised card transaction is considered more secure because actual card details are not shared with the merchant during the processing of the transaction.

Customers who do not opt for the tokenisation facility (offered by banks or payment gateways) will have to key in their name, 16-digit card number, expiry date and CVV each time they make a purchase online. If a cus-

tomer uses multiple cards, each of these cards will have to be tokenised.

What impact will the implementation of the RBI's guidelines have on the industry?

India has an estimated 100 crore debit and credit cards, which are used for about 1.5 crore transactions worth Rs 4,000 crore every day, according to data shared by participants at a CII seminar on the subject this week. The value of the Indian digital payments industry in 2020-21, as per RBI's annual report, was Rs 14,14,85,173 crore.

Non-compliance with the tokenisation norms could lead to a 20-40% revenue loss for online merchants and could force the smaller ones to shut shop, according to participants at the virtual session on 'Digital Payments and the India Media Consumer' organised by the CII's Media and Entertainment Committee.

How will ordinary consumers be impacted?

An estimated 5 million customers who have stored their card details for online transactions on various platforms could be impacted if the online players and merchants are not able to implement the

changes at their backend.

Equated monthly installments and subscription-based transactions that are paid through stored cards will also have to adhere to the new rules.

While 90 per cent of banks are ready for tokens on the Visa platform, Mastercard is yet to catch up. The RBI had banned Mastercard from issuing new cards on July 14 this year for not complying with data localisation requirements. While CoF conversion to a tokenised number is being done, the system is not geared up for processing the tokens as merchants are not ready.

Why did the stakeholders want an extension?

Digital payment firms and merchant bodies wrote to the central bank that they were not yet ready and the new mandate, if implemented immediately, could cause major disruptions and loss of revenue, especially for merchants.

"Disruptions of this nature erode trust in digital payments and reverses consumer habits back towards cash-based payments," Merchant Payments Alliance of India (MPAI) and the Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) said in a joint representation to the RBI.

Some banks too had sought an extension, according to sources in the industry.

The sources argued that all stakeholders – banks, card schemes, aggregators, gateways, processors, merchants, consumers and the regulator – are in effect working together to ensure successful implementation of the norms, but it needs time and preparation.

The stakeholders sought phased implementation of the new mandate, and at least six months' time for merchants to comply once banks, card networks, and payment aggregators/ payment gateways were ready.

How prepared are banks at the moment?

Banks have said they are seized of the matter, and that merchants might require more time for integration.

HDFC Bank, ICICI, and SBI Cards already have the card tokenisation system in place for online transactions, while some players have device-based tokenisation (SBI Cards with Samsung, for example) for contactless near field communication (NFC) payments. Other banks have initiated the process, and many are ready with the new system.

SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara said recently that compliance with the new mandate "involves integration of the systems between

banks and merchants", and "as far as banks are concerned, they have started working on it". "For our purposes, the operative part came in the month of September. As far as merchants are concerned, they might require some more time," Khara said.

Mastercard and Google on Tuesday announced the rollout of tokenisation, that will enable Google Pay users to transact using their Mastercard credit and debit cards. Several banks like SBI, HDFC, and HSBC are using Mastercard for transactions.

So what needs to happen so that the rollout is seamless and non-disruptive?

Three steps have to be completed for smooth implementation of tokenisation.

■ Token provisioning: the consumer's card number should be convertible into a token, which means the card networks have to be ready with the relevant infrastructure.

■ Token processing: Consumers should be able to complete their transaction successfully through the tokens.

■ Scale-up for multiple use cases: Consumers should be able to use the token for things like refunds, EMLs, recurring payments, offers, promotions, guest checkouts etc.

15

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021

ECONOMY

SENSEX: 57,124.31 ▼ 190.97 (-0.33%) NIFTY: 17,003.75 ▼ 68.85 (-0.40%) NIKKEI: 28,782.59 ▼ 15.78 HANG SENG: 23,223.76 ▲ 30.12 FTSE: 7,394.04 ▲ 20.70 DAX: 15,756.31 ▲ 162.84



GOLD

₹47,263



RUPEE

₹75.03



OIL

\$74.04



SILVER

₹61,054

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of December 23

International market data till 1900 IST

MARKETS WATCH ₹24,000-CR AUCTION

Yield fails to attract dealers, RBI bond auction devolves

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

WITH THE market demanding higher yields, the bond auction by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) devolved on primary dealers on Friday.

Of the Rs 24,000-crore bond auction, bonds worth Rs 7,267 crore devolved on underwriters — primary dealers. The maximum devolution of Rs 4,702.68 crore came in the 5.74 per cent government securities maturing in 2026.

The 10-year benchmark bond yield closed at 6.4617 per cent on Friday. The yield has gone up by nine basis points in the last one month. Some banks and NBFCs have started to increase their deposit rates, signalling that interest rates are set to rise in the coming year.

After bottoming out at 5.97 per cent in May 2021, India's 10-year bond yields have been steadily inching higher with yields averaging at 6.35 per cent in November 2021, the highest since the beginning of the pandemic. In recent weeks, led by the sharp upward move in VRR auction cut-offs, short-term money market rates have hardened considerably.

"While the RBI in the December policy review kept the rates unchanged, it will continue with its surplus liquidity calibration. The ongoing normalisation in monetary policy by key central banks across the world along with expectation of domestic inflation creeping up, is likely to provide upside to yields with 10-year bond rate expected to move towards 6.50 percent by March 2022 or even before that," said an analyst.

**Re gains 129p
in 7 sessions**

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

CONTINUING ITS winning streak for the seventh straight session, the rupee on Friday rose by 23 paise to a three-week high of 75.03 against the US dollar as risk appetite improved in view of broader weakness in the greenback.

Over the past seven sessions, the domestic currency has gained 129 paise against the greenback.

Meanwhile, the Sensex ended 190.97 points, or 0.33 per cent lower, after a three-session rising streak at 57,124.31. Similarly, the Nifty50 declined 68.85 points or 0.40 per cent to 17,003.75. **WITHPTI**

FOR ₹1,814 CRORE

Darwin Platform wins Lavasa city bid

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
PUNE, DECEMBER 24

MUMBAI-BASED DARWIN Platform's revised Rs 1,814-crore bid to take over the privately-built smart city project by Lavasa Corporation near Pune was on Friday approved by the committee of creditors (CoC). The bid beat the closest competing offer of Rs 1,223.07 crore.

Lavasa Hill City project was planned by Hindustan Construction Company (HCC) in 2000. It was admitted for insolvency by the National Company Law Tribunal in August 2018.

2000. It was admitted for insolvency by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in August

BACK STORY

Lavasa Hill City project was planned by Hindustan Construction Company (HCC) in 2000. It was admitted for insolvency by the National Company Law Tribunal in August 2018

2018, Lavasa had defaulted on bank loans after the environment ministry issued a stop-work order in 2010. The total admitted claims of the financial creditors was at Rs 5,561.1 crore.

Earlier, during the month, the CoC had started the process to finalise the resolution plans. "DPIL has proposed a payment plan and schedule that include upfront payment of Rs 100 crore, payment to homebuyers within 24 months of receipt of environmental nod, construction and delivery of properties, redemption of the secured

NCDs at the end of 108 months," a member of CoC said.

The CoC member added: "These will incur a cost of Rs 1,466.50 crore. After adding working capital, repair/refurbishment, and other construction, the company has offered a total of Rs 1,814 in its revised resolution plan."

Ajay Harinath Singh, group chairman, Darwin Platform Group of Companies, said: "We have an ambitious and long-term plan for Lavasa Smart City." The company has resources to meet the expectations of the CoC, he added. **FE**

Apple's practice of requiring app developers to use its in-app payment system and pay com-

Apple's App Store broke competition laws: Dutch watchdog

REUTERS
SAN FRANCISCO, DEC 24

THE NETHERLANDS' top competition regulator on Friday said Apple broke the country's competition laws and ordered changes to the iPhone maker's App Store payment policies.

Apple's practice of requiring app developers to use its in-app payment system and pay com-

missions of 15-30 percent on digital goods purchases has come under scrutiny around the world. "We disagree with the order issued by the ACM and have filed an appeal," Apple said.

A Moscow court said it was fining Google 7.2 billion roubles (\$98 million) for what it said was a repeated failure to delete content deemed illegal. It fined Meta 2 billion roubles (\$27.15 million) on similar grounds.

Good feedback for draft e-comm rules: Goyal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE GOVERNMENT has received "very good feedback" on the draft e-commerce rules and after studying the same, the rules are being finalised, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal said Friday.

In a virtual address on the occasion of National Consumer Day, he said, "Ten rules and six regulations have been notified till now under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. One or two more are under process."

"A draft of e-commerce rules was released, which received very good feedback. After studying that, the e-commerce rules are being finalised as what should be the e-commerce rules so that there is a little control over people doing trade through e-commerce."

Focus on nurturing entrepreneurship'

New Delhi: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, addressing the third meeting of the National Startup Advisory Council, on Friday called for greater focus on nurturing entrepreneurship in tier 1 and 2 cities while suggesting successful startups to engage with the youth to inculcate entrepreneurial spirit. **PTI**

merce, and facilitating people," Goyal said. He said the government will also finalise a proposal to ensure decriminalisation of the Legal Metrology Act, adding that the Department of Consumer Affairs has transitioned from "consumer protection" to "consumer empowerment and prosperity".

Tesla pulls games on moving car screens

Bengaluru: Tesla will stop allowing video games to be played on vehicle screens while its cars are moving, the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said on Thursday.

The move follows an announcement by the NHTSA on Wednesday that it had opened a formal safety investigation on 580,000 Tesla vehicles sold since 2017. This functionality, "Passenger Play," may distract the driver and increase the risk of a crash, the NHTSA has said. **REUTERS**

Tesla's Model 3 vehicle. **Reuters file**

DEMOCRATIC APPROACH TO RATE SETTING: RBI DEPUTY GUV

Financial inclusion improves policy transmission: Patra

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

EXPLAINED

Interest rate sensitivity of money balances

IN VIEW OF compositional changes due to interest-bearing deposits replacing currency in people's portfolios, the interest rate sensitivity of money balances also goes up. The RBI moved away from regulating interest rates in the 1990s. This was followed by guideline-based loan pricing norms — prime lending rates; base rates; marginal cost of funds-based lending rates.

tivity of money balances also goes up. "Second, financial inclusion is expected to expand the access to bank credit, which is interest sensitive and affected by changes in the policy rate," he said.

"All in all, financial inclusion enhances the potency of interest-rate based monetary policy by causing an increasing number of people to become responsive to interest rate cycles," Patra said. In turn, this prompts appropriate smoothing behaviour. There is also some evidence to suggest that

as interest rate sensitivity of the population increases, central banks need to move interest rates by less to achieve their objectives, he said.

"In India, the growing involvement of people in the monetary policy process has led to more democratic approaches to interest rate setting," he said. The RBI moved away from regulating interest rates during the 1990s. This was followed by guideline-based loan pricing norms — prime lending rates; base rates; marginal cost of funds-based lending rates.



'Transmission of policy rate changes to both deposit and lending rates has improved'
MICHAEL PATRA
DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

SEEKS ROLLBACK OF PROPOSED HIKE

GST hike on textiles to cause closure of 1 lakh units: Mitra

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24Amit Mitra, Principal Chief Advisor to West Bengal Chief Minister, called for a GST Council meet on the issue. **File**

credit (ITC) which in most cases has to be refunded. Inverted duty structure has implied a stream of revenue outflow for the government, prompting the government to relook the duty structure.

"My question is if a cost-benefit analysis has been done. Cost is massive closure of units, particularly small and medium units, (which will give rise to) unemployment. The units (which migrated to) the formal economy by registering for GST (may be forced to) become informal again," Mitra said in a virtual press meet.

He said these small and medium textile units that operate with very thin profit margins won't have working capital to move from 5 per cent to 12 per cent GST rate. "If GST is increased, price increases will be 6-7 per cent, demand would fall by at least 3 per cent. Also, there will be inflationary pressure. (All this for) expected Rs 7,000 crore additional GST revenue, which, in my view, is questionable." **WITH INPUTS FROM MENS KOLKATA**

Oct: Enrolment to ESIC scheme at 12.19 lakh

New Delhi: New enrolment under the social security scheme run by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) fell to a four-month low in October.

As per latest official data released Friday, the number of 'newly registered employees' under ESIC in October fell to 12,19,525 from 13,57,348 in September. It was 13,47,727 in August and 13,40,944 in July.

However, the October number is still higher than the number of new members joined with the scheme in April and May, when the second wave of the pandemic was wreaking havoc on the country. In April, 10.78 lakh

(A Government of India Undertaking)
CIN No. L64202DL2006G0107905EOI No: RailTel/Tender/EOI/ER/HQ/2021-22/1342, Dt. 24.12.2021
RailTel Corporation of India Limited, Eastern Region, Kolkata, invites Expression of Interest for Office Premises on lease basis at Kolkata. Expression of Interest is available on our website : www.railtelindia.com. All future Addendum/corrigendum will be uploaded on RailTel website only.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY - e-Tender Notice
Tender No.: (1.21)20/2021-22/SE/PHC/CHN 1, JAL JEEVAN MISSION-MULTI VILLAGE SCHEME-PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSE HOLD TAP CONNECTION TO RURAL HOUSEHOLD INCLUDING EXTENSION OF PIPE LINE IN MOOKKANNOOR PANCHAYATH - PHASE II, (2), AMRUT-SAAP-2017-18 SUPPLYING, LAYING, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 1200MM MS CLEAR WATER MAIN FROM KALARASAN JUNCTION TO NEW KALOOR SUMP. EMD : Rs. 2,00,00/- each. Tender fee : Rs. 11,200/- each. Last Date for submitting Tender : 21-12-2022 03:00 pm. Phone : 0484-2360645. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in. KWA-JB/GL-6-778-2021-22 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kochi

GOA SHIPYARD LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
CIN No. U63032GA1967G0100077
(ISO 9001:2015, 14001:2015, 45001:2016 Certified Company)
Vaddeem, Vasco-Da-Gama, Goa : 403802, India

Reference: GSL/OS/1258-59/E/01
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FROM FIRMS FOR ANNEALING OF COPPER PIPES FOR FRIGATE
P1135.6 PROJECTS

GSL hereby invites Expression of Interest from reputed firms for Annealing of Copper Pipes for Frigate P1135.6 projects.

