



दो साल विकास के हेमन्त संग विश्वास के

न रुकेगा

न झुकेगा

हर हाल में

झारखण्ड बढ़ेगा..

सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार

e-Procurement Cell BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT CORRIGENDUM

Sl. No.	Tender Reference No.	Name of Work
1	BCD/Ranchi-1/09/2021-22	Addition, Alteration & Renovation of New Block Circuit House at Circular Road, Ranchi,
2	Corrigendum Title	Correction in Date
3	Corrigendum No.	01

> Date has been extended for the above referenced tender as follows:-

	Previous Date	Corrected Date
Last Date/Time of Submission of Bids	19.01.2021 at 05:00 PM	19.01.2022 at 5.00 PM
Last Date/Time of Submission of Bid Security Money and Tender Fee	21.01.2021 upto 11:30AM.	21.01.2022 upto 11.30 AM
Date/Time of opening of Bid	21.01.2021 at 12:00 PM	21.01.2022 at 12.00 PM

Other Terms & Conditions shall remain Unchanged
Pr.No-260435

Nodal Officer
e-procurement cell, BCD, Ranchi
PR.NO.260489 Building(21-22):D

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (BUILDING) ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3

No. CE/BLDG/ARC-N/121 /2021/01

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICE

On behalf of the Governor of Assam, the Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Building) invites "Expression of Interest" (EOI) from reputed Architect / Architectural firms, empanelled with APWD (Building), Category (A,B & C), who are registered with Council of Architecture and having wide experience in North East India for the following project:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Total Approx. project cost considered
1	CSR Project Rehabilitation and Livelihood Development of flood effected people through community participation at Goroimari Doloni Village in Majuli	13.86 Crore

The details may be seen in the **Notice Inviting Proposal** for the consultancy services along with the Terms of Reference (TOR) in the P.W.D portal assamtenders.gov.in. The validity period of the RFP shall be 180 days from the date of submission.

The Bidders must be registered with the **E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam.** (website: <http://assamtenders.gov.in>). The Chief Engineer P.W.D (Building), Assam reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without showing any reasons what so ever.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, PWD, (Bldg.)
Janasanyog/C/9790/21
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

कार्यालय, चास नगर निगम, चास (बोकारो)

2nd call अति अल्पकालिन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निविदा सूचना संख्या (चास नगर निगम) UDD/CMC/09/2021-22
चास नगर निगम द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या UDD/CMC/09/2021-22/01-04 ज्ञापक सं० 3082 दिनांक 03.11.2021 के सभी निविदाओं को एकल होने के कारण पुनः निविदा प्रकाशित किया जाता है।

क्र. सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राकलित राशि (रुपये में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रुपये में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रुपये में)	कार्य अवधि
1	Tender	2	3	4	5
1	चास नगर निगम अन्तर्गत चास शहरी जलपूर्ति योजना फेज 1 INTEK WELL कुल 03 अर्द्ध V.T PUMP का कर एवं अधिष्ठान कार्य। (S.I.T.C)	9994152.00	200000.00	10000.00	08 माह
2	चास नगर निगम अन्तर्गत चास शहरी जलपूर्ति योजना फेज 1 INTEK WELL कुल 03 अर्द्ध S.I.T.C OF SOFT STAINER CUM M.C.P PUMP का कर एवं अधिष्ठान कार्य।	1709243.00	36000.00	5000.00	03 माह
3	चास नगर निगम अन्तर्गत चास शहरी जलपूर्ति योजना के पुनर्की स्थित स्वच्छ जल जलपूर्ति केन्द्र के Repairing of 11kV Capacitor Bank की पूर्ण मरम्मत कार्य। (S.I.T.C)	1276118.00	26000.00	5000.00	03 माह
4	चास नगर निगम अन्तर्गत चास शहरी जलपूर्ति योजना के पुनर्की स्थित कच्चा जल जलपूर्ति केन्द्र के 315 KVA (11 K.V/0.433 K.V) POWER TRANSFORMER का आपूर्ति एवं अधिष्ठान कार्य तथा बोरिडोह शहरी जलपूर्ति केन्द्र के Electro mechanical components का Renovation कार्य। (S.I.T.C)	1863174.00	37500.00	5000.00	03 माह
A	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :-27.12.2021				
B	निविदा प्राप्त (ऑन लाईन बिडिंग) की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय :-05.01.2022 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक				
C	चास नगर निगम में परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रघन की राशि की मूल प्रति जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय:-दिनांक 05.01.2022 समय 5:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।				
D	बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :-दिनांक 06.01.2022 समय 02:00 बजे पूर्वह्न, चास नगर निगम कार्यालय।				
E	Tender Fee & EMD Fee Payable to- Additional Municipal commissioner, Chas Municipal Corporation, Payable at Chas Bokaro				
F	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम /पदनाम बनिल कुमार सिंह, अपर नगर आयुक्त, चास नगर निगम				
G	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का दौरेफोन नं०/ई-प्रोसेसिंग सेल का हेल्प लाईन सं० :-7903584230				

नोट :-1. केवल ई-निविदा ही स्वीकार किए जायेंगे।

2. प्राकलित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है।

अधिक जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

PR 260474 Urban Development and Housing(21-22)#D

अपर नगर आयुक्त
चास नगर निगम

OFFICE OF THE JAMSHEDPUR NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE

Short Term e-Tender

Ref. No – JNAC/E-pro-26/2021-22

Request for proposal for Empanelment of agencies for rate contract for design, engineering, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Grid connected & off Grid connected SPV power plant including five years comprehensive maintenance contract on turnkey basis for solarisation of Various Government institution under JNAC Municipal Area.

Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee, Jamshedpur invites online bid through e-Tendering Process for Empanelment of agencies for rate contract for design, engineering, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Grid connected & off Grid connected SPV power plant including five years comprehensive maintenance contract on turnkey basis for solarisation of Various Government institution under JNAC Municipal Area. The invitation to bid is open to all bidders meeting the eligibility criteria as mentioned in the RFP document. Bidders are advised to study the RFP document and term & Conditions carefully and completely. Submission of Bids shall be deemed to have been done after careful study of RFP document and examination of Terms & Conditions with full understanding of its implication.

1. Name of Work	Empanelment of agencies for rate contract for design, engineering, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Grid connected & off Grid connected SPV power plant including five years comprehensive maintenance contract on turnkey basis for solarisation of Various Government institution under JNAC Municipal Area.
2. Tender Ref No.	JNAC/E-pro-26/2021-22
3. Cost of tender Document	INR 10,000/- (Ten Thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft in favour of Special Officer, Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee, Sakchi, Payable at Jamshedpur.
4. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	INR 2,00,000/- (Two Lacs) in the form of Bank Guarantee or TDR in favour of Special Officer, Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee, Sakchi, Payable at Jamshedpur.
5. Period of Completion	180 Days.
6. Availability of Tender Online for bidding	
i Date of publication of Tender on Website	03-01-2022 at 03:00 PM
ii Start date and time of downloading of tender documents	03-01-2022 at 05:00 PM
iii Date of Pre-Bid meeting, time and place	06-01-2022 at 01:00 PM, Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee Conference Hall
iv Start date and time of upload of bid	08-01-2022 at 11:00 AM
v End date and time of upload of bid	15-01-2022 at 05:00 PM
vi Last date of submission of hard copy of bid, tender cost & E.M.D in the office of J.N.A.C	17-01-2022 at 03:00 PM
vii Bid Opening date for technical part (part-I)	18-01-2022 at 04:00 PM
viii Bid Opening date for financial part (part-II)	To be announced later.
ix Tender inviting authority & address for communication.	Special Officer, Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee, Sakchi, Jamshedpur.

Cost of Tender Document, EMD and Technical Bid Document (Hard Copy) shall be deposited in the office of the Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee, Sakchi, Jamshedpur on all working days latest by on or before the last date and time of hard copy of bid submission either by registered post/speed post or by hand. Only those applications will be entertained whose cost of tender Document, EMD and Technical Bid Document is received latest by on or before the last date and time of hard copy of bid submission. JNAC will not be held responsible for the postal delay, if any, in the delivery of the document or non-receipt of the same.

Term and Conditions :-

- E-Tender document including terms & conditions, tender specification can be downloaded from website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Any details/clarification required in this regard can also be had from the office of undersigned during office hours.
- The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only.
- If there is sudden announcement of holiday by Govt. on the date of opening tender/last date of submission of hard copy of bid then the next working days will be considered.
- Please contact 0657-2423280 for any enquiry.

Special Officer
Jamshedpur N.A.C.
Jamshedpur
PR 260558 Urban Development (21-22)_D

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/TEND-RFP-01/12619/2021-22 Date: 27.12.2021

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of works of (1) **Consultancy Services for Preparation of Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop Fresh Water & Waste Water Infrastructure under public-Private Partnership (PPP) Contract Model for Harohalli Industrial Area in Ramangara District & Dabaspur Industrial Area in Bengaluru Rural District.** (2) **Expression of Interest to develop Fresh Water Infrastructure for Dabaspur Industrial Area, in Bengaluru Rural District & Reclaimed Water Infrastructure for Harohalli Industrial Area in Ramangara District under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Contract Model.**

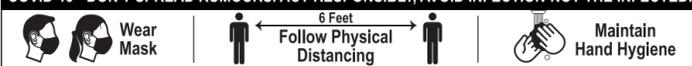
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **11.01.2022 upto 04:00 pm**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 1

DIPR/DDU/JA/2560/2021-22

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.



Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun Ph : 0135-2608125 Fax : 2608126 Email : ut-urdda@pmgsy.nic.in, urdda@yahoo.com

Ref. No. 2559/11-02(xix)/ITCO/URRDA/21 Dated : 27.12.2021

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice 24/2021-22

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of **Pithoragarh & Tehri** for 02 number of Packages with estimated cost totalling to **Rs. 8.40 Crore** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: **28-12-2021.**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with **CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD/MBD, only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid (for Regular PMGSY Works),** either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: **03.01.2022 01:00 PM.**

For further details please log on to www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in

Chief Engineer, URRDA, Dehradun

*Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.
Note : For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00AM to 05:00PM.

Executive Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Division Jamtara.

पृष्ठ संख्या -1

e-Procurement Notice

Tender no- DWSD/EE/JAMTARA – 16/DWSD/JMT/2021-22 Dated-27/12/2021

Sr. No.	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Document/Tender Fee (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of Work (Days)
1	Name of the Work					
2	Estimated Cost	Rs. 180211000.00 (Rs. Eighteen Crore Two Lakh Eleven thousand) only				
3	Earnest Money	Rs. 1803000.00 (Rs. Eighteen Lakh Three Thousand) only.				
4	Cost of BOQ	Rs. 10,000.00 (Rs. Ten thousand) Only				
5	Time of Completion	24 Mon th + 3 Month(Trial and Run)				
6	Date of publication of Tender on Website	06.01.2022 up to 4.00 P.M.				
7	Date ,Time and Place of Pre Bid meeting	10.01.2022 up to 3.00 P.M. at the office of Engineer in chief , D.W & S. Department , Nepal house , Ranchi.				
8	Last date /Time for receipt of Bid	17.01.2022 up to 4.00 P.M.				
9	Last date for receipt of EMD & cost of BOQ.	18.01.2022 up to 4.30 P.M.				
10	Date of opening of Tender	19.01.2022 up to 4.00 P.M.				
11	Name & address of office inviting tender	Executive Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Division Jamtara..				
12	Name and Address of Opening Officer	Executive Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Division Jamtara.				
13	Contact no of Procurement office	8084325805				
14	Helpline no of e-procurement cell	0651-2480345				

Further details can be seen on website.<http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
Executive Engineer
PR 260503 (Drinking Water and Sanitation)21-22*D Drinking Water & Sanitation Division Jamtara.