Date for issue of EOI – 20th Dec 2021. Last Date of Submission of Response: 30 days after date of issue (19th Jan 2022) 17.00 hrs IST

The EOI Pre qualification documents can be downloaded from our website: www.goashipyard.in/tender/expression-of-interest/. For information, contact Senior Manager (OS), Ph.+91-832-2517295 Email: mandarmahambr@goashipyard.com

Covid-19, Do Not Panic, Be Aware

Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
'Khani' Bhavan, 10-31/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028
CIN-L13101G1958G01001674
CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT

Tender Enquiry No: HO (Contracts)/NISPC/L&D- SH/2021/130 Dated: 25.12.2021

MSTC Event No: NMDC/HO/77/21-22/ET/371

NMDC Limited, a 'NAVATNA' Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids from prospective domestic bidders for Construction Calcined Lime and Dolomite Shred (Package No. 08A2) for 3.0 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant at Nagarnar near Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh State, from experienced, reputed and competent Tenderers. MECON Limited is the consultant for this package.

The detailed Bid and Document can be viewed and/or downloaded from NMDC website <http://www.nmdc.co.in>, Central Public Procurement portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.in/publish/app> and MSTC portal <http://www.mstccommerce.co.in> from 25.12.2021 to 15.01.2022.

The bidders are required to submit their bids through online mode and details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT.

The bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website / CPP Portal/MSTC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted:

1. Chief General Manager (Contracts), NMDC Limited Hyderabad, Fax no. +91-40-23534746, Tel No. +91-40-23532800, email: stectracts@nmdc.co.in
2. Sr. General Manager (NMDC Project), MECON Limited, Ranchi, Fax No. +91-651-2482214, Tel.No.+91-651-2483508, email: projnmdc@meconlimited.co.in

Chief General Manager (Contracts)

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021

TOP OF THE
WORLD

George Floyd died in 2020 under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer. Reuters

UNITED STATES
Texas board takes back pardon call for George Floyd

Austin: A Texas board that had unanimously supported a posthumous pardon for George Floyd over a 2004 drug arrest in Houston backpedaled in an announcement on Thursday, saying "procedural errors" were found in their recommendation months after leaving the decision to Republican Gov Greg Abbott. The unusual reversal was announced by Abbott's office two days before Christmas. The withdrawn endorsement was met with outrage from a public defender who submitted the pardon application for Floyd, who spent much of his life in Houston before his death in 2020 under the knee of a white Minneapolis policeman. AP

PAKISTAN
2 Pak soldiers killed in terror attack: Official

Karachi: Two Pakistani soldiers were killed when terrorists attacked a check post in the country's restive Balochistan province on Friday, according to an official statement. The incident happened in Kech district of the province when the terrorists attacked the checkpost and killed the two soldiers, the Inter-Services Public Relations, the military's media affairs wing, said. PTI

LIBYA
Call for protest against poll cancellation

Cairo: Several Libyan parliamentary candidates called for nationwide protests over the cancellation of Friday's long-awaited presidential election, a blow to hopes of ending a decade of chaos in the oil-rich North African country. While it was unclear to what extent Libyans would demonstrate publicly, the call underlines risks to a fragile stability in the oil-rich nation that's a haven for militias and still riven by an east-west divide. Libya's election commission has proposed January 24 as a new date for the presidential poll. But no dates have been officially set or agreed upon by the country's rival factions. AP

THE WORLD



MEANWHILE,
'SEX AND THE CITY' ACTOR ACCUSED OF GROPING
A New York musician on Thursday accused 'Sex and the City' actor Chris Noth of groping her nearly 20 years ago and threatening to ruin her career if she told anyone about their encounter. Singer-songwriter Lisa Gentle made the accusation following a December 16 Hollywood Reporter story that said two women, whose real names they did not disclose, had accused Noth of sexual assault in 2004 and 2015.

Omicron cases soar, 3,500 flights get cancelled globally

As staff fight virus, Delta, United airlines face huge shortage

THE NEW YORK TIMES
DECEMBER 24

THOUSANDS OF would-be travellers received last-minute cancellations of their Christmas flights on Friday and Saturday because of the recent spike of Omicron cases, including among airline workers.

The number of cancellations globally for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day added up to more than 3,500, the FlightAware website showed. Although the cancellations represented a relatively small percentage of the roughly 80,000 arrivals on any given day, they were a jarring disruption in a holiday season shadowed by the highly transmissible Omicron variant, which now accounts for more than 70 per cent of new coronavirus cases in the US.

United Airlines canceled 176 flights of the 4,000 domestic and international flights scheduled at dozens of airports on Friday, mostly the result of crew members calling in sick, said Joshua Freed, a spokesman for the Chicago-based carrier. At least 44 more flights on Saturday have already been canceled, he added.

A spokeswoman for Delta Air Lines said it had canceled 158 of the 3,100 flights scheduled for Friday. The Atlanta-based airline was exhausting "all options and resources," including rerouting and substituting planes and crews to cover scheduled flights.

The cancellations were caused by a combination of issues, including weather and Omicron-related issues, and Delta expected at least 150 more cancellations over the weekend, spokeswoman Kate Modolo said. Alaska Airlines had 17 cancellations on Thursday after a growing number of crew members reported exposure to the virus, but the carrier only needed to scrap nine flights on Friday, according to a spokesperson.

'Unabomber' Ted Kaczynski moved to jail med facility

Denver: The man known as the "Unabomber" has been transferred to a federal prison medical facility in North Carolina after spending the past two decades in a federal Supermax prison in Colorado for a series of bombings targeting scientists. Theodore "Ted"

Kaczynski, 79, was moved to the US Bureau of Prison's FMC Butner medical centre in eastern North Carolina on December 14, an official said. He declined to disclose any details of his medical condition or the reason for transfer.

Kaczynski is serving life without the possibility of parole following his 1996 arrest at the primitive cabin where he was living in western Montana. He pleaded guilty to setting 16 explosions that killed three people and injured 23 others in various parts of the country between 1978 and 1995. AP



A man dressed as Santa Claus welcomes people to the Covid vaccination centre before Christmas in Brussels on Friday. Reuters

US waives in-person interviews for H-1B, other visas for 2022: State Dept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 24

Amid growing concerns of surging Covid-19 cases, the US has announced that it will waive the in-person interview requirement for a range of visa applicants during the entire 2022, including for H-1B workers and students, many of whom are from India.

The H-1B is a non-immigrant visa that allows the US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

The Department of State on Thursday announced that consular officers are now temporarily authorised to waive in-person interviews for certain individual petition-based nonimmigrant work visas and their qualifying derivatives in the following categories: Persons in Specialty Occupations (H-1B visas), Trainee or Special Education Visitors (H-3 visas), Intracompany Transferees (L-1 visas), Individuals with Extraordinary Ability or Achievement (O visas), Athletes, Artists, and Entertainers (P visas), and Participants in International Cultural Exchange Programmes (Q visas).

Additionally, the Secretary of State has extended consular officers' current ability to waive the in-person interview, through December 31, 2022, for the following other categories of non-immigrant visas: Temporary Agricultural and Non-agricultural Workers (H-2 visas), Students (F and M visas), and Student Exchange Visitors (Academic J visas), the press release said.

Amid Taiwan concerns, Japan OKs record \$47 billion defence budget

MARI YAMAGUCHI
TOKYO, DECEMBER 24

JAPAN'S CABINET approved a record 5.4 trillion yen (\$47 billion) defence budget for fiscal 2022 on Friday that includes funding for research and development of a new fighter jet and other "game-changing" weapons as Japan bolsters its defense capabilities in response to China's growing military might and its tensions with Taiwan.

The 1.1% budget increase for the year beginning in April is the 10th consecutive defence spending increase and is in line with Japan's



Japan PM Fumio Kishida, left, rides on a Japan Ground Self-Defence Force Type 10 tank in Tokyo. AP (File)

CORONER IDENTIFIES 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL KILLED BY POLICE IN LA SHOOTING

Los Angeles: The coroner's office has identified the 14-year-old girl who was fatally shot by Los Angeles police on Thursday when officers fired on an assault suspect and a bullet went through the wall and struck the girl as she was in a clothing store dressing room.

Police also fatally shot the

Japan health panel approves Merck's Covid-19 pill

Tokyo: A Japanese health ministry panel on Friday recommended approval of the Covid-19 antiviral pill developed by Merck & Co Inc (MRK.N), part of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's plan to roll out new treatments by year-end as concerns rise about the Omicron.

The panel's decision sets the stage for shipments of 200,000 doses across the country from this weekend, based on preparations announced earlier by Kishida.

"I'm convinced the distribution of this drug is a major step forward for our nation's Covid-19 handling," health minister Shigeo Goto told reporters after the decision, adding that some medical institutions and pharmacies will start receiving the pill as soon as next Monday.

Japan is betting on oral treatments to keep infections and deaths at bay should a feared sixth pandemic wave emerge. REUTERS

Japan's security issues in the region. The budget, which still needs to be approved by parliament, includes a record 291 billion yen (\$2.55 billion) for defence research and development, up 38% from the current year. Of that, 100 billion yen (\$870 million) is for development of the F-X fighter jet to replace Japan's aging fleet of F-2 aircraft around 2035.

Japan and Britain recently announced joint development of a future demonstration fighter jet engine and agreed to explore further combat air technologies. The project includes Mitsubishi and IHI in Japan and Rolls-Royce and BAE Systems in the UK. AP

pledge to the United States to strengthen its own defence capabilities to tackle increasingly challenging security issues in the region.

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Officers answered a report of an assault and others of shots being fired, police said.

Investigators have not found a gun at the scene. AP

Witnesses told KCBS-TV that a man began acting erratically,

Packed ferry in Bangladesh catches fire, leaves 40 dead

ANISUR RAHMAN
DHAKA, DECEMBER 24

A CROWDED three-storey ferry carrying around 800 passengers caught fire on the Sugandha River in southern Bangladesh early Friday, killing at least 40 people and injuring over 150 others, officials said.

The fire broke out at 3 am on Friday in the engine room of the Barguna-bound MV Abhijan-10 launch that started a journey from Dhaka, police and fire service officials said, adding that scores of other passengers were missing.

Officials familiar with the rescue efforts said 40 people were killed, including nine being drowned, but some private television channels, quoting officials, reported 41 deaths in southern Jhalakathi district, 250 kilometres from the capital Dhaka.

Officials said they were carrying out the autopsy of the 30 people at Jhalakathi's main government hospital ahead of handing them over to relatives.

"We have assigned an official team to find out the casualty figure," junior minister for shipping Khaled Mahmud Chowdhury told reporters.

The record suggests 310 listed passengers were travelling in the ferry, but we assume the actual number was much higher," junior minister for shipping Khaled Mahmud Chowdhury told reporters.

He said three separate investigations have been launched to find out the background and details of the pre-dawn accident.

Doctors at the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in the neighbouring Barishal district said they were currently treating 70 people, while fire service



The burnt three-storey passenger ferry, which was anchored on the bank of Sugandha River, was carrying around 800 passengers. As many as 150 of them were left injured. PTI

SURVIVOR COUPLE RECOUNT HORROR TALE

Dhaka: A man and his wife jumped into the swirling waters of the Sugandha river in a last-ditch attempt to save themselves from the fire that had engulfed the three-storey ferry they were travelling in early on Friday, only to survive under miraculous circumstances, though the wife broke her leg in the process, according to a media report.

Hossain Mohammad Al-Mujahid and his wife Ummul Wara were travelling in the VIP cabin. "After smoke covered the cabin, we rushed out of the cabin and moved to the front of the launch. More than 100 people gathered there. The ferry was in the middle of the river. Many passengers were seen jumping into the river," Hossain said. Passengers who were sleeping and stayed inside the cabins suffered more, he said, adding the locals took them to the Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital. PTI

officials said some 50 more were being treated at other facilities.

Health officials in Dhaka said a six-member expert doctors' team were sent to Barishal to join their colleagues in treating patients with burn wounds.

The Coastguard, fire service

and police launched a search campaign covering rivers in three downstream districts as the accident took place at the confluence of three rivers as a huge number of people crowded on the river banks and hospitals to find their relatives. PTI

South Korea's Moon pardons Park amid presidential race

EXPLAINED E Pardon to promote national unity

HYONHEESHIN & JOSH SMITH
SEOUL, DECEMBER 24

SOUTH KOREA'S President Moon Jae-in granted a pardon to former President Park Geun-hye, who was in prison after being convicted of corruption, the justice ministry said on Friday, amid a tight presidential race.

Park, 69, became South Korea's first democratically elected leader to be thrown out of office when the Constitutional Court upheld a parliament vote in 2017 to impeach her over a scandal that also landed the heads of two conglomerates, including Samsung, in jail.

She was brought down after being found guilty of colluding with a friend to receive tens of billions of won from major conglomerates mostly to fund her friend's family and nonprofit foundations.

Park will be sentenced on February 18. She faces a maximum sentence of 15 years on the first-degree manslaughter conviction. Under state law, defendants cannot be sentenced for multiple charges pertaining to the same act.

The shooting sparked multiple nights of intense demonstrations in Brooklyn Center. REUTERS

She was brought down after being found guilty of colluding with a friend to receive tens of billions of won from major conglomerates mostly to fund her friend's family and nonprofit foundations.

In January, South Korea's top court upheld a 20-year prison sentence for Park on the graft charges that finalised her downfall.

Park's lawyer Yoo Yeong-ha said Park had offered an apology for causing concern to the public and

thanked Moon for making a difficult decision.