JAL SHAKTI, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No.115 OF 2021-22, Dated: 23.12.2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Srinagar Kashmir invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for each district/geographically different zones for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works". Group-IV 100 to 300 (20 No WSS Hilly Lift) details of which are given below. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Bidding, tender fee, earnest money, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr. No.	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Document/Tender Fee (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of Work (Days)
1	Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Anantnag district/geographically different zone for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. These works are broadly consisting of: a. Construction of water supply schemes by way of filtration plants, pump houses, service reservoir, Overhead tanks, laying of distribution mains. b. S.I.T.C of pumping units along with associated electro-mechanical works for harnessing of tub well. c. Retrofitting of electro-mechanical equipments at various Water Supply Schemes	1000/-		180	180 Days	
	Group-IV 100 to 300 (20 No WSS Hilly Lift)	Above 100 Lacs upto 300 Lacs		0.75		120

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
The tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Kashmir/Jammu Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).
Note: In view of the fact, that this NIT for item rate contract has been framed for the first time in the Department, a helpdesk shall be established at the Direction office level as well as district level for encouraging and facilitating the intending bidders for participation in the instant NIT to ensure wide participation across all the Districts.
KEY/CRITICAL DATES:

I	PUBLISH DATE	23.12.2021
II	DOCUMENT DOWNLOAD/SALE START DATE	23.12.2021
III	CLARIFICATION START DATE	23.12.2021
IV	BID SUBMISSION START DATE	28.12.2021
V	CLARIFICATION END DATE	17.01.2022
VI	PRE-BID MEETING DATE	28.12.2021
VII	DOCUMENT DOWNLOAD/SALE END DATE	22.12.2021
VIII	BID SUBMISSION END DATE	22.01.2022
IX	DATE AND TIME OF BID OPENING	24.01.2022

- Bid documents can be assessed at and downloaded from the websites <http://jtenders.gov.in>
- The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, PHE Department, through virtual/online mode.
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jtenders.gov.in>
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jtenders.gov.in>.
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir/Jammu, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 6 & 7 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar/Jammu.
a. Bid Security to be pledged in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir/Jammu, Jal Shakti PHE Department. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/ FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall have to be valid for at least one year after last date of submission of Bid. The Bid of bidders having bid security less than as specified above will be rejected
b. The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/E-challan in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir/Jammu, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/E-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jtenders.gov.in>.
- Queries by email if any should be made at kmrphed@gmail.com/phecjeju@gmail.com/phebjbebhara230@gmail.com
Chief Engineer,
No: JSD/CE/32958-69
Date: 23.12.2021

DIPK-12779

Kashmir/Jammu, Jal Shakti, PHE Department Srinagar.

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED

उज्जैन स्मार्ट सिटी लिमिटेड, उज्जैन
Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856

NIT No.- USCL/136, Tender ID- 2021_UAD_174255_1 Dated: 21/12/2021
Ujjain Smart City Limited invites proposal for "Design and Construction of Pedestrian Bridge Over RudraSagar Lake, Ujjain City". Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in.

Probable Amount of Contract:	Rs. 16,34,60,179-00
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 8,17,500/-
Cost of Document	Rs. 30,000/-
Pre bid Meeting Date	05/01/2022 15:00 hrs.
Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	21/01/2022 up to 17:00 hrs
Completion Period	15 Months (Including Intervening Rainy Seasons)

For more details, please visit <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only.

For, Ujjain Smart City Limited

THE H.P. STATE COOPERATIVE WOOL PROCUREMENT AND MARKETING FEDERATION LTD. BLOCK NO. 23, S.D.A. COMPLEX, KASUMPTI, SHIMLA-171009 Phone No. 0177-2622837, Fax : 0177-2620981 Email: gmwoolfed-hp@nic.in Website: <https://himachal.nic.in/woolfed>

E-TENDER NOTICE

(TENDER No. HPWF/27/LS/SML/2021)

SUPPLY OF 76 "ICE LINED REFRIGERATORS (ILRS)"

E-tenders under two bid systems are invited for the supply of approximately SUPPLY OF 76 "ICE LINED REFRIGERATORS (ILRS)" against rate contract to be kept valid for one year from the date of contract. The interested parties may download the Tender Document containing the Technical Specifications, terms and Conditions, Timelines, Application Form and other details etc. from the official portal <https://mptenders.gov.in> w.e.f. 29.12.2021 (effective 3.00 PM) to 20.01.2022 (up till 5.00 PM). The cost of the tender document is ₹2360/- including GST.

All the future notifications/ corrigendums, memorandum/s etc. in connection with this tender, if any, will be published only on the official portal <https://mptenders.gov.in> and will not be conveyed individually or published in newspapers etc.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

भारत सरकार, रक्षा मंत्रालय (Govt. of India, Ministry of Defence) रक्षा समदा कार्यालय DEFENCE ESTATES OFFICE

दिल्ली मण्डल, दिल्ली उपखण्ड (DELHI CIRCLE, DELHI CANTT.)
दूरफोन: 011-2560891, 2560895, 2560896, 2560897, 2560898, 2560899

DAYS BEFORE NEXT PHASE OF VACCINATION

As Omicron surge looms, Govt clears two more Covid vaccines and an anti-viral pill

Molnupiravir to be manufactured by 13 firms; Corbevax, Covovax get EUA

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

AS CASES of the highly transmissible Omicron variant continued to rise, the drug regulator on Tuesday granted emergency use authorisation (EUA) to Molnupiravir, the world's first Covid-19 pill. The repurposed antiviral drug, which was developed initially to treat influenza, will be manufactured by 13 companies in the country, and could be available in a week to treat patients.

The regulator also granted EUA to Hyderabad-based Biological E. for Corbevax, India's first indigenously developed RBD protein sub-unit vaccine against Covid-19, and to Serum

Institute of India (SII) for Covovax, the recombinant nanoparticle protein-based vaccine that has been developed by the American biotechnology firm Novavax.

Molnupiravir, which has been developed by US-based biotechnology company Ridgeback Biotherapeutics in collaboration with the American pharma giant Merck, works by introducing errors in the genetic code of SARS-CoV-2, which prevents the virus from replicating.

"Considering the emergency and unmet medical need in Covid-19", the subject expert committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) had

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Protesting resident doctors at Safdarjung Hospital, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Abhinav Saha

RELATED REPORT, PAGE 5

60-plus will not need doctor's certificate for precaution dose: Govt

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

THOSE ABOVE 60 years of age with co-morbidities will not be required to produce a doctor's certificate to avail the third "precaution" dose of the Covid vaccine. District administrations should identify dedicated sites or separate queues for vaccinating those in the 15-18 years age-group. And, personnel on election duty will be included among frontline workers eligible for the third dose.

These are the key guidelines conveyed by the Centre to all states Tuesday as the country prepares to expand its Covid vaccination coverage in phases from January 3.

In the communication, Union Health Secretary Rajesh



At a walk-in vaccination centre in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. Nirmal Harindran

Bhushan said that an estimated 7.40 crore beneficiaries are eligible for vaccines in the 15-18 age-group, and a projected 2.75 crore co-morbid population in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED

New in Covid fight

SHOTS

CORBEVAX, RBD protein sub-unit vaccine developed by Hyderabad-based Biological E.

COVOVAX, recombinant nanoparticle protein-based, developed by US-based Novavax, manufactured under licence by SII.

PILL

MOLNUPIRAVIR, anti-viral pill developed by US-based Ridgeback Biotherapeutics in collaboration with Merck. Four 200 mg capsules to be taken every 12 hrs for 5 days.

WHO GETS IT: Cleared only for treatment of adult patients "who have a high risk of progression".

BY WHEN: 13 Indian drugmakers are in the process of manufacturing. EXPLAINED, PAGE 19

Citing Covid, Govt urges doctors to end stir; they ask for firm assurances

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

DESPITE THE Union Health Minister expressing "regret" for "any misbehaviour on the part of the police" and urging resident doctors to rejoin work amid rising Covid cases, the protesting doctors on Tuesday said they

would continue their strike.

After a face-off with the police and being detained twice on Monday, the resident doctors had planned to march from Safdarjung Hospital to the Health Ministry on Tuesday noon. Resident doctors from across medical college-associated hospitals in the city as well as from other states reached

Safdarjung Hospital on Tuesday morning, amid heavy police deployment. All the gates of the hospital were also barricaded.

Before the march could begin, Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya called for a meeting with representatives of the resident doctors' association. "For many days, the resident

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Yellow alert in Delhi: Schools, colleges, cinema halls shut; curfew from 10 pm

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

WITH DELHI reporting a positivity rate of over 0.5 per cent since Sunday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal declared a "yellow alert" on Tuesday. Under the new restrictions, all educational institu-

tions, cinema halls and gyms will remain closed, wedding and funeral gatherings will be capped at 20, and Metro trains, buses and restaurants will operate at 50 per cent seating capacity.

The restrictions are as per the Covid Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) notified by the government in August this year, ac-

ording to which different restrictions will come into force if cases, positivity rate or hospitalisations increase beyond certain limits.

The "yellow alert" is issued when the city sees a positivity rate of over 0.5 per cent for two consecutive days, or cases cross 1,500 in a week, or average

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

VAXTEENATION DRIVE!



Under fire, J&K police say militant and crossfire killed three in Hyderpora

Claim video evidence links 3rd civilian with foreign militant killed by forces

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 28

SIX WEEKS after three civilians were killed on November 15 in an encounter in Hyderpora, the Jammu and Kashmir Police Tuesday sought to absolve itself from any blame and said one civilian, Mohammad Altaf Bhat, was killed in the crossfire after being taken as a "human shield" by a foreign militant. Another civilian, Mudasir Gul, was killed by the militant before he took Bhat as a "human shield", it said.

The police, however, maintained that Amir Magray, the youth from Ramban district in Jammu Division, was a militant. Amir's father Abdul Latief Magray, who in 2005-06 received a commendation certificate from the Army for helping counter-insurgency operations, had earlier denied the police's claims.

Under severe pressure after the controversial encounter, the J-K's Police's Special Investigation Team (SIT) held a press conference Tuesday to clarify its position by showing



IGP Vijay Kumar, DGP Dilbagh Singh and DIG Sujit Kumar Tuesday. Shuaib Masood

some videos, even as the report of the magisterial inquiry ordered by the J&K Lieutenant Governor and submitted to the government recently are yet to be made public. Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar were also present. Mediapersons were, however, not allowed to film the videos and cover the press conference live.

To a question if it was right to head the SIT especially when the Hyderpora operation was led by him, DIG Sujit Kumar, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police in Srinagar and also the SIT

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

REQUEST FROM ICCR: MINISTRY

Play Indian music in aircraft and airports, says Civil Aviation Ministry

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

SAYING that music in India began as an "integral part of socio-religious life," the Ministry of Civil Aviation, citing a request by the Indian Council of Cultural Research (ICCR), has written to Indian airlines and airport operators urging them to play Indian music on board aircraft and airport premises.

"Music played by most of the airlines across the globe is quintessential of the country to which the airline belongs, for example, jazz in American airlines or

Mozart in Austrian airlines and Arab music in an airline from the Middle East. But, Indian airlines seldom play Indian music in the flight, whereas, our music has a rich heritage and culture and it is one of the many things every Indian has a reason for (being) truly proud of it," Ministry of Civil Aviation's Joint Secretary Usha Padhee said in a letter marked to airlines and airport operators.

"Ministry of Civil Aviation is in receipt of request from ICCR on playing Indian music in the aircraft being operated in India and at airports following the regulatory requisites," the order said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

P Jain & P Jain: Tale of 2 perfume merchants raises some stink in UP

ASAD REHMAN & MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 28

THEY HAVE the same first initial, P; the same surname, Jain. They hail from the same neighbourhood Jain street in UP's Kannauj. They are in the same trade, perfumes. And in a bitterly contested election campaign, both are raising a stink.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pointed to the raids by GST authorities on properties allegedly linked to Peeyush Jain that unearthed over Rs 194 crore in cash and accused the Samajwadi Party of sprinkling the "perfume of corruption" all over UP during their stint in power.



Peeyush Jain outside a court in Kanpur on Monday. PTI

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said the "wrong Jain" was raided by Central authorities, one who has links to the BJP. The SP's Jain, he said, is Pushpraj "Pampi" Jain, an MLC whose latest perfume he had launched last month, calling it the "Samajwadi ittra".

At the heart of it all are two men bound by common roots but with differing stories.

Peeyush Jain, sources said, is a low-profile businessman who maintains a subdued lifestyle — he is said to still drive a scooter at times. On Monday, a Kanpur court sent the 50-year-old, who is now based in the city, to 14 days' judicial custody in connection with a tax evasion case. Images of stashes of cash seized from him went viral.

The 60-year-old Pushpraj Jain, on the other hand, is called a "philanthropist" in Kannauj and a politician who also owns a petrol pump and a cold storage unit, earns agricultural income, and has a house and an office in Mumbai.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS AS USUAL



WORLD

VIRUS SURGE PUTS BRAKES ON GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS

ISRAELI PM SAYS NOT OPPOSED TO 'GOOD' NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN

PAGE 18

SOS from Deccan College: Precious pieces of history dumped in gunny-bags

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ANJALIMARAR
PUNE, DECEMBER 28

WORLD-RENOWNED for its work on excavations tracing major milestones in the history of the Indus Valley Civilisation, Pune's Deccan College is now staring at an extinction closer home. Running short of space and funds, it is struggling to preserve precious antiquities from excavated sites, including Harappan.