Moon's office said pardoning Park was intended to "overcome unfortunate past history." "I hope this would provide a chance to go beyond differences in thoughts and pros and cons, and open a new era of integration," his spokeswoman quoted him as saying.

Moon had previously pledged not to pardon those who were convicted of corruption. But many supporters and politicians of the conservative main opposition People Power party have called for Park's pardon ahead of the March presidential election. REUTERS

A BURMESE-IRISH FAMILY SAID ALL THE RIGHT THINGS, EVEN AS IT HELPED MYANMAR'S RULERS AVOID SANCTIONS SCRUTINY IN BUYING PLANES Worldly, charming, and quietly equipping a brutal military in Myanmar

HANNAH BEECH
DECEMBER 24

THREE YEARS ago, the Kyaw Thaungs family partied at the Pegu Club. The venerable Burmese-Irish clan had restored the teak-lined establishment to its 19th-century glory, evoking the days when gin-sipping colonialists ruled. The Pegu Club project befit the family's East-meets-West positioning and the optimism of a country newly emerging with the world.

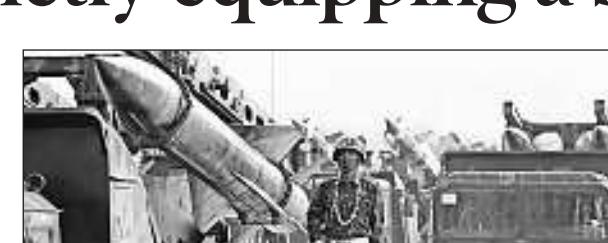
Amid periodic power cuts in the rest of Yangon, the Kyaw Thaungs danced and sipped champagne among the new

elite, including young entrepreneurs returned from exile, bejeweled daughters of generals, and even former political prisoners suddenly responsible for attracting foreign investment to the latest frontier market.

As Myanmar's military dictators ended decades of isolationism, the Kyaw Thaungs seemed to embody the perfect mix: an august family with a long history of charitable giving that was committed to the kind of business reforms needed to coax a corrupt, closed country into the global economy. But the main source of the family fortune, purported vaguely to be from property and import-export compa-

nies, was concealed behind a facade.

For all their efforts to differentiate themselves from the drug lords and business cronies who dominated Myanmar's economy, the Kyaw Thaungs were quietly equipping one of the world's most brutal militaries. Their partnership with the Tatmadaw, as the Myanmar military is known, deepened even as its generals committed ethnic cleansing against Rohingya Muslims. And it continued into this year, when the army staged a coup and seized full power of the country, killing more than 1,300 civilians so far, in the estimate of a monitoring group.



Weapons on display at the Armed Forces Day parade in March. AP (File)

U Jonathan Kyaw Thaung, the scion, was the public face of the family. As he chased Tatmadaw contracts, he hobnobbed with the family of Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the military chief

who orchestrated the coup. He met with the Myanmar air force commander at the 2015 Paris Air Show, where the military leader checked out Pakistani fighter jets that ended up in the Tatmadaw's arsenal. A Kyaw Thaung family business bid to help supply the military with spare parts for Russian attack helicopters that have been used to strafe civilian populations resisted the coup.

An investigation of the Kyaw Thaungs family by *The New York Times* — based on interviews with dozens of former company employees, business associates, military insiders, family members, as well as thousands of corporate filings, contracts, tenders and other financial documents — exposes a vast web of military procurement that was strategically hidden from the public. The family, best known for its charitable foundation, was profiting from its close ties to the Tatmadaw and helping the military avoid scrutiny by Western governments. At cocktail parties and business forums, the family talked up international business standards, like rigorous governance, corporate social responsibility and open tenders. Behind closed doors, the Kyaw Thaungs relied on the kind of insider deal-making with the Tatmadaw that has enriched an

entire class of cronies in one of Asia's poorest and most repressive nations.

Ultimately, the story of the Kyaw Thaungs parallels that of Myanmar: a country of vast potential foiled by a ruthless military and the families willing to compromise themselves in pursuit of its riches.

The Kyaw Thaungs capitalised on their family ties to secure lucrative contracts supplying the military with European aircraft and a French coastal surveillance system. They bid for a deal to provide Italian guns to the navy, according to a former company employee and an email dis-

New Delhi

FROM PAGE ONE

Gujarat students

engineering student at Institute of Infrastructure Technology Research and Management, Anmol Vaghisia (18), a student of computer applications at Lokmanya Group of Colleges, and Anuj Shah (19), a BBA student at New IJ Group of College – all are based in Ahmedabad.

The youth wing members include Mahendrasinh Zala (19), Haresh Solanki (19) and Mahir Shaikh (19).

Yatin's father Arvind Jiyani said: "We heard the news of my son's arrest on TV. He had gone along with other party workers to the protest site. We were aware of his political affiliation." Anmol's parents live in Junagadh and could not be reached while Anuj's parents declined comment.

Among those arrested is CYSS state president Dharmit Mathukiya (21), Abhishek Solanki (22), vice president of the CYSS state unit, said: "Why did the police take such stringent action against 18-year-olds, booking them under 22 sections? We have been trying to make a bet-

ter future for ourselves. We don't wish to become MLAs or MPs, all we want is that such leaks shouldn't happen and our future is not destroyed."

According to the FIR, the charges against the protesters include those under IPC sections 120b (criminal conspiracy), 354a (sexual harassment) 323 (causing hurt) and 353 (assault on public servant). Defence lawyers said that taken together, these charges could lead to jail terms of up to seven years.

"Today, we have secured bail for the 28 women on the condition that their passports will be seized and they cannot enter the territory within the Infocity police station area in Gandhinagar where the FIR is lodged. The bail hearing of the remaining 65 male accused will be heard Monday," said Pranav Thakkar, AAP's legal counsel.

On Monday, the students were among about 500 supporters of AAP who staged a protest outside the Shree Kamalam office of the BJP in Gandhinagar. They demanded the removal of Asit Vora, BJP leader and chairman of

Gujarat Subordinate Service Selection Board (GSSSB), which conducted the exam to recruit head clerks.

The FIR states: "...several workers of AAP, including Gopal Italia, Isudan Gadhwani, Mahesh Savani and others, holding CYSS banners in their hands, tried to break open the main gate of Kamalam office. Gadhwani was in a drunken state, his breath was foul. Despite several warnings by the police and BJP workers, the AAP workers forcibly entered the building premises by breaking the gates and then blocked the way for BJP workers and assaulted them with wooden sticks."

They were also accused of "assaulting police personnel and damaging their vehicles".

Subsequently, based on the complaint of a woman BJP worker, the Gandhinagar Police lodged an FIR against AAP state president Gopal Italia, women's wing president Gauri Desai, youth wing president Nikhil Savani, senior leaders Isudan Gadhwani and Hasmukh Patel, and 500 unknown persons.

On Monday night, 93 AAP members were arrested and sent to judicial custody in the Sabarmati jail.

Hil Gangani, a CYSS member

and second-year political science student at LD Arts College, said he is a "close friend" of some of the students held in the protest. "Our morale drops whenever such paper leaks happen. This time, Gopal bhai (Italia) called us and said this should be the last time such a leak happens in a government exam," he said.

Teni blackmail
and Amit Kumar, who runs the call centre.

Over the last week, with the help of technical surveillance, the police found that the callers were using VoIP gateways from the US and Romania. "A Delhi Police team approached the embassies concerned in New Delhi for help.

Soon, we found that some of the calls were made from Amit Kumar's office in Noida. A raid was conducted and all the accused were arrested," the officer said.

During questioning, Amit Kumar allegedly revealed that his friend Kabir, who works as insurance agent, approached him with the idea of extorting money from the MoS. "Kabir asked his assistants, Amit Majhi and Nishant, to make the calls to Mishra's office. Mishra did not carry a phone so they started calling his PA. Kabir promised them Rs 10,000 each," police sources said.

During investigation, police found that Ashwini, who is a technical expert, was allegedly a part of the conspiracy, too. "Kabir got the idea after watching the news on TV about the incident in Lakhimpur Kheri. Police have recovered a hard disc from the accused," the officer said.

On Friday, the accused were produced before a Delhi court and sent to police custody for three days. They face multiple charges, including extortion and criminal intimidation, based on the FIR filed at the North Avenue Police Station in Central Delhi.

Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra and 12 others are in jail for the October 3 incident in Lakhimpur Kheri where four farmers were killed after they were hit by a convoy of three cars, including one owned by the Union MoS. The family of a journalist present at the spot has said that he, too, died in the incident.

Ashish Mishra's bail plea is slated to be heard by the Allahabad High Court next month.

Facing repeated calls for his resignation, including by all Opposition parties in Parliament, the Union MoS has been keeping a low profile since the October incident, skipping several public events and official functions.

Chhattisgarh

January 2019 and November 2021, 195 people were killed by elephants in the state, and 62,134 cases reported of property losses.

In Pasan, with the 43 tuskers roaming around and trampling over crops, tempers are running high. "We want to push the elephants out of here, we don't want them around. Even the forest officials are trying to push the elephants back into the forests," says Amit (28), a villager from the area.

Vishnu (37) says: "Elephants are not generally violent, but even just passing, they cause a lot of destruction. One elephant is enough to ruin a crop. When an entire herd passes through a farm land, almost nothing is left."

In the Etamangar range, less than 60 km away from Pasan, a distance elephants can easily cover in a day, a herd of 11 elephants has been around for a while. One of the village elders (referred to as a siyan) says the herd includes some calves as well as pregnant elephants. "This is why such a big herd is on the move. Elephants are very protective of their newborns," he says.

Even till 15 years ago, he adds, "The elephants would never venture so close to our village, but stay inside the forests. Slowly they started coming looking for food, and eventually, our encounters increased."

The Pasan herd includes Tridev, a robust male tusker carefully tracked by field agents across Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. "Elephants send the new adult males of a herd to roam around freely. Tridev stayed in these regions for more than two months, before leaving and returning with his herd from a different range," Mansoor Khan, an elephant expert, said.

Villagers use firecrackers or

loud sounds to scare the elephants away, often resorting to worse. Of the 43 elephants which have died in the state since 2019, 10 were electrocuted, others died mysteriously.

In a report this year, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) called the situation a "paradox", pointing out that Chhattisgarh has less than 1% of India's wild elephant population, but accounts for more than 15% of the deaths attributed to elephant attacks.

What makes Chhattisgarh more prone to human-elephant conflict is its location. In its split from Madhya Pradesh in 2000, Chhattisgarh got most of the state's share of elephants and found itself in the path of elephant movement from neighbouring Jharkhand and Odisha. Now there are rising instances of elephants entering human habitations in Korba and Koriya as well as districts like Dhamtari, where this is being seen for the first time. In Kanker, families in forested rural areas live inside fully barricaded settlements, to keep out elephants.

Director General Intelligence Umesh Mishra said in a statement on Friday that the ISI regularly try to get information about the Army and that of military importance by getting in touch with Indian nationals living in border areas. The Pakistani operatives do this by creating fake Facebook profiles and making calls to the Indian nationals, said the police.

Mishra added that in 2021, the state special branch registered 7 cases under the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

The police said that in the first phase of the operation, around 50 officials identified such people living in the border areas of Suratgarh, Lalgarh and Sadhuwal who are somehow in touch with the Pakistani operatives or could potentially make contact.

Mishra said that in the second phase, the suspects were kept under surveillance through technical and other methods and in the last phase, 25 such suspects were called to the interrogation centre in Suratgarh and Ganganagar for detailed questioning. He added that credible information has been found that some of the individuals were in touch with the Pakistani intelligence operatives and technical items of some of the suspects have been seized and are being sent to the forensic science laboratory in Jaipur. Legal action will be taken on the basis of information known from questioning and report of technical analysis. Legal opinion will also be sought, said the police.

DG Mishra added that the ISI and Pakistani intelligence operatives first strike a rapport with individuals by making fake profiles on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram and thereafter demand information about military institutions such as photography, videography, phone numbers of officials and location.

25 questioned in Rajasthan on suspicion of being in touch with Pak agencies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 24

AS PART of an ongoing operation, the Rajasthan Police have questioned 25 people in the border district of Sriganganagar, who are suspected of being in touch with Pakistani agencies including the ISI and Pakistani intelligence operatives, said the police on Friday.

The police said in a statement on Friday that a three-stage 'Operation Nigahban' was carried out by the CID Intelligence teams of Jaipur and Sriganganagar wherein suspects were identified and questioned. Credible information has been found that some of the individuals who were questioned were in touch with the Pakistani intelligence operatives, said the police.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the General Public that my client, Mrs. Indira Hoon W/o Mr. Vimal Chandra Hoon, R/o South Delhi, New Delhi-110048 wants to get registered the will dated 19.08.1989 executed by her deceased Mother-in-law Late. Mrs. Leila Hoon W/o Late Mr. N.C Hoon in her favour. If any person have any objection kindly contact the undersigned within 07 days from today.

Taran Verma
(Advocate D-766/15)
13B, Second floor, Netaji Subhash Marg, Daryaganj, Delhi-110002

STATE INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
NILOKHERI (KARNAL)-132117
(Government Engineering College, Nilokheri)

(TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, HARYANA)



Admission Notice for M. Tech. Programs: 2021-22

Applications are invited for admission in prescribed proforma to fill up the leftover seats in the following M.Tech. Programs being run in the S.I.E.T, Nilokheri:-

S. No.	Name of M.Tech. Course	Department
1.	Robotics & Artificial Intelligence	Computer Engineering
2.	Advanced Manufacturing Technology	Mechanical Engineering

Admission form is available on Institute Website: www.gecnlkhkheri.ac.in. Completely filled application form may be submitted at Room No. 203 in the Institute by hand or online on the Institute email at admission@gecnlkhkheri.ac.in. The duly filled Application form must be submitted along with relevant documents upto the last date as per the schedule given below.

Counselling No.	Last Date of Submission of Application Form	Reporting Date & Time (Offline)	Admission Criteria	Category
103	27.12.2021 to 30.12.2021 (On Daily Basis) (upto 500 PM)	27.12.2021 to 30.12.2021 (On Daily Basis) (3:00 PM onwards)	Qualifying Examination/GATE Score	Open for all

Note- For any query candidates may contact at Helpline No: 01745-247003, HOD Mech. Engg. - 9416311050, HOD Computer Engg. - 9416350145, Chief Warden- 9416426455. Candidates are advised to check the Institute's website (www.gecnlkhkheri.ac.in) regularly for any update.

Dean Academic

आवश्यक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नागरिक अस्पताल में तीन गिरे हुए पेड़ों को उठावाने के लिए दिनांक 28.12.2021 को नीलामी की ओपन बोली लगाई जाएगी। नियम व शर्तें नीलामी के समय बता दी जाएंगी।

हस्ता/-
वरिष्ठ चिकित्सा अधिकारी,
नागरिक अस्पताल, पलवल

6436/HRY

F. No: A-12022/4/2021-NCDWS

National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality
(An autonomous Institution under Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India)

Joka, Kolkata-700 104, Email: ncdwsq-ddws@gov.in

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality Kolkata, an autonomous institution of Government of India, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti invites applications in prescribed proforma on Deputation/ Deputation (ISTC) basis to fill up the following posts:-

Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Level in the pay matrix	Classification	Method of recruitment	Maximum age limit (in years)
Finance & Accounts Officer	1 (UR)	Level-12 (Rs. 78800- 209200)	Group 'A'	By Deputation/ Deputation (ISTC)	56
Administrative Officer	1 (UR)	Level-12 (Rs. 78800- 209200)	Group 'A'	By Deputation/ Deputation (ISTC)	56
Assistant	2 (UR)	Level-6 (Rs. 35400- 112400)	Group 'B'	By Deputation/ Deputation (ISTC)	56

The prescribed application Proforma, eligibility conditions and other detail for each post is available in DDWS website <https://jalshakti-ddws.gov.in>. The application in prescribed Proforma completed in all respect for each post should be submitted for deputation through proper channel in offline mode to the Administrative Officer, National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality, Joka, Kolkata- 700 104. The pdf copy of the same completed application form may also be forwarded in email: ncdwsq-ddws@gov.in. The closing date for receipt of applications in offline mode as well as in email is 07.02.2022.

The applications received after the closing date or otherwise found incomplete or not accompanied by supporting certificates/documents in support of qualification and experience claimed by the candidates shall be summarily rejected and would not be processed for the eligibility of the candidates for the selection. The Director, NCDWSQ reserves all the rights to reject any/all applications at any stage/ withdraw/ cancel the recruitment of one or all posts without assigning any reasons. The Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any, will be published in DDWS website only.

Sd/-
(Avinash Kumar Sinha)
Administrative Officer
davp 35301/11/0004/2122

PUBLIC NOTICE

All Persons with Disabilities are hereby informed that as per the Gazette Notification dated 05/05/2021 issued by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), certificate of disability will only be granted on Unique Disability Identity Card Portal, namely, <http://www.swavlambancard.gov.in> by the competent medical authorities designated for this purpose with effect from 1st day of June 2021.

Department of Health and Family Welfare, GNCTD issued a circular

GUJARAT MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Block No. 14/1,
Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Sector 10, Gandhinagar
Ph: 079-23250767, 23250766, 23257698

TENDER NOTICE NO: GMSC/L-D/26/2021-22

Tenders are invited online from reputed Manufacturers/formulators/ direct importers for Purchase of **Surgical Item** on Rate contract basis and details of specification, quality is available on <https://gmcl.gujarat.gov.in> All tender documents can be downloaded free on the website: <https://gmcl.procure.com> Interested bidders are requested to submit the tender through e-tender process.

Duration of download or tender document (online) :-
23/12/2021 to 19/01/2022 upto 18.00 Hrs.

Last date for Submission (online): 19/01/2022 upto 1018-00 HRS
Last date for submission of physical Documents: 20/01/2022 upto 18:00 HRS
Opening of Technical Bid Date (online) 24/01/2022 At 15:00 HRS.

Pre-Consultation meeting, (Pre-Bid).

Interested Manufacturer/Direct Importers are requested to remain present for pre- Consultation meeting to be held on 30/12/2021 at 12.00 Noon at Committee room at above mentioned address. Only one representative from each Manufacturer carrying authority letter would be allowed to participate in the pre-bid.

INF/1780/21-22

MANAGING DIRECTOR

CORRIGENDUM

In connection with the advertisement published in various newspapers on 13.12.2021 vide which the HSAMB invited the applications to participate in restricted auction (through e-auction) of plots/constructed shops in Apple, Fruit & Vegetable Market, Pinjore (Panchkula), the size of shops alongwith tentative number of such shops to be put to in auction will be as follow:-

1. Tentative no. of plots/constructed shops to be put up to auction

Sr. No.	Size	Number (Tentative)
1	6.00 x 15.50 m	31
2	6.00 x 23.50 m	22
3	9.00 x 23.50 m	6

2. The last date for submission of applications and all other terms & condition will remain same.

643/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH
AT/PO- SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020,
O-1530 E-mail address- serv_sundargar@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG -26 of 2021-22 Letter No. 3725/Dtd. 23.12.2021

e-Procurement NOTICE

- Type of the Work : Road
- Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
- Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
- Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
- Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
- Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
		From To				
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-26 of 2021-22	28.12.2021 11:00 AM	17.01.2022 5:00 PM	15.01.2022 5:00 PM	19.01.2022 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh
OIPR- 25133/11/0035/2122

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

No.- CV/License Fees Fixation/New Units/2019 Date:20.12.2021

E-Tender Notice No. 05/Catering/2021

For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj invites e-tender, single stage one packet system for food and catering services for "Provision of catering services through catering stall (Special Minor Units) at Vindhya Chal (BDL), Kanpur-Anwarganj (CPA), Shikohabad (SKB) and Aligarh (ALJN) over Prayagraj Division for a period of 05 years mentioned as under:

Annesure-Z

Bid No.	2152021	2162021	2172021	2182021
Station Platform/Place	BDL-01	CPA-01	SKB-03/04	ALJN-05/06
Catg. of strn.	B	B	B	A
SMU Unit No.	BDL/01/01/21	CPA/01/21	SKB/03/04/01/21	ALJN/05/06/03/21
Type of Unit	SMU-SC-Women	SMU-ST	SMU-Minority	SMU-Divayang
Minimum Reserve Price for 01 year (In Rs.)	₹302400	₹307440	₹292320	₹393960
Minimum Reserve Price for 05 year (In Rs.)	₹1572480	₹1598688	₹1520064	₹2048592
Earnest Money (In Rs.)	₹31500	₹32000	₹30500	₹41000
Tender Cost including GST (Non Refundable) (In Rs.)	₹2360	₹2360	₹2360	₹3540

Location Between Pole no 743/14A And 16 A, Left side of W/B No 06 Between Pole no 1212/1021 DLI end Near Platform pillar No-10 Left of Pole no Km 1262/23

Note:- i- Separate tender document for each unit should be uploaded by the tenderer. Combined offer will not be accepted. ii-Location of Catering units mentioned as above is only indicative. iii-Tender of these Catering Units will be awarded serially to follow ceiling limit.

Last Date and time for upload Bid 31.01.2022 Time-15:00 Hrs

Opening of Bids 31.01.2022 Time-15:30 Hrs

Contact Authority SR. DIVISIONAL COMMERCIAL MANAGER, DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER'S OFFICE, NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, NAUBAS YUSUF ROAD, CIVIL LINE PRAYAGRAJ-211001, Fax No 0532-2407981

Tender notification & tender form/document and term & condition can be downloaded from website www.ireps.gov.in. Tender notification may also be seen from www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in.

1334/2021 V

North Central Railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

DIPR/C/13080/2021

Sd/- Director, Raj-MES

21

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL EDUCATION SOCIETY, JAIPUR

(DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION)

(Govind Marg, Opp. Psychiatric Hospital, Jaipur)

F.No.6(22)Raj-MES/Store/ENT-Oph/2nd Ren/Sik-Bar/2021/4530 Dated: 21.12.21

Notice Inviting Bid No. 09 /2021-22

Bids For The Turnkey Project For Supply, Installation, Operation & Maintenance Of 64-Slice-CT -Scanner Machines On Revenue sharing basis Along With Providing Investigation Related Services On PPP-Mode(CT-Project) For Raj - MES Medical College Located at Bharatpur, Bhilwara, Pali Sikar and Churu for 10 Years are invited from interested up to 6.00 PM on 11.01.2022. Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal, (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state. (UBN NO. MES 2122SLOB00080)

Sd/- Director, Raj-MES

DIPR/C/13081/2021

To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: [www.osmcl.nic.in](http://osmcl.nic.in) and [https://tendersodisha.gov.in](http://tendersodisha.gov.in). The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

SD/- Managing Director OSMC Ltd., Odisha OIPR - 10112/11/0065/2122

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

NOTICE INVITING BID

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)

In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit- III, Bhubaneswar - 751 001

Tel.: (0674) 2380950, Website: [www.osmcl.nic.in](http://osmcl.nic.in), Email: logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in

Bid Ref. No.: OSMCL/2022-23(SUT-SURG & OTHER)-DHS/04 Date: 24/12 /2021

Online Bids through e-Tender portal ([https://tendersodisha.gov.in](http://tendersodisha.gov.in)) are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Surgical, Sutures, Syringes and Other items as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl. No. Particulars Date and Time

1. Date & time of release of bid 24/12/2021, 3 PM

2. Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in 30/12/2021, up to 5.00 PM

3. Date & time of Online bid submission Start Date & Time End Date & Time 03.01.2022, 3 PM 21.01.2022, 6.00 PM

4. Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee of tender document 25.01.2022, 10 AM 01.02.2022, 11.00 AM

5. Date & time of online Technical bid opening 01.02.2022, 11.30 AM

6. Date of opening of Price Bid To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: [www.osmcl.nic.in](http://osmcl.nic.in) and [https://tendersodisha.gov.in](http://tendersodisha.gov.in). The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

SD/- Managing Director OSMC Ltd., Odisha OIPR - 10112/11/0065/2122

New Delhi

AB Vajpayee sought 'modus vivendi' with China: Jaishankar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24



Foreign Minister S Jaishankar

our definition of national security, he said.

Talking about Vajpayee, Jaishankar said, "If we are to look at the essence of his approach to international relations, it is evident that this focuses on responding effectively to global changes."

Where the US was concerned, former prime minister Vajpayee introduced policy corrections that reflected the end of the Cold War and the new global balance, he said.

"At the same time, he kept India's course steady vis-à-vis Russia despite the turbulence of that era. With China, whether as Foreign Minister or as Prime Minister, he sought a modus vivendi that was based as much on mutual respect as on mutual interest," Jaishankar said.

Modus vivendi is an arrangement or agreement that allows conflicting parties to co-exist in peace.

With Pakistan, Vajpayee strenuously tried to dissuade them from their path of sponsoring cross-border terrorism, he said.

In fact, no other landscape illustrates better the widening of

Odisha launches moral course for colleges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, DEC 24

INA bid to promote good character among students, Odisha's higher education department has announced a new non-academic programme for colleges and universities - 'Juba Sanskar'.

Starting January 2022, Juba Sanskar (meaning morals in youth) will be mandatory for all undergraduate and postgraduate courses and will carry one credit per semester. No additional assessment or evaluation will be done.

"It will help students develop a sense of right and wrong, inculcate a positive attitude and help them become responsible citizens," Minister of Higher Education, Arun Sahoo, said. He said the programme has been approved by the Boards of various universities in the state.

Officials said three staff members will be appointed as nodal teachers in each institute. A class of standard duration will be held once every month, they said, which will be compulsory.

PM chairs meet of high-level panel on Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary

DIVYA A

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY

APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS

**STUDY VISITS - ONGC**

In continuation with the study visits for students at its installation, work centers – as a part of the observance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav – ONGC has organized fresh tours for students at Cambay, Karkal and Jorhat.

**MOA - EIL**

Prof. PV Devarajan, Dean, Research & Innovation, ICT and SC Gupta, CGM & Head, R&D Division, EIL, signed a MoA for joint development of technology for large-scale cultivation of algae & extraction of value-added products,

**INSPECTION VISIT - NR**

A. Vaishnav, Minister of Railways, inspected several container units near Rewari, HR. He was accompanied by SK Mohanty, Member Operations & Business Dev, Railway Board; A. Gangal, GM, NR; V Sharma, GM, NWR, & others.

**EXHIBITION - DFCCIL**

The tech-enabled DFCCIL pavilion at the 14th IREE 2021 drew visitors, including delegates, industry professionals, academics, youngsters during the course of the three-day exhibition from 16th–18th December 2021 at Pragati Maidan.

NBCC News circulating in media alleging NBCC for violation of construction ban is not in true spirit. NBCC, a CPSE, is a responsible Govt. entity facilitating infrastructural development for the Nation. NBCC is committed to conduct its business operations in line with Environment policies and promotes best sustainability practices. NBCC reassures that all the construction works carried out at various project sites are in line with the prescribed guidelines.

**VISIT - PNB**

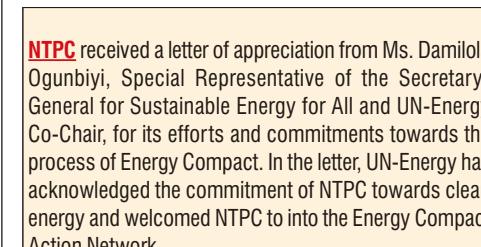
SK Saha, ED, PNB was on a two-day visit to Agartala, to meet Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb and committed to support overall development in Tripura State through expansion of Banking Services.

**PAINTING COMPETITION - POWERGRID**

POWERGRID organized State-Level Painting Competitions on Energy Conservation for students in Assam, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu, at 54 centres.