Many of the lakhs of samples its archaeologists have dug up since the 1940s are now kept



The oldest samples date back 1.3 million years. Arul Horizon

simply in plastic bags and dumped around the premises at the 200-year-old institute.

Over the years, samples have been collected from more than 100 sites across the country, in-

cluding animal skeletal remains, plant remains like leaves and roots, bones, teeth, pottery, food grains, beads, shells, prehistoric tools like axes, iron implements, rocks, jewellery made of terracotta and glass, and soil samples.

Among the oldest are stone tools dating back 1.2 to 1.3 million years, excavated from Isampur in Karnataka. The DNA samples and skeletal remains of Harappan inhabitants, believed to be around 4,500 years old, are also among the collection.

Many are kept in Ziploc bags or gunny bags. Some bone and skeletal remains are even kept in the open on the floor or tables, in plastic trays and door-less

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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POLY NETWORK TO SQUID TOKEN SCAM: ALL THE CRYPTOCURRENCY HEISTS OF 2021

A report by Chainalysis revealed that hackers have exploited vulnerabilities within crypto platforms or used traditional scamming methods like 'rug pull', mooching off over \$7.7 billion (Rs 58,698 crore approx.) worth of cryptocurrency from victims in 2021.

TECH

GADGETS THAT STOOD OUT FROM THE CROWD

iPad mini and 7 other gadgets different from mainstream products



HEALTH

WHY A GAP OF 9-12 MONTHS IS IMPORTANT

90 per cent of adult population has received the first dose: PM Modi



EXPRESS AUDIO

AAP leaders jailed, concerns over personal laws, more hate speeches

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Why 93 AAP leaders have been jailed in Ahmedabad, how the new age of marriage Bill will affect personal laws, and a hate filled event takes place in Chhattisgarh.

CBI registers FIR in 2019 Assam Rifles recruitment 'scam'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation registered an FIR on Tuesday in connection with the alleged recruitment scam in Assam Rifles in Jorhat, Assam. The central agency took over the case, registered first by Assam

Police in 2019, after a request from the state government.

According to the FIR, an inquiry by the vigilance branch of Assam Rifles in Shillong, Meghalaya, had found that a teacher from Bihar, Yashwant Kumar, had helped candidates get recruited in the force in connivance with officials of Assam Rifles.

FROM PAGE ONE

2 more vaccines

advised the regulator to grant permission for manufacture and marketing of 200 mg capsules of molnupiravir with a recommended dose of 800 mg twice daily for 5 days, the Health Ministry said on Tuesday. The recommendation is for treatment of adult patients of Covid-19 with blood oxygen saturation (SpO2) >93%, and who have a "high risk of progression of the disease including hospitalisation or death", the Ministry said. The SEC has recommended the sale of the drug only against a prescription.

"Based on the recommendation of the SEC, the drug is being approved for 13 companies who have submitted their clinical trial report, interim or complete report," the Ministry said. CDSCO had received a total 22 applications to manufacture and market molnupiravir, it said.

The drug will be manufactured by seven Hyderabad-based companies: Dr Reddy's, Natco, MSN, Hetero, Optimus, Aurobindo, and Mylan; two Mumbai-based companies; Cipla and Sun Pharma; Ahmedabad-based Torrent and BDR; Bengaluru-based Strides; and Pune-based Emcure.

Sun Pharma said on Tuesday that its product, brand name Molxvir, will be available within a week "at an affordable price". Cipla said its molnupiravir pill, brand name Cipmolnu 200 mg, will be available soon at all leading pharmacies and Covid treatment centres across the country. Dr Reddy's said it would soon launch its molnupiravir capsule under the brand name Molflu.

Ahmedabad-headquartered Torrent Pharmaceuticals, which had announced a collaboration for clinical trial of molnupiravir with Cipla, Dr Reddy's, Emcure, and Sun Pharma this June, said its drug would be sold in India under the brand name Molnutor.

Also on Tuesday, Biological E said it "plans to complete production at a rate of 75 million doses (of Corbevax) per month, anticipating over 100 million doses per month from February 2022".

Adar Poonawalla, chief executive of SII, said: "The approval of Covovax... is a significant milestone in strengthening our immunisation efforts."

60-plus age group

60-plus age group for the precautionary dose. "All persons age 60 years and above with comorbidities will not be required to produce/submit any certificate from doctor, at the time of administration of precaution dose. Such persons are expected to obtain the advice of their doctor before deciding to avail of the precaution dose," Bhushan's letter states.

Bhushan reiterated that only Covaxin will be administered to the 15-18 age group, starting January 3. "...hence, preferably separate session site (Covid-19 Vaccination Centers) should be identified. Separate queue with proper and prominent signages and separate vaccination team must be used, if the identified session site is same where adult vaccination is also ongoing," the letter states.

"Appointments can be booked online or onsite (walk-in). Services in the on-site (walk-in) mode will be available subject to availability of vaccination slots. It is advised that beneficiaries should ascertain the availability of slots for the vaccination center of their choice on Co-WIN," the letter says.

For the third-dose campaign, starting January 10, Bhushan said all healthcare and frontline workers, who are presently registered on the Co-WIN system as citizens and aged less than 60 years, will have to get their status appropriately assigned to HCW (Health Care Worker) or FLW (Front Line Worker).

According to the letter, the Co-WIN system will send SMS in advance to beneficiaries of the precaution dose. "Registration and appointment services can be accessed through both, the online and the onsite ('Walk-in') modes. The details of administration of the precaution dose will be suitably reflected in the digital vaccination certificates generated from Co-WIN," the letter states.

'Yellow alert'

occupancy of oxygen beds in hospitals remains 500 for a week. Delhi reported a positivity rate of 0.55 per cent on Sunday, 0.68 per cent on Monday and 0.89 per cent on Tuesday; 496 new cases were reported on Tuesday.

"Over the past few days, cases have been going up, but there is no need to worry and panic. We are mostly seeing mild and asymptomatic cases, for which hospitalisation is not needed... But we don't want the disease to spread," Kejriwal said. As per the plan, shops in markets and malls dealing with non-essential goods and services will be allowed to open as per the odd-even formula between 10 am to 8 pm, while one weekly market will be allowed per municipal zone at half the capacity of vendors. Shops selling essential items will remain open on all days. Night curfew will be in place between 10 pm and 5 am.