**LAUNCH - HPCL**

MK Surana, CMD, HPCL along with R Misri, Director Marketing, HPCL and SK Suri, ED-Retail, HPCL, launched ultra-premium petrol (poWer 100) in Delhi at six retail outlets in a glittering function held at New Delhi.



NTPC received a letter of appreciation from Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and UN-Energy Co-Chair, for its efforts and commitments towards the process of Energy Compact. In the letter, UN-Energy has acknowledged the commitment of NTPC towards clean energy and welcomed NTPC to the Energy Compact Action Network.

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA DEHRADUN celebrated its 111th foundation day anniversary on 21st December 2021. On this auspicious occasion, 'Prabhat Pheri' was organised around the Astley Hall headed by the Regional Manager Arun K Pathak along with other local staff members. Thereafter, a Blood Donation Camp was organised in Regional office, which was followed by a small gathering to honor the retired staff members wherein Pathak honoured them all and thanked them for their contribution in this esteemed organisation.

INDIANOIL The family members of the three (03) contract workers who unfortunately lost their lives during the recent incident have been contacted for extending all possible support in this hour of grief.

Among those with injuries, three (03) contract workers have been discharged after preliminary treatment, and thirty-seven (37) others have been admitted at multi-specialty hospitals at Kolkata and one (01) at Tamluk for advanced medical care. IndianOil is extending the best medical treatment to the thirty-eight injured (38), and no effort or cost will be spared to ensure their speedy recovery.

ITPO During the visit of H.E. Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, at the 21st round of India-Russia Annual Summit held on December 6, 2021, a MoU was signed between ITPO and Roscongress Foundation, Russia, for promotion of bi-lateral trade. The MoU was signed by L.C. Goyal, CMD, ITPO and Alexander Stuglev, CEO, the Roscongress Foundation, Russia. It aims at promoting trade exhibitions, collaborating for the trade events to be organized by both organizations, facilitating visits of trade delegations and strengthening the dialogue between Indian and Russian business communities.

POSITIVE FOUNDATION Or Plus Approach Foundation To disseminate positive approach among the people in society for sustainable development of self, society and Nation, the 7th Global Conclave on Positivity was organized by the Plus Approach Foundation on 18th December, 2021 at the SCOPE Convention Centre, New Delhi under the mentorship of Dr Asutosh Karnatak. Speaking on the journey of PEAK Foundation, Dr. Karnatak mentioned the project Dagru, which was started in 2011 in District Almora, Uttarakhand, to bridge the gap between the sparse medical facilities and needy and underprivileged seniors.

**HONOUR - DEWAS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

The city of Dewas has received honours in three categories under the Cleanliness Survey 2021. Commissioner VS Chouhan said that the Sanitation Inspectors & Safai Mitras of the Corporation played an important role in achieving this goal.

**MOU - RITES**

RITES has signed a MoU with BEML to explore and jointly bid for opportunities in the fields of Metro systems and export of rolling stock. Senior officials of RITES and BEML signed the MoU in Gurugram.

**INAUGURATION - UNION BANK OF INDIA**

To fulfill credit requirements of MSME Loan Processing Centre "SARAL" was inaugurated by GKS Rao, Field GM, Lucknow Zone, in Dehradun. Rao was accompanied by B Singh, Dy. Regional Head, & A Sharma, SARAL Head.

**OUTREACH PROGRAMME - CANARA BANK**

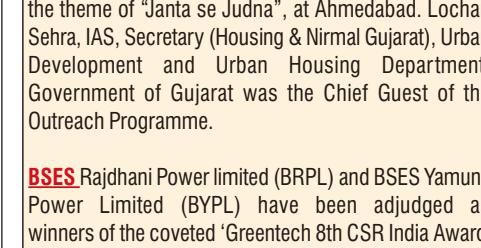
To expand the coverage of Atal pension Yojana, an outreach programme & State Level review was conducted recently by SLBC Karnataka and PFRDA. The meeting was chaired by AG Das, ED, PFRDA.

**MOU - TP-DDL**

A MoU was signed between S Verma, Chief HR, IR and HS, TP-DDL and K Bavisetti, Business Head, Power Consulting, Hitachi Energy India Limited, for nurturing talent pool in the power distribution sector.

**ADDRESS - CSC INDIA**

Dr. Abraham Kumar, VC & MD, CSC India spoke during the Security leadership summit 2021, wherein he talked about CSC's expertise in the field of crowd management and expressed confidence for its new venture, CSC India.



BSES Rajdhani Power limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) have been adjudged as winners of the coveted 'Greentech 8th CSR India Award' for outstanding achievements in the category 'Corona Warriors'. Apart from this, BRPL has also been bestowed with the 'Greentech Corporate Governance Award 2021'.

EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, LAUNCHES, CSR INITIATIVES, APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE					
S.R. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH
1	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED	REPAIR & INSTALLATION OF PROJECT AT LINE WOODEN FORTIES & NEW CONCRETE FORTIES	29.12.2021 30.12.2021	6.77 LACS	haryanatourism.gov.in www.haryanatourism.gov.in
2	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED	HIRING OF AN AGENCY FOR TURNKEY REAL TIME TICKETING AND SMART PARKING MANAGEMENT SOLUTION (ONLINE AND OFFLINE TICKETING) ALONGWITH MANAGING THE PROCESS OF REGISTRATION, ACCREDITATION OF STALL HOLDERS AND STAFFERS FOR THE EXHIBITION ON 30TH DECEMBER 2021 AT SUBHASHINI, FASCOMBANDI	29.12.2021 30.12.2021	END 10 LACS	haryanatourism.gov.in www.haryanatourism.gov.in
3	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED	HIRING UP AGENCY FOR INSTALLATION OF LED'S AND CENTRALIZED MANAGEMENT OF THE SYSTEM AT SUBHASHINI INTERNATIONAL CRAFTS MELA	29.12.2021 30.12.2021	EPB 0.50 LACS	haryanatourism.gov.in www.haryanatourism.gov.in
4	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED	HIRING OF HOTEL FOR ACCOMMODATION OF FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS AT SUBHASHINI INTERNATIONAL CRAFTS MELA 2022	29.12.2021 30.12.2021	EPB 0.50 LACS	haryanatourism.gov.in www.haryanatourism.gov.in

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

S.R. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSVP GURUGRAM	DEVELOPMENT OF NEW POCKET IN SEC-48/49, GURUGRAM- PROVIDING & LAYING OF GI/DIPS OF 100MM DIAMETER, PVC COATED LINE INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION AND FILING OF SLICE/SEGMENT, PROVIDING & LAYING OF 200 MM ID, SW PIPES FOR SEWERAGE CONSTRUCTION OF MANHOLE, PROVIDING & LAYING OF RCP NO. 3 PIPES 300 MM DIA FOR STORM WATER DRAINAGE INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF MANHOLE	22.12.2021 06.01.2022	15 LACS	www.hsvphy.org.in xenhsvp6@gmail.com	9910234256

6456/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

S.R. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R NARNAUL	WIDENING & STRENGTHENING OF NEARBY TD KHETRI UPTO RAJASTHAN BORDER IN MOHUNDERGARH DISTRICT (ROAD ID 9845)	23.12.2021 17.01.2022	29.60 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	0138251267 pwd-eepd-naraul@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R SIRSIA	SPECIAL REPAIR OF LOWER COURTS IN CAPUS OF MINI SECTT. AT SIRSIA IN SIRSIA DISTT.	CLOSING DATE 06.01.2023	17.15 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	015662102630 pwd-eepd-sirsia@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R SIRSIA	WIDENING & STRENGTHENING BY PROVIDING 80 MM THICK FB ON SAHULWA TO BABA TALLIWALA (VII) (ROAD ID 10481) KM 0.0 TO 0.19 IN SIRSIA DISTT.	CLOSING DATE 06.01.2023	15.96 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	015662102630 pwd-eepd-sirsia@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF SPORTS STADIUM AT VILLAGE HATHAWALA DISTT. KARNAL (PDG. ET ONLY)	23.12.2021 17.01.2023	4.05 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	01942266968 pwd-eepd-karnal@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R FATEHABAD	CONSTR. A ROAD FROM BADALGARH TO KULJAN UPTO PUNJAB BORDER KM 0 TO 2.00 IN FATEHABAD DISTT. SPECIAL REPAIR OF MINI SECTT. CAMPUS AT FATEHABAD IN FATEHABAD DISTT.	23.12.2023 12.01.2022	148.35 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	015537212010 pwd-eepd-fatehabad@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R KARNAL	STRENGTHENING WITH WBM + 30MM BC. RE-LAYING OF CC BLOCKS AND 60MM IPB IN ABADI PORTION ON KUNJWA TO NALVI ROAD (ROAD ID-7228) RD 0 TO 212.00 IN KARNAL DISTRICT	27.12.2023 17.01.2022	99.78 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	015060200000 pwd-eepd-karnal@hry.nic.in
7	PANCHAYATI RAJ PANIPAT	MANAGEMENT DISPOSAL OF WASTER AFTER TREATMENT WITH 5 YEARS Q AND OF THE PROJECT AFTER COMPLETION VILLAGE KAWI BLOCK MATLAJWA DISTT. PANIPAT + 2 OTHERS	24.12.2023 31.12.2023	341.75 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	9355815400 preetengg.ppr@hry.nic.in
8	PANCHAYATI RAJ PANIPAT	CONST. OF MODEL POND BHUJANI 56.57 IN VILLAGE BHURANPUR BLOCK BAPOLI DISTT. PANIPAT.	27.12.2023 10.01.2023	41 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	9355815400 preetengg.ppr@hry.nic.in
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ PANIPAT	RETENDER CONST. OF 100 CUM BIO GAS PLANT WITH 5 YEARS Q AND H AFTER COMPLETION OF PROJECT VILLAGE BHUJANI MARI BLOCK SAMANWA DISTT. PANIPAT.	24.12.2023 31.12.2023	92.61 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	9355815400 preetengg.ppr@hry.nic.in
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ FATEHABAD	CONST. OF WIC AT VILLAGE THARWA BLOCK TOHANA DISTT FATEHABAD	24.12.2023 07.01.2023	32.64 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	016567230655<br



Delhi Jal Board: Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) - SDW-NW
Opp RBI Colony Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi- 110008
Ph No. 011-27491437, e-mail: eecsdwnw@gmail.com



PRESS NIT NO. 35 (21-22)

EE(C)/SDW-NW

Item No.	Name of Work	Amount put up (in Rs.)	Earliest Money (in Rs.)	Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement system	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Providing / revival of existing drainage system along main drain line or its network or damaged part from 40MGD pump house to security gate of Keshpur STP.	48,49,38/-	Exempted vide Endorsement No.DJB/2020-21/MISC-II/PT/971 dated 23.12.2020 of Jt Director (F&A), DJB	500/-	23.12.2021	11.01.2022 Up to 03:00 PM
2	Shifting of damaged treated effluent water line emanating from keshpur STP to feed effluent water in different park of DDA Paschim Bihar from RD 4068 mtr (outer ring road bridge to RD-41960m Khelya bridge) on the left bank of Nafajgarh Drain.	31,30,556/-		500/-	23.12.2021	11.01.2022 Up to 03:00 PM

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

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

Advt. No. J.S.V. 886(2021-22)

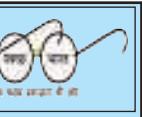
Sd/- (Anil Kumar Sharma)

Executive Engineer (Civil) SDW-NW

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



DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T) M-6
D-BLOCK MOTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110015



PRESS NIT NO. 46 (2021-22)

Item 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
01	Replacement of old deep/ damaged AC water line by DI water line of different dia (100 mm / 150 mm dia) in B-2 Block Paschim Vihar under the EE (NW) II AC-15.	Rs. 74,29,450/-	Tender ID No. 2021_DJB_213437_1 on 23.12.2021 at 05:42 PM	05.01.2022 Up to 3:00 PM
02	Replacement of old, deep and damaged PVC water line by new DI water line in KP block, Pitampura in AC-14 under ACE (M) 6.	Rs. 75,06,316/-	Tender ID No. 2021_DJB_213437_2 on 23.12.2021 at 05:49 PM	05.01.2022 Up to 3:00 PM

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

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

Advt. No. J.S.V. 890 (2021-22)

Sd/- (TRILOK CHAND)

EX. ENGINEER (T) M-6

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

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR

(E-Mail:- serwpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel/Fax: - 0680-2404287)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Bid Identification No. Online Tender/39-2021-22/BPR

Identification No	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakhs)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender/39-2021-22/BPR	Bridge Works under Inter District, Inter Block Connectivity scheme	01 No.	Rs. 789.26 lakhs	"Special" Class & "Super" Class as applicable	24 (Twenty Four) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur	Online Tender/ 39-2021-22/BPR	27.12.2021 at 10.00 A.M.	10.01.2022 Upto 3.00 P.M.

(i) No EMD is required as per O.M.No. 8943 Dt. 18.03.2021 of Finance Department, Govt of Odisha. But Bid Security declaration should be furnished by the bidders as mentioned in the DTCN.

(ii) Non-submission of the information / documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.

Further details & corrigendum if any can be seen from the website:- www.tendersodisha.gov.inSd/- Superintending Engineer
R.W.Circle, Berhampur
OIPR - 25071/11/0036/2122**MORADABAD SMART CITY LIMITED**Office of the CEO / Municipal Commissioner,
Peeli Kothi, Water Works Compound, Civil Lines, Moradabad-244001

Contact No. : 0591-2971001

E-Mail: moradabadsmartcitylimited@gmail.com

Latter No Date: 11.09.2020

NOTICE INVITING Re-E-TENDER

Open Tender:1186/MSCL/2021 Dated: 24.12.2021

The C.E.O of Moradabad Smart City Limited (MSCL) invites re-e-tenders for the following works:

1) Name of the Work: Request for Proposal for De-siltation through mechanised system and rehabilitation & redevelopment of covered and open drains including maintenance and defect liability period of 1 year, under Moradabad Smart City (NIT No. 1186/MSCL/2021).

Tender Fee Rs.29,500/- (Rs. Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only/-)

Start Date and time for downloading of bid 25th December 2021 and 16:00 Hrs.

Period of Last date and time for submission of bid 03rd January 2022 and 16:00 Hrs.

The bid forms and other details are available on website <https://etender.up.nic.in/> and can only be submitted through <https://etender.up.nic.in/>. Any corrigendum regarding this would be published only on the above mentioned website.C.E.O / Municipal Commissioner
Moradabad Smart City Limited**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय**
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर

अति अल्पकालीन ई- निविडा अनुसंधान सचना

संख्या - RDD/SD/DEOGHAR/37/2021-22

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

क्रो. सं	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	देवघर जिला के देवघर प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत गोपीनेपुर पर्यावरत में ग्राम- कारसीलीह एवं आजबारायडीह के बीच जारिया पा.पुल निर्माण।	39243700.00	7,84,900.00	10,000.00	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविडा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 30.12.2021

3. ई-निविडा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 05.01.2022 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक

4. कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर / मूल्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, एफो १०० फौ भवन, धूमें, रॉशी में निविडा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि, Bank Credit Certificate एवं Affidavit जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय 06.01.2022 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक

5. निविडा खोलने की स्थान - मूल्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, एफो १०० फौ भवन, धूमें, रॉशी

6. निविडा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 07.01.2022 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे

7. निविडा आवित्ति करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं तिथा :- ई-निटेन्ड पासवान, कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर।

8. ई-निविडा प्रक्रोक्त का दूरभाष सं- 870962313 (संवर्चित कार्यालय अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)

9. निविडा लॉक रायटीकैप बैंक द्वारा निर्गत ड्राफ्ट या बैंकस चेक जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर के पदाधिकारी से देय हो देना होगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पढ़ पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर

PR 260256 Rural Development (21-22)_D

पर्यावरण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर

Harbhajan's eventful journey over, retires from all forms of game



Harbhajan represented India in 103 Tests, 236 ODIs and 28 T20Is.

NEW DELHI: VETERAN OFF-SPINNER Harbhajan Singh, who became the first Indian bowler to grab a Test hat-trick in a memorable international career, announced retirement from all forms of cricket on Friday, saying that he is finally communicating what has been on his mind for the past few years. The 41-year-old from Punjab took 417 wickets in 103 Tests, 269 wickets in 236 ODIs and 25 scalps in 28 T20Is in his illustrious career, which began in 1998.

"All good things come to an end and today as I bid adieu to the game that has given me everything in life, I would like to thank everyone who made this 23-year-long journey beautiful and memorable," he tweeted.

"From the narrow lanes of Jalandhar to becoming the Turbanator of Team India, it has been a beautiful journey of past 25 years," he said. Harbhajan, who made his India debut during an ODI against New Zealand at Sharjah in 1998, last played for the country in March 2016 during a T20I against the UAE at Dhaka. He said he harboured hopes of retiring in India colours but that could not materialise. "Like all cricketers, I too wanted to bade adieu in

Indian jersey but fate had something else in store for me," he said in a youtube video posted alongside his tweet. "...there comes a time when you have to take some tough decisions and have to move on in life. Mentally I had retired long back but couldn't announce it. I haven't been active in cricket," he added.

Harbhajan had featured in a few matches during the first phase of last IPL for Kolkata Knight Riders but didn't play in the UAE leg of the league. "I haven't been playing active cricket for quite some time but due to my commitment with Kolkata Knight Riders, I wanted to stay with them in the IPL season but I had made up my mind during the season."

"For whichever team I have played, there has always been 100 per cent commitment from me to ensure that my team finishes at the top, whether it is India, Chennai Super Kings, Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders, Surrey or Essex county."

One of the most memorable moments in his international career was when he snapped 32 wickets in three Tests, including the first Test hat-trick by an Indian, against Australia in March 2001. PTI

Jumper Shaili included in TOPS

New Delhi: Under-20 World Athletics silver medal-winning long jumper Shaili Singh is among 50 sportspersons across eight disciplines who have been added to the Core Group of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), the Sports Ministry announced on Friday. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) on Thursday, where 143 athletes were included in the Development Group. By picking 50 athletes in the Core Group and 143 in the Development Group across eight disciplines in the second list, the MOC has increased the count to 291, including 102 in the Core Group. PTI

Bhavani to compete in four WC

New Delhi: India's first-ever Olympian fencer Bhavani Devi is set to take part in four international competitions in the next calendar year after the Sports Ministry sanctioned an amount of Rs 8.16 lakh to facilitate her participation in the events. Bhavani will be taking part at a training camp in Tbilisi, Georgia from January 4, before competing at the International Fencing Federation (FIE) World Cup in the same city from January 14 to 16. She will then be competing at the World Cup in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, scheduled from January 28 to 29 followed by World Cups in Greece and Belgium from March 4 to 5 and March 18 to 19, respectively. PTI

Aanchal back with bronze

After a two-year hiatus, the skier is picking up the pace this season

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 24

A FALL DURING the East Timor alpine skiing National Junior Championships in Kolasin, Montenegro, earned Aanchal Thakur a 'DNF' at the giant slalom event. That and muscle soreness in her left thigh.

A day later though, on Thursday, at the Jamaica Ski Federation's national championships, she won bronze to become the only Indian to win a second Internationale de Ski (FSI) – the world body – medal. The first medal came in 2018, when she won bronze at the FIS Alpine Edjer 3200 Cup in Turkey, a feat that announced her name on the international circuit. "The weather was very bad on Wednesday and when I had the fall, I felt soreness in my left thigh the entire day," she told The Indian Express. "I had a good first run but then had the fall. The weather was better on Thursday, and I thought about the first run I had earlier and just aimed to give it my best shot."

"The first run timing of 56.38 seconds made me feel confident about the conditions and I'm glad I could get my career's second international medal."

Reliance on crowdfunding

This is the first year since the Himalayan sojourn that the Himachal Pradesh-native managed to compete on the international circuit. She finished 59th and 47th in the giant slalom and slalom events respectively at the FIS World Ski Championships in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy in February. But the same reason that stopped her from competing in the 2019 season (she was forced to skip competing in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic) was threatening to rupture her hopes for being a regular this year: a lack of funding.

Thakur was not supported by government funds since the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has derecognised the Winter Games Federation of India (WGF). By August though, the 25-year-old along with elder brother and fellow international skier Himanshu started a crowdfunding campaign on social media. Meanwhile her father Roshal Lal Thakur, a paragliding instructor, borrowed money from friends and relatives. "Post winning the medal in Turkey, I did not get any sponsor or funds from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) or the national federation. While I did not compete in 2019 as well in 2020, I did not want to miss training and competitions this year," she said.

"A friend told us to start crowdfunding and even though we got close to Rs 2.5 lakh from friends and fellow skiers, apart from Rs 5 lakh each given by the state government after our arrival here, my father had to arrange funds and borrow money to meet the expenditure of Rs 40 lakh for this trip."

The brother-sister duo arrived in Austria in



With second international medal, Aanchal eyes Winter Olympics.

TN wins a thriller, will meet HP in final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 24

BABA APARAJITH smashed 122 to help Tamil Nadu eke out a two-wicket win over Saurashtra here on Friday, and enter the final of the Vijay Hazare Trophy One-Day Championship. This was after Saurashtra rode on a blistering 134 by Sheldon Jackson to post an imposing 310 for eight.

But Saurashtra's effort was overshadowed by Aparajith's master-class coupled with half-centuries by his brother Indrajith (50) and Washington Sundar's (70) late cameo as TN chased down the stiff target in the final ball. TN needed seven runs off the final over and tail-enders R Sai Kishore (12 not out) and R Silambasaran (2 not out) brought it down to 1 of the last ball off medium-pacer Chirag Jani. Sai Kishore finished off the chase in style with a boundary.

Earlier asked to bat, Saurashtra openers Viharsinh Jadeja (52; 6x4; 1x6) and Harvik Desai (9) added 31 runs. Medium pacer Silambasaran (3/54) trapped Desai in front of the wicket to give his side the first breakthrough. Then Jackson joined Jadeja and the duo added 92 runs runs for the second wicket. Jackson, who was more aggressive, upped the ante.

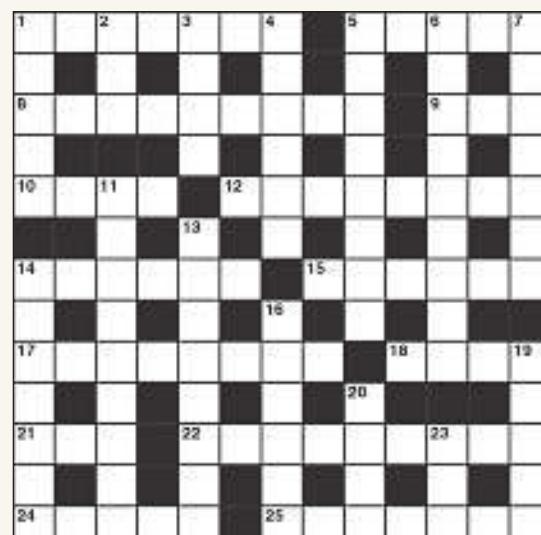
It was 23-year-old spinner M Siddharth (1/46), who broke the partnership after dismissing Jadeja. After Jadeja fell, Jackson and Prerak Mankad (37) continued the onslaught. While Jackson struck 11 fours and four sixes in his 125-ball knock, Mankad hammered four boundaries and a lone six. Jackson and Mankad conjured 81 runs for the third wicket as Saurashtra cruised ahead.

However, it was Silambasaran once again, who did the trick for his side, dismissing Mankad. After 40 overs, Saurashtra were 217 for three. From there on, Jackson was unstoppable as he went all guns blazing.

Meanwhile, Himachal Pradesh captain Rishi Dhawan put up an all-round show to guide his team to the final where they meet Tamil Nadu in the Vijay Hazare Trophy domestic One-Day championship, after beating Services by 77 runs in the semi-final at Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Friday.

BRIEF SCORES: Saurashtra 39 for 8 in 50 overs (Sheldon Jackson 134, Arpit Vasavada 57; Vijay Shankar 4/72) lost to Tamil Nadu 314 for 8 in 50 overs (B Aparajith 122, Washington Sundar 70; Chetan Sakaria 5/62) by two wickets; HP 281/6 in 50 overs (Rishi Dhawan 84, Prashant Chopra 78, Akash Vasish 45 not out; Raj Bahadur 2/52) beat Services (Rajat Paliwal 55, Ravi Chauhan 45; Rishi Dhawan 4/27, Akash Vasish 2/28, Siddharth Saxena 2/34) by 77 runs.

CROSSWORD 4621



ACROSS

- 1 Explain where the last dog came from (7)
- 5 She has a bad figure (5)
- 8 High tolls originate here (4,5)
- 9 It used to be in the western half of Asia (3)
- 10 Double act no longer seen (4)
- 12 Beach shoes are adjusted for it (8)
- 14 The little devil slips into cover and gets clear (6)
- 15 An unpopular American in a jacket (6)
- 17 Taken by those who are sick and tired of work? (4,4)
- 18 A country the capital of India controlled (4)
- 21 Either way you sound sheepish (3)
- 22 Is not my name to appear very shortly? (3,6)
- 24 Meat and chips we hear (5)
- 25 Hangs around with a number of friends (7)

DOWN

- 1 Be sent up to bed having gone into a decline (5)
- 2 Wash up for a friend (3)
- 3 Preposition used in any amount of sentences (4)
- 4 He hopes to find you well (6)
- 5 Stopped sorting out retreats (8)
- 6 American citizen appearing periodically (3,6)
- 7 Point behind the ship towards the sunrise (7)
- 11 Elaborate metalwork to stop a bit of play (9)
- 13 Poorly made Russian fighter goes up with a bang (8)
- 14 Generous gifts said to be from Swiss capital (7)
- 16 Man in bed sounded asinine (6)
- 19 Cash registers (5)
- 20 Brotherhood? (7)
- 23 Old priest in the limelight more than once (3)

Solutions Crossword 4620: Across: 1 Chop chop, 5 Char, 9 Pluto, 10 Trifles, 11 Firefighters, 13 Notice, 14 Chaise, 17 Reverberated, 20 Prefers, 21 Tiara, 22 Dust, 23 Wardress. Down: 1 Cope, 2 Oculist, 3 Chosen career, 4 Obtain, 6 Halse, 7 Resisted, 8 Light-hearted, 12 Intrepid, 15 Iterate, 16 Persia, 18 Views, 19 Caws.

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 clue.

That whose _____ is necessary must necessarily be one essence. - Avicenna (9)

LMEEE

AENRNT

DLWIS

EIOTCX

SOLUTION: MELEE, WILDS, TURNER, DEXOTIC

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4695

Difficulty Level 2s
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

8	7	6	2
7	8	5	
6	1	9	7
6	8		
4			5
5	3		2
1	3	5	4
6	4	1	
9	8	2	6

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4694

4	8	1	5	6	9	2	7	3
6	3	9	4	7	2	5	1	8
2	7	5	1	3	8	4	6	9
1	6	2	3	9	7	8	5	4
9	5	8	6	1	4	7	3	2
7	4	3	8	2	5	1	9	6
3	1	7	2	8	6	9	4	5
5	2	6	9	4	1	3	8	7
8	9	4	7	5	3	6	2	1

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Cash and career matters are still on your mind, but do try to put practical issues behind you during the weekend. Life is too short to spend all your time worrying over how you are ever going to pay your way. Why not let partners take the responsibility, and the strain?

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Make an early start if you want to get ahead of the pack. Social prospects are still bright and, although you will be giving some thought to worldly matters, you really ought to try and relax. If you don't look after yourself, then you can't expect other people to, can you?