Restaurants will operate at 50 per cent capacity between 8 am and 10 pm; bars will open from noon to 10 pm at 50 per cent capacity; schools, educational institutions, cinema halls, banquet halls, auditoriums, spas, gyms and entertainment parks will remain shut. Delhi Metro and buses will be allowed to operate at 50 per cent capacity. While the Delhi government offices will call 100% Grade I officers, private firms will be allowed to call 50 per cent staff between 9 am and 5 pm. There will be a complete ban on social/entertainment/religious/political/festival-related gatherings. Sports complexes, stadiums (except for national/international sports events) and entertainment parks will be closed.

While the gatherings at weddings and funerals will be limited to 20 people, banquet halls will not be allowed to host weddings. Kejriwal also said that the government will be forced to close markets if crowding continues and Covid-appropriate behaviour is not followed.

Doctors stir

doctors were protesting to expedite and immediately conduct counselling for NEET-UG. The case is subjudice in the Supreme Court and hence we haven't been able to conduct counselling, but there is a hearing on January 6. Before that, the Government of India will submit its report and I hope that counselling starts immediately after," said Mandaviya after the meeting with at least six RDA members, including Dr Manish Kumar, president, Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA).

"Yesterday, during the protest, if there was any misbehaviour on the part of the police, I express my regret. Right now, Covid-19 crisis is going on and to ensure that our citizens do not suffer, I urge that the doctors join their duty," said Mandaviya.

But, after a quick consultation with various resident doctors' associations following the meeting with Mandaviya, Dr Manish Kumar announced: "The strike has not been called off as of now. If someone thinks that a decision like this will be taken behind closed doors, that will not be the case. We will take a decision after consulting with everyone."

Later in the evening, after a meeting with all the resident doctors' associations, he announced the decision to continue the protest. "After the meeting, it has been decided that we will con-

tinue the strike. In addition to PG counselling, we had also raised the issue of the FIR that was filed against us yesterday and the Health Minister said that it would be quashed. However, no written assurance was provided on that. No written assurance has been provided on the counselling either. So we will continue the strike," said Dr Manish Kumar.

On Monday, the doctors were stopped at ITO during their march to the Supreme Court. Fifty doctors were detained and later released. The doctors alleged they were manhandled by the police. At night, when the doctors decided to march to the Health Minister's residence, over 2,500 of them were again detained at Sarojini Nagar police station.

The counselling for NEET-UG admissions is pending because of a clutch of cases in the Supreme Court regarding the newly introduced quota for the economically weaker sections. The doctors have been demanding that the Supreme Court fast-track the hearing and that the Union Health Ministry expedite the submission of a report on the chosen criteria of Rs 8 lakh annual income for eligibility of the quota.

Deccan College

cupboards. There is no temperature control for preservation. As part of the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) launched in 2007, about 60-70% of the antiquities and samples owned by the institute - formally known as the Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute - had got documented. It is the rest that the college is worried over.

As per an NMMA report, no comprehensive information is available regarding the built heritage and sites and antiquarian wealth of India. The Archaeological Survey of India protects 3,659 built heritage sites whereas an additional 3,500 are protected by the respective state governments. A large amount of antiquities are also at museums, institutions, universities as well as godowns of government authorities as confiscated items, the NMMA report said. The Deccan College authorities claim that in recent decades, funds from the Maharashtra government have been shrinking.

Phone calls to Uday Samant, Minister, Higher and Technical Education, and the department's director went unanswered.

The archaeology department has about 250 students pursuing Master's, M.Phil and doctoral studies. The Higher and Technical Education Department and UGC are meant to provide a substantial amount as maintenance grant.

Recently, the officials of Deccan College met with the state government and UGC authorities and some solution is reportedly being worked out.

The key Indus Valley sites Deccan College experts have worked on include Rakhigarhi, Farmana, Mitathal and Girwar in Haryana; Kuntasi, Padri and Dholavira in Gujarat; and Bikaner in Rajasthan, apart from sites in the South, Northeast and the Deccan Plateau.

"Every time a researcher wants an object, one has to look among the bags. Students struggle to have access, which is important to generate interest in them for further research," says Vice-Chancellor Prof Pramod Pandey.

Apart from the archaeology museum, the institute has one on Maratha history. The Pune Municipal Corporation supports the archaeology museum, but officials said it lacks both infrastructure and enough personnel.

"There is a huge need for more space," says Prof Vasant Shinde, one of Deccan College's most well-known Indus Valley experts. "There should be a proper repository to keep both documented and non-documented materials,

and they should be kept in order and be available for use by researchers at all times," he says.

In comparison, major archaeological institutions world over keep samples wrapped in cotton and preserved with chemicals. They are either arranged chronologically, or as per the sites of origin, or alphabetically (at Deccan College, they are kept as per sites of excavation). Some of the samples, due to their nature, require air-conditioned and temperature-controlled surroundings.

Particularly vulnerable are plant and animal skeletons and fish bones, which can spoil if not stored properly or if they get exposed to moisture or dampness during monsoons.

"In a few years, even the preserved objects kept inside the museum will need to be checked for their status," says Shinde.

PD Sabale, Head, Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture and Archaeology, says there is also urgent need for separate repositories for the specialised streams. "At present, the samples from archaeo-botany, archaeo-zoology among others share space. They can get mixed up, resulting in them being permanently lost."

Civil Aviation

The ICCR, an autonomous organisation of the Government of India working under the Ministry of External Affairs, had on December 23 requested Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to promote Indian music in flights operated by Indian carriers. The letter was handed to Scindia last week by Rajya Sabha MP and ICCR President Vinay Sahasrabudde. Scindia had visited the headquarters of ICCR on December 23, where various suggestions, including promotion of Indian music in flights, were made.

Airlines usually play standard piped music in aircraft at the time of boarding and de-boarding of passengers. Some airlines also play specially designed brand tunes or songs. In its letter, ICCR wrote to Scindia: "It is extremely unfortunate that most airlines in India, both private and government owned, as well as both domestic and international, seldom, if at all, play Indian music. Our music mirrors our rich heritage and culture and it is one of the many things every Indian has a reason to be truly proud of."

Artists and musicians, including Anu Malik, Kaushal S Inamdar, Malini Awasthi, Shounak Abhisheki, Manjusha Patil K, Sanjeev Abhyankar, Rita Ganguly and Wasifuddin Dagar were also present during the meeting December 23 and were signatories to the letter.