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

It's a favourable weekend for getting financial plans into shape. Forge ahead with all family arrangements and hope for the best: some may be arranging a very pleasant surprise for you. More pleasant, I suspect, than you could ever possibly imagine.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Why is that people at home seem determined to disagree with your plans or think up problems to slow you down? Perhaps it's because you failed to consult them when you were dreaming up your current schemes. It's never too late to tell them the full fact.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Keep on the move this weekend, though you may be happier making short journeys than long. Push business matters to one side and enjoy your social life free of the cares and concerns which tend to cloud your vision. Stay active and you'll carry partners with you.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

A restless mood may make it difficult to concentrate, but there will be rewards if you find yourself in unfamiliar surroundings. Social gatherings have much to offer this evening. And, in that case, why not go for broke, and take a risk with your feelings?

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Diplomacy is still your best policy if you're trying to hang on to one particular friendship. On the other hand, if you are at the end of

Tough call between Rahane and Iyer: Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CENTURION, DECEMBER 24

INDIA VICE-CAPTAIN KL Rahul on Friday indicated that the team will continue with its five-bowler strategy in the first Test against South Africa but agreed that the choice between Ajinkya Rahane and Shreyas Iyer for the number five slot is a tough one.

India have been practising here for a week ahead of the opening match, starting Sunday, and the newly-appointed vice-captain believes that a good start is needed to set the tone in the Rainbow Nation where they have never won a Test series. Asked if playing four bowlers, which allows an extra batter in the line-up becomes a workload management problem for the team, Rahul replied in an affirmative.

"Every team wants to pick up 20 wickets to win Test match. We have used that tactic and it has helped us in every Test match that we have played away," Rahul said. "Workload also becomes slightly easier to manage with five bowlers and when you have that kind of quality (in Indian ranks), I think, we might as well use it," the senior opener made it amply clear that a fourth pacer will play.

Shardul Thakur, because of his superior batting skills holds an advantage over senior pro Ishant Sharma, it could mean that only one among Iyer, Rahane and Hanuma Vihari will get a look in as Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant select themselves.

"It is a very difficult decision to make obviously. Speaking about Ajinkya, he has been an important member of the Test team, played very, very crucial knocks in his career," Rahul said. "In the last 15-18 months, he has played some crucial knocks, that partnership with Pujara at Lord's, was important for us in winning the Test match. Shreyas, obviously has taken his chances and got a brilliant hundred (along with a fifty) in Kanpur and he is very exciting. Hanuma has done the same for us, so it's a tough decision."

Slow pitch initially

Rahul also agreed with rival seamer Suanne Oliver's assertion that Supersport Parktrack is slow to begin with and quickens up later only to again taper off towards the end of the match. "I think Duanne Oliver will know these conditions a lot better than us and yes, last time, we played here, the wicket started off bit slow and then quickened up and then became slow again. "It's been that kind of a pitch, we have had centre wicket practice and we experienced the same things, we tried to prepare accordingly."

Agarwal focuses on 'mind space'

Mayank Agarwal said his time away from the national team was spent in understanding his mind space, something which India coach Rahul Dravid has always emphasised on and it benefitted him immensely as he reclaimed his place in the side. "It is not a fresh start. The last one year that went by was a lot to do with understanding myself and understanding what ticks me and what hadn't worked for me," Agarwal told fellow opener and India vice-captain KL Rahul during a chat, a video of which was posted on BCCI tv.

Beating South Africa in the away series needs a united front; not a forlorn Virat Kohli dousing home fires

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

JUST BEFORE the 2008 under-19 World Cup, the national junior selectors, in an inspired move, had decided on a leadership change. They replaced Tanmay Srivastava, a soft spoken Lucknow opener who graciously carried his city's gentility to the cricket field, with Virat Kohli, a West Delhi boy not known to give undue respect, or an undeserving inch, to rivals. What had then seemed like a minor tweak to the junior team, would prove to be the crucial nudge that gave Indian cricket a complete image-makeover.

Kohli had you at hello. He oozed class, came across as a born-leader and even his anger was endearing. It was amusing to watch the short, well-fed, chubby-cheeked teenager stand up to the taller, broader and leaner boys from England, Australia, South Africa. This one time at the team hotel, before a crucial game against England, he would bump into a rival bowler, who was allegedly staring at him. Kohli didn't flinch, and of course, he reacted. "Hey, what are you looking at?" he blurted out. The unexpected snub would startle the English boy. No ingrained inferiority, no language handicap, the new kid on the block wasn't overburdened to be the archetypal, well-mannered Indian cricketer.

At the end of the rain-impacted low scoring tense final against South Africa, Kohli would get hailed as a keeper of lost causes and also get a reputation of volatility. A certain Bradley Barnes should be credited for giving the handful few present at that obscure cricketing venue - Kinrara Academy Oval in Kuala Lumpur - a glimpse of the future.

Between innings, with India out for just 159, South African wicket-keeper Barnes would jump the gun. He would take a dig at India's low score and also undermine their victory chances. Those bytes would fly to the Indian dressing room, acting as an ember to ignite the fires inside the Indian captain. Those in the dressing room that day speak of the young captain's rousing speech where he extolled his teammates to turn their collective anger into advantage.

That day 11 possessed teens, sold to their captain's call, took the field as if on a desperate mission. Pacer Ajitesh Argal would open up the South African batting order with a dream opening spell, a high he could never repeat in his career. The fact that he never played under Kohli could have been a factor in his 15-minutes of fame.

Ravindra Jadeja showed how he can be gold dust in the game of fine margins under threateningly dark clouds and D/L compli-



There can't be a worse sight in cricket than a subdued and second-guessing Virat Kohli leading India, more so in a crucial Test series against South Africa. AP

cations. He was accurate, he didn't concede many runs and took crucial breakthroughs. Jadeja would be Kohli's trusted firearm in many such street fight salvos in the years to come.

Every South African batter to walk in that day got a hostile reception, an undignified farewell and an earful all through their innings. Kohli would explode at the fall of the last wicket. True to the script it would be Barnes. Watch the old videos, Little Kohli was much more animated.

Coaches and managers on that trip still talk about the young captain's mid-inning motivation. Kohli reminded his boys that they were being undermined by their rivals, the skills that gave them courage to dream about graduating to the next level,

were being questioned. They needed to fight. It touched a chord, kicked in the adrenaline. This was probably the first of the many "Us vs Them" addresses Kohli would give in India blues.

Years later, he is once again facing the South Africans. Now, he is in a different space. At the South Africa tour send-off press conference, he contradicted BCCI president Sourav Ganguly. He isn't just another former cricketer turned administrator. Ganguly is a national icon, a regional political influencer and a perpetual CM candidate in West Bengal. There's no one in the world who knows the complex coach-captain-administrator relationship like him. Kohli and Ganguly have a bit of history. They weren't on the same page

during India's clumsy coach-swap five years back. It's an open secret, Kohli wanted Ravi Shastri, Ganguly was keen on retaining Anil Kumble.

Kohli's mind space has other distractions too. Of late, in a rare social media trend, Kohli was getting trolled. Since the time he supported teammate Mohammad Shami there is a very active and hateful social media community that believes that cricketers should stick to cricket. He's also lost half of his kingdom. Rohit Sharma now rules the half that has bright lights and big billboards.

Kohli has survived the worst of run slumps. He isn't the brooding kind. He is known to compartmentalise his cricket. For him, a dropped catch or a bad loss are part of the game. Kohli also doesn't let his batting ego dictate his play. He has also dodged past controversies. However, he has never been anything but BCCI's blue-eyed boy. Now, unlike anytime in his career, the Indian captain goes into a fight without his troops. This is no Us vs Them, it's Virat vs Ganguly.

Often during the press conferences,

when Kohli is asked about stories of dressing room intrigue he has dismissed them as "outside noise" that doesn't bother him or his boys. In his tenure, the media, very often, was the 'Them', the agenda driven speculators climbing the press box with the sole purpose of pulling down the team. Kohli never missed a chance to make the 'Us' feel that the world was against them. India's most-loved cricketer now, has been over-sensitive to criticism.

Uncoupling, channelling anger

Several times in his career, Kohli has seemed worked up when the world around him hasn't moved the way he wishes. So used to the deafening roar of cheer when he walks into the ground, the sound of boos unsettles him. During the last tour to South Africa, he had a running battle with a bunch of fans at Johannesburg. After the fall of every South African wicket, he would turn towards them, pump his fist and give them a lip. It was difficult to be overly hostile with the South Africans on the field, a friendly bunch led by the soft-spoken Faf du Plessis. That's why Kohli had found a new target of his scorn.

In England, Kohli had a problem of plenty. There was always the instigator-in-chief James Anderson, and even the Barmy Army, with their borderline bawdy ditties. They gave enough reasons for Kohli and his boys to let out the verbs. Australia too was an easy place to remain motivated. They played the game the hard way. Besides, there was racism in the stands and Tim Paine behind the stumps.

Once at Wankhede Stadium, during the days when the concept of franchise sports and changing fan loyalties had yet to find in, Kohli was upset that he was called 'cheater' in an away game. "I don't know what is wrong with people in this venue. It feels a bit weird because at the end of the day you play for India and you don't come here to be hated. I don't know why they get so worked up during the IPL. IPL is not the end of the world. They forget that the players they are booing for also play for their country," he had said.

Kohli's low tolerance to criticism and his internal mechanism to channelise the anger into performance makes him a champion athlete. There is a bit of science to this. A BBC article, headlined 'How anger can be put to good use', leans on a 2009 experiment by UK-based sports scientists, to prove it. It says: "The anger led to a significant boost in their performance, as they channelled their frustration into the exercise, compared to participants who felt more neutral. Later studies found similar benefits in ball pitching, and jumping: the angrier they felt, the faster their pitch and the higher they jumped."

Michael Jordan is said to take any slight from his rivals to settle scores in the next game. Yuvraj Singh wouldn't have hit six sixes if Flintoff hadn't left him fuming.

But is Kohli angry with the sequence of events that led to his sacking as white-ball cricket or will he be anxious about the repercussions of taking on the powerful chief of an influential institution? Will he flush out his perceived antagonism with his runs or will he get bogged down by the talk of his shaky crown?

At the Express e-Adda India's head coach till very recently Ravi Shastri was asked if Virat vs Ganguly will be sorted by sitting and talking or they are waiting ki phir palat ke kab maarna hai? Shastri replied: "It is not about sitting and talking. One party has given one part of his explanation, now the other party needs to get up and give his side of the story. After that, let the public decide." Ganguly hasn't replied, the air hasn't been cleared, the public now waits for the first Test in South Africa.

Shastri would endorse that India couldn't have a better Test captain than Kohli. "He has been the ambassador of Test cricket like no one else. If you go by the results, who is closer to him? I don't know any captain in the world who leads with that kind of passion."

That passion is Indian cricket's priceless heirloom, which they need to preserve. The subjugation of a proud captain wouldn't rank among BCCI's glowing achievements. There can't be a worse sight in cricket than a subdued and second-guessing Kohli leading India. Kohli's challenge in South Africa is to be that Little Kohli who promised to change the image of Indian cricket forever.

INTERVIEW: SHREYAS IYER

'I love playing freely & the team management has given me that freedom'

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

HAVING REPRESENTED India in 54 white-ball games, Mumbai batter Shreyas Iyer made his long-awaited entry into Test cricket in Kanpur against New Zealand in November. After becoming the only Indian to make a century and a fifty on Test debut, a stern challenge awaits the 27-year old on the South Africa tour, where he will be competing for a middle-order spot with Ajinkya Rahane and Hanuma Vihari. Before leaving for South Africa, Iyer spoke to *The Indian Express* on his debut performance and his preparation for the upcoming big tour.

Your Mumbai team-mate Siddhesh Lad once asked you to focus on white-ball cricket when you were not getting chances in red-ball. But you replied that red-ball lamba khelna hai [I want to play red-ball for a long time]. Tell us a bit about that phase.

Test cricket is the ultimate dream of any professional cricketer. True to its name, it tests your technical, mental and physical strength. I have always wanted to play Test cricket for India and I knew my time would come. Since my early days, I have never put pressure on myself. I think it affects your temperament and off the field. All I always like to do and did

at that time is focus on my skills so that whenever I get the opportunity, I am ready for it.

You had to wait for 54 first-class games before your Test debut. You have already played 54 white-ball games for India. You are also an IPL star. Was there ever a point where you felt that you had achieved plenty even without getting that Test cap?

No, not at all. I am humbled by what I have been rewarded with but it doesn't mean that I don't strive to stretch to the next level. As I said, when I know I'm doing what I love, every opportunity, landmark or incentive becomes a bye-product. Yes, it does make you happy but it doesn't make you content. As a person, I don't believe in being satisfied with my efforts or achievements, there's always an extra mile in you.

Your breakthrough Ranji performance came in Kanpur against Uttar Pradesh in 2014-15. Was that on your mind when you made your Test debut at the same ground? How do you look back at that game now? You had forgotten your match kit at the hotel...

Well, the hotel was not far, so it wasn't too difficult to get it back. However, I then Mumbai coach Pravin Amre sir pulled me up for the lapse. I have always performed well at Kanpur



SHREYAS IYER

so there was a sense of comfort, of nostalgia. I was also pretty confident playing there.

You were yet to score your first run in Test cricket when you were beaten by Ajaz Patel. Two balls later, you went for a big hit and the ball just cleared mid-off running back. That was a tense way to get your first Test runs. Can you talk about that moment?

I always walk into bat with a clear mind. When you're batting, you can't have your mind cluttered with too many things and plan your next shot before the ball is delivered. I believe in treating each ball on its merit and that is how I play all formats. Yes, you are eager and have a positive nervous-

ness for your first run but at that moment, I just wanted to trust myself on each shot I was playing or attempting.

You hadn't played a first-class match in nearly three years when you made your Test debut. What did you focus on in training to get into the routine of the long format?

I have had considerable experience in the Ranji Trophy circuit where I have developed certain processes around my technique. So, I didn't try to over-complicate things. I just focused on the processes and mindset that have worked for me in the past.

You have a high career strike-rate in first-class cricket. And you went at a high tempo in Kanpur too.

Was there any thought about taking some more time because it was Test cricket?