P Jain & P Jain

Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the Kanpur Metro Rail project, Prime Minister Modi referred to the raids on Peeyush Jain and said: "The perfume of corruption they (SP) had sprinkled all over UP before 2017 is there for everyone to see. But now, they are keeping their mouths shut and not coming forward to take credit. The mountain of notes that the entire nation has seen, that is their achievement and reality."

In Unnao, SP chief Akhilesh claimed that the real target of the BJP-led NDA Government was Pushpraj Jain. Asked about the allegation by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath that the money recovered in the raids was associated with the SP and a businessman who made perfume for the party, he said: "There isn't a bigger lie than this."

Akhilesh said: "It was our MLC Pushpraj Jain who made the perfume for us. They advertised through the media that the person raided belongs to SP. By afternoon, the journalists who were aware understood that the person raided had nothing to do with

the SP. Then, they also changed their statements. In the morning, the headlines were that 'SP businessman of ittra raided'. You should think that the raid was done at the wrong place, against their own person. You should get out his call details and you will find BJP people's names."

Referring to the stash of cash, he said: "They wanted to raid Pushpraj Jain, but by mistake raided Peeyush Jain. It seemed like a mistake of Digital India."

According to GST authorities, unaccounted cash of over Rs 194 crore and 23 kg of gold were recovered in the search operation at properties allegedly linked to Peeyush Jain in Kanpur and Kannauj. The raid and the cash photos have left local residents near Peeyush's family home in Kannauj bemused.

According to them, Peeyush and his younger brother Ambresh used to run the family business from the home of their parents on Jain street. "Around two decades ago, Peeyush shifted to Kanpur along with his family, including two sons and opened a new perfume business from his residence. A few years later, Ambresh also shifted to Kanpur with his family," said a person who knows the family but does not wish to be identified.

"We know Peeyush Jain and his family. No one in the family had ever contested any political election, we have no idea from where they got such a huge amount," said Pawan Trivedi, president of the Kannauj perfume association.

"Even after shifting to Kanpur, Peeyush and Ambresh did not close their business in Kannauj. They used to regularly visit their family home there. We came to know that Peeyush also started a new business in Kanpur, of supplying raw material to paan masala manufacturers," Trivedi said. While Peeyush's family has not made any comment after the raids, police in Kanpur and Kannauj have denied any knowledge of the activities of the businessman. "I was asked to appear in court and represent him. I don't know any personal details," said Peeyush's lawyer Sudhir Malviya.

Pushpraj Jain was elected as MLC from Etawah-Farrukhabad in 2016, and co-owns Pragati Aroma Oil Distillers Pvt Ltd, expanding the business started by his father Savailal Jain in 1950. Pushpraj and his three brothers run the business and share a house in Kannauj.

The MLC owns a house in Mumbai and an office there that deals with exports to about 12 countries mainly in the Middle East. Of his three brothers, two work at the Mumbai office while the third works with him on the manufacturing set-up in Kannauj.

According to his election affidavit in 2016, Pushpraj and his family own movable assets worth Rs 37.15 crore and immovable assets worth Rs 10.10 crore. He has no criminal record and has studied till Class 12 at Swarup Narayan Intermediate College in Kannauj. On Tuesday, he said that he joined politics after Akhilesh became an MP from Kannauj in 2000 and "showed vision for the district and realised the potential" of its perfume industry. A local SP leader said Pushpraj "organises frequent camps for the poor and helps them get free medical treatment". "He was given an MLC slot because of his work for the party," the leader said. Speaking to *The Indian Express* on Friday after the raids began, Pushpraj had said: "I have nothing to do with Peeyush Jain. The only common thing is that Peeyush Jain is from the same community as me. If a raid has been done against him, he will deal with it himself."

(WITH LALMANI VERMA)

J&K crossfire

in-chARGE, said, "Let me make it clear, it was the operation of Army, CRPF and J-K Police's SOG (Special

Operations Group of Police)."

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), however, termed the police version of the events as a "concocted cover-up story" reiterating its call for a judicial probe. "It is only a repetition of an old story. There is a strong public perception that the civilians killed were made human shields by the security forces. It will not suffice the legitimate concerns of the people at large and family of slain victims," said PAGD spokesman and Communist leader MY Tarigami.

Addressing the press conference, Sujit Kumar said, "They (Mohammad Altaf Bhat) volunteered to go inside. He asked Mudasar Gul to come along." To a question why they were allowed to go inside the premises when the police had inputs about the presence of militants, he said, "As per protocol, the (owner of the building) has to declare (the presence of militants). If he doesn't declare, he has to show it." Bhat was the owner of the building in which the alleged militants were present.

DIG Sujit Kumar said the police had video evidence which shows the foreign militant and Amir Magray entering the building in Hyderpora bypass on November 14 evening, a day before the encounter. "On 14th (November), a policeman was injured (in a militant attack) at Jamalta. An accompanying policeman had seen him (the militant) closely; and identified him to be the same foreign militant in Hyderpora. The dangle received from the foreign terrorist also showed Jamalta and Hyderpora locations (indicating his presence in the two areas)," he said.

He showed some video clips and said they have many eyewitness accounts to prove that Amir Magray, the Ramban youth, was a militant and that the foreign militant lived in the chamber of Gul, who had rented space in the building. But he refused to name or identify them because they were "protected witnesses".

According to Sujit Kumar, the police has got some links in Bandipore. "Amir had sent a picture with a pistol to his friend in Bandipore. The face of the picture was morphed by a sticker. But his friend knew him very well and identified it was Amir in the picture. His friends said he created indiscipline. Amir studied at Darul Raheemiya in Bandipore. We spoke with many students who studied with Amir. One of his friends said Amir didn't smoke but when he met him recently, he saw him smoking. His teacher said he would always fight and didn't even take his degree." Amir frequently travelled to tourist destination Gurez "which is an infiltration route" of militants, he said.

Kumar said that when the joint team of forces cordoned off the building, they let Amir go as they didn't have his picture then. "One of Mudasar's (Gul) close associates identified him and said he works with Mudasar, so we let him go," he said. "But we called him back; by then we had information about him, his picture as well. He said his phone is inside the building. He went inside again but returned without his phone after 2-3 minutes."

Sujit Kumar said Bhat, Gul, and Amir were inside the building when Gul was killed by the foreign militant. "His (Gul's) body was found inside the attic. We found his goggles on the table inside the attic... The foreign militants took Bhat as a human shield, he opened fire. It lasted for a minute or minute-and-a-half. He was perhaps killed by the foreign militant there." To another question if it was morally and legally correct to send the bodies for postmortem in the night, IGP Vijay Kumar intervened and said it was legally right.