I said, I treat each ball on its merit and play with a clear mind. I always try to avoid pre-meditated shots. Yes, you do have a game-plan based on the pitch, conditions and the opponent's bowling set-up but it is important to adapt to the situation and trust your instinct. I love playing freely and the

good part is that the team management has given me that freedom. So, if the ball is there to score, I go for it.

Was there a point in your debut innings when it struck you that you now belonged to Test level? How did that feel?

I don't think there's a case or feeling of belonging to any level in any walk of life. You are there because you are good at what you do and as long as you respect your skill and are honest about it, you will sustain and enjoy the journey. For me, I have always wanted to play Test cricket for India and the feeling of donning the India cap cannot be expressed in words. I must add that I was lucky to be handed the Test cap by one of the greatest cricketers of all time, Sunil Gavaskar sir, which made the occasion extra special for me.

You've played only three first-class games outside India. Two of them have come in South Africa. How different was that experience from the red-ball cricket you've played in India?

Each country offers something different. The conditions, pitches and grounds make the whole experience unique. As professional cricketers, we have to adapt and enjoy the challenges to be successful as an individual and a team. In South Africa, you find much harder and greener pitches as compared to India, which is intriguing for any batsman's technique and temperament and it's exciting to compete there.

Rohit Sharma has spoken about how he consciously holds his wrists close to the body while preparing for an England tour. Do you follow a similar routine? What have you focussed on the most for South Africa?

The pace and bounce of the wickets in South Africa warrant quick reflexes. For me, the focus is on my footwork and movement at the crease so that I am in line and hold a good position to meet the ball or leave with conviction.

You've played under Rohit's captaincy and also gone up against him in the IPL. What stands out for you in his leadership?

Rohit has his own brand of leadership. He's very calm and collected and that rubs off on the team as well. He's quite chilled out and encourages everyone, including youngsters, to share their views.

GOOD GOVERNANCE DAY

25TH DECEMBER, 2021



Manohar Lal vows responsive governance

Our Inspiration



Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is known to be a visionary statesman and believed that without result-oriented growth and development, the Government of the day would not qualify for the citizens' faith. He stands out among one of our valued examples of political leadership, one who made performance the key deliverable of governance. That is why, soon after he was named as recipient of India's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna, on December 23, 2014, the Narendra Modi government announced that Vajpayee's birth anniversary would be treated as Good Governance Day.

Observed every year on December 25, it aims to familiarise citizens with and make them aware about the Government's responsibilities and duties that it needs to fulfill. It acts as a reminder to every government, be it at the Center or the State, to be unbiased, transparent and development-oriented. For example, while observing the Good Governance week in 2021, the Central Government launched a nationwide campaign for redressal of public grievances and improvising service delivery, especially in rural areas. It even launched a Good Governance Week portal and all district collectors of States and Union Territories were given access to the online portal to upload and share the progress and achievements. The activities that were taken up by the districts of all States and UTs during the Good Governance Week included special awareness camps/events at tehsil headquarters/panchayat samitis; redressal of pending backlog public

The Haryana Government is committed to improving governance with transparency, accountability, efficiency and driving changes on the ground



grievances in CPGRAMS; updating of citizen charters, redressal of public grievances in State portals; disposal of applications under the category of Improving Service Delivery; adopting best good governance practices and sharing requisite pictures on the portal; sharing one success story per district on the resolution of public grievances on the portal.

The Haryana Government, led by Chief Minister Manohar Lal, is committed to good governance and has been following citizen-centric policies while ensuring their last mile execution. It believes in the three principles of accountability, transparency and efficiency. This year on December 25 it will confer 'Good Governance Awards' to employees who have done commendable innovative work.

An official spokesperson said that these awards will be given in the fields of economic, social and infrastructure sectors and state flagship programmes. A maximum of ten State-level awards and three District-level awards for each district will be given, he added.

All eligible employees (regular or contractual) excluding Administrative Secretaries, HoDs and IAS officers applied through their respective HoDs till November 22. The HoDs then forwarded these applications to Administrative Secretaries concerned who chose and nominated the projects, schemes and programmes for the award through the online portal.

The scrutiny and evaluation of applications received by Administrative Secretaries was done by external expert institutions, then the Empowered Committee chaired by the Haryana Chief Secretary finalised the winners.

A trophy, an award certificate signed by the Chief Minister Manohar Lal, an appreciation certificate signed by Chief Secretary and cash reward will be given to all the winners. The announcement made during the Good Governance Day event, among other measures, is aimed at motivating Government employees to work hard

for the welfare of the masses.

In 2020, the State Government gained much from the "Susashan Sankalp Varsh" on Good Governance Day during which suggestions and reforms in governance were invited from people. Citizens offered their suggestions on a dedicated website and the best suggestions were incorporated in several measures announced by the State Government.

The Chief Minister also announced three categories of awards for outstanding employees, including three awards within the department, three awards from all offices in each District and three at the State-level. Overall, 500 awards were given to employees last year.

The State Government has rolled out additional measures this year, some of which have had a transformative impact in harnessing the strengths of young people and ensuring transparency in services.



HARYANA HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

For the first time, the Human Resource Development Department is being set up in the State, which will observe all matters related to employees, including recruitment, transfers, deputation, change in service rules and corruption cases. It will ensure unified administrative control over all the employees of Group A, B, C and D, including Haryana Civil Services [HCS].

HARYANA KAUSHAL ROZGAR NIGAM

The Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Limited was incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 on October 13, 2021. It has been set up with the objective of providing contractual manpower to all Government entities in Haryana in a transparent, robust and equitable manner. It will act as the authorised agency for providing contractual manpower in Haryana. It will focus on uplifting socio-economically disadvantaged candidates, facilitating timely payment of salary and benefits to deployed manpower and ensuring adherence to the State Reservation Policy.

SAKSHAM YUVA YOJANA

The Saksham Yuva programme has been implemented through the unique employment portal that maps skills of job-seekers to employment opportunities. Although it has run successfully in the State for the last few years, it will now be modified and aimed specifically towards the skill development and placement of these unemployed youth.

Haryana is the only State in country to provide employment to youths every month with a 100-hour job guarantee. They get a remuneration of Rs. 9000 per month for this. Under this scheme, all graduate candidates will get Rs. 1,500 per month while post-graduate candidates will receive Rs. 3,000 per month. If they work for 100 hours per month for the Government, then they will get an extra Rs. 6,000 per month. It means a graduate candidate can receive a total of Rs. 7,500 per month and a post-graduate candidate gets Rs. 9,000 per month. The monthly amount under Saksham Yojana Haryana will be given only for next 3 years.

ONE-TIME SINGLE REGISTRATION FOR JOBS

The Haryana Staff Selection Commission [HSSC] has started the facility of one-time single registration from January 1. The fees, documents/certificates are to be deposited/uploaded at one go, which will be beneficial to candidates and they will get rid of hassles and troubles.

FREE PASSPORT SERVICE SCHEME

To fulfill the dream of the youth of Haryana to study abroad and get a job, the 'Foreign Cooperation Department' has been set up, the first State in the country to do so. It is a unique initiative to provide passports to students free of cost. So far, passports have been issued to 6,800 youths have been made.

ONLINE TRANSFER POLICY

With an aim to ensure transparency and enhance the work efficiency of the various departments, the "Online Transfer Policy" has been implemented by the State Government under which employees are liable to be transferred anywhere in the State, at any point of time.

To bring in transparency and uniformity in transfers, the Haryana Government started an online transfer policy for teachers. At first, it was implemented in the cadres which have 500 or more employees. Later the policy was extended to the cadre strength of 80 or more employees. The other states are following this template too.

What is the Chief Minister's Good Governance Associates Programme ?

The CMGGA Programme is a strategic collaboration between the Government of Haryana and Ashoka University to improve governance in the State and drive a mass impact on ground. Running since 2016, the programme provides a platform to 25 young individuals each year, to work closely with the Chief Minister's Office for bringing transparency, accountability and efficiency in public service delivery in the State. The CMGGAs are recruited through a competitive process with the selection ratio of 1:100. The associates are trained and oriented about Government functioning and structure through a 15-day boot camp at Ashoka University and are then



posted across 22 Districts to work in tandem with the district administration for a period of one year.

CMGGAs ensure streamlined implementation of the State Government's flagship programmes in the field of education, women's safety, health and sanitation, higher education and e-governance. They drive convergence between various Government stakeholders and departments within the administration to re-engineer processes and take on implementation challenges. They also work on an innovative pilot project for addressing an issue pertinent to their district. If a pilot project is found successful, it gets scaled up at the State-level. The four batches of CMGGAs have been instrumental in driving stories of change in Haryana, resulting in a palpable and visible impact on ground.

Recently, the Chief Minister said that it was the priority of the State Government to ensure that every family across the State should get employment and self-employment opportunities by the year 2024, which will bring financial stability to individual households. He said that Nuh district in the State needs a positive transformation in the field of education, health and employment as compared to other districts, adding Good Governance Associates should make efforts to implement constructive thoughts for the welfare of society.

e-Office and e-Registration System:

Janabandi of all the revenue estates in the State are being documented on the Web-HAIIS Portal. The work of e-Girdawari is being done online. Under e-Registration, the appointment management system has been made applicable and provisions are made for appointment and Tatkal appointment for a registration.

Templates have been provided on the website <http://Janabandi.nic.in> for registration and Collector rates for all land/properties and stamps are now available online.

Remand practice abolished

The power of remand in revenue, which was in force for the last 40 years, has also been eliminated. All the records of the land are being digitised in Web-HAIIS of the Revenue Department.

e-Bhoomi Portal:

The e-Bhoomi portal has been launched by the State Government under which land is being purchased in a transparent manner with reduced human intervention.

e-Auction system for awarding mining concessions

In December 2020, out of a total of 119 minor mineral mines, 58 mines were allocated through a competitive bidding process.

e-SHRAM

This is the registration portal for the welfare of unorganised workers and labourers. This will be accessible to everybody in the country. Unorganised workers will get an accidental insurance coverage under PMSBY. They can further avail the benefits of all social security schemes and seek relief during natural disasters/pandemics. The accidental death or a permanent injury means the worker's family will get Rs. 2 lakh. For lesser injuries, the affected will receive Rs. 1 lakh compensation.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

ADVERTORIAL



Biryani by Kilo Raises US\$35m Series B to cement its position as India's leading Biryani Brand and Cloud Kitchen Platform

The round was led by Alpha Wave Ventures | Falcon Edge Capital, with participation from SBI and existing investor IvyCap Ventures.

GURGAON-based Biryani by Kilo (BBK), India's leading biryani brand, today announced the successful closure of its US\$35m Series B fundraise. The business will utilize these funds to further expand its market-leading biryani brand nationwide, targeting over 200 outlets by the end of 2024. In addition, BBK is looking to expand into international markets to extend its category leadership worldwide. Investec India was the exclusive financial advisor to this transaction.

Biryani is the largest category in the Indian food delivery sector, estimated to be over 25% of the overall food delivery market, but has historically been highly localized, dominated by small independent businesses with variable quality and consistency. This is in contrast to burger and pizza categories, where the leading 2 or 3 players dominate the market with over 80% share. The opportunity for BBK to build the first nationwide biryani brand is clear.

Founder Vishal Jindal said: "We are delighted to close our Series B fundraise and have Alpha Wave | Falcon Edge on board as we look to continue to consolidate our position as India's leading biryani brand and take BBK worldwide. BBK would also be looking at acquiring other F&B cloud kitchen brands which can be scaled pan India with our expertise in supply chain, technology & marketing. We are grateful to the support of our existing investors IvyCap and the Chand group".

Founder Kaushik Roy added: "Biryani is the most popular dish in the country, but there is a dearth of quality brands. Right from the start, we have been clear in our vision, to provide 100% fresh Handi



Vishal Jindal & Kaushik Roy
(Founders)



Vikram Gupta, Founder and Managing Partner, IvyCap Ventures Advisors Pvt Ltd, "BBK is at a very exciting stage of its journey. We are excited about the opportunity in this space where BBK has created a unique

positioning. The new round of funding will help BBK achieve its true potential."

ABOUT BBK
Founded in 2015 in Gurgaon, BBK is In-

giene & convenience to its customers.

The USP of BBK is to make fresh Handi Biryani for every individual order and the Biryani is delivered in the same Handi in which it is Dum cooked. BBK is the pioneer of Fresh Handi Biryani concept which many F&B companies have tried to imitate.

Biryani by Kilo has lovingly served Hyderabad, Kolkata and Lucknowi Dum Cooked biryani in the traditional way to over 2 Million satisfied customers so far.

Biryani by Kilo has recently launched new exotic Flavors of Biryani, Kebabs & much more like Chicken Tikka Biryani, Tandoori Chicken Biryani, Rara Mutton Biryani, Paneer Tikka Biryani, Dal Shahi and Punjabi Fish Fry. All these new products are getting lots of love and appreciation from foodies & connoisseurs.

Apart from Biryani, BBK menu also features dishes such as Chicken Ghee Roast; Chicken & Paneer 65, Veg & Mutton Galouti, loved desserts like Phirni. For vegetarians there is Peshawari Chole, Kathal & Paneer Biryani; Paneer 65, Paneer Nawabi and Burani Raita, all of which are from Nizami tradition & utterly delicious. Also, BBK delivers premium melt in mouth - Veg & Non veg Kebab Platters.

For exciting offers & delivery orders: www.biryanibykilo.com or download BBK App or Call/WhatsApp 9555-212-212
BBK Royal Dine-in at: Sector 135 Noida, N-79 Connaught Place, Sector-86
Gurgaon & RDC Ghaziabad
Delivery timing: 10 am - 11 pm
Biryani starting from Rs 325/half KG
<https://www.facebook.com/biryanibykilo>
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GET IN THE MOOD FOR PARTY LEAVE YOUR CELEBRATIONS ON BBK

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WE DON'T RE-HEAT
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Scan to See Our Menu

For delivery: biryanibykilo.com ☎ 9555-212-212

New Delhi