FULL REPORTS ON
www.indianexpress.com

WRITEBACK

RESPONDING TO a report in *The Indian Express* ('In 2nd wave, river was dumping ground for dead, admits Ganga mission chief', December 24) Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, the outgoing director general of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), has sent a rejoinder:

"This is a sensationalist and mischievous attempt by the paper to further a particular narrative instead of going by the nuanced detailing in the book.

"The fact that bodies were floating in the Ganga during the second wave was seen by everyone. Who am I to accept or reject it? Does the paper feel it has indulged in great investigative journalism by selectively highlighting certain points and hiding the entire perspective I have given in detail about this issue..."

"In the book I have narrated the efforts of the government and the mission for cleaning the Ganga and how the different challenges are being successfully handled... I have highlighted that on receipt of 'news' of corpses floating in Ganga, we swung into action for verifying the facts, which were:

1. The number of corpses found in Ganga was much less than were actually reported in media at that time.

2. It is also a cultural practice in some stretches of river in UP to give burial in sand to dead bodies.

3. Due to overwhelming of the crematoria/burial grounds which had to follow covid protocols, lack of means of family to pay for cremation expenses and also some miscreants taking advantage of these problems, some corpses were let off into Ganga instead of cremating them..."

The report does not take into cognisance, the various innovations that were done to achieve the present level of cleanliness of the River and the confidence of the people in the fruits of the Government's actions.

"The book 'Ganga: Reimagined, Rejuvenating, Reconnecting' co-authored by me is... an account of the hon-

esty of purpose and sincerity of action of the government for drawing up and executing in record time, multi-pronged strategies for cleaning Ganga."

The Indian Express replies:

The book, "Ganga: Reimagined, Rejuvenating, Reconnecting", authored by Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, the director general of National Mission for Clean Ganga and head of Namami Gange, and Puskal Upadhyay, who has worked with the NMCG, has a dedicated section titled "Floating Corpses: A River Defiled" on Page 33. On the same page of the book, Mishra states that he heard about "the unclaimed, half-burnt and swollen corpses floating in the holy Ganga in early May."

The report accurately quotes this.

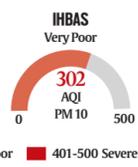
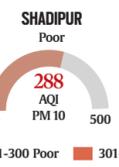
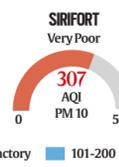
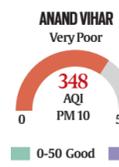
The report flags all the three points the author raises in his response: the number of corpses found in Ganga was much less than were actually reported in media at that time; it is also a cultural practice in some stretches of river in UP to give burial in sand to dead bodies; and due to overwhelming of the crematoria/burial grounds which had to follow covid protocols, lack of means of family to pay for cremation expenses and also some miscreants taking advantage of these problems, some corpses were let off into Ganga instead of cremating them.

The report also clearly mentioned that "no more than 300" bodies were dumped in the river and "not the 1,000 plus reported"; "Floating corpses or the dead being buried on the banks are not an unusual spectacle for those living in close quarters near the river"; and "poverty-stricken people who had used up all their money on doctor's fees and medicines to fight Covid-19 were in no position to pay the enhanced cremation charges nearly trebled within days."

The report mentions how Mishra, when the second wave was peaking, asked all 59 District Ganga Committees to take action.

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

SKY WATCH
FORECAST: Dec 29
Partly cloudy sky.
Shallow fog in the morning.
MAX: 20 | MIN: 8
0.5°C above normal | 1.0°C above normal

STRIKE BY RESIDENT DOCTORS

At hospitals, patient services hit for 12th straight day

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

WITH ONLY senior faculty members and consultants treating patients, services at almost all major government hospitals in Delhi have been affected for 12 days now. The situation was worse on Tuesday, with several smaller hospitals also lending their support to the protesting resident doctors after they were allegedly manhandled by the police on Monday while being detained during their march to the Supreme Court.

The outpatient clinics were disrupted briefly at Safdarjung hospital, which has become the epicentre of the protest, on Tuesday morning as resident doctors from across medical college hospitals in the city started gathering there. "The doctors asked for the registration counters to be shut in the morning. With several people still in the queue, patients started banging on the glass counters," said a guard on duty at the registration area. Registration of new patients at the hospital happens only between 8:30 am and 10:30 am, instead of 12:30 pm as earlier, and no afternoon OPDs are conducted because of the strike, the guard informed.

For Sunder Ram, 47, a contractual cook at the Army Research and Referral hospital canteen, it was a wasted trip to the hospital. "I have been receiving diabetes and hypertension treatment at the hospital for a couple of months. I do not come early morning because the queues are long but even at 10 am I couldn't get a registration. I went up to the clinic but there was no one there. I cannot get my medicines till a doctor prescribes it again," he said. He was turned away from the OPD department last Tuesday as well.

Sonu Kanojia, a resident of Trilokpuri, has been taken to sleeping outside the hospital



Outside Safdarjung hospital on Tuesday. Abhinav Saha

emergency with his nephew. He has been diagnosed with typhoid and his nephew with epilepsy. "The doctors saw us a few days back and prescribed medicines, but some of them are not available at the hospital pharmacy. I do not have any money left to buy medicines. So, we are waiting for the strike to get over, then maybe we will get the medicines or doctors will prescribe something else," he said. Kanojia works at a shop that prints wedding cards; he hasn't been working since he fell sick a month ago.

The wards in the hospital were deserted, with a ward meant for cancer patients, accessed by the reporter, being completely empty. "No new admissions have been happening, usually this place is always full. But now slowly even those who were admitted before have completed their treatment and have been discharged," the guard on duty at the ward said.

At AIIMS, across the street, patients referred from other government hospitals queued up for hours. The hospital, which is one of the only big hospitals staying away from the strike, had initially said that they would join the protest on Tuesday if no action was taken but decided to

continue working later in the day when the resident doctors were called for a meeting by the Union Health Minister.

At the main emergency entrance of the hospital, which has now been moved to the old OPD block, patients lay on a double file of stretchers under the extended roof outside to shelter themselves from the rain. They were called inside the emergency two at a time.

Durgesh, who came along with her brother, said that he was suddenly discharged from Safdarjung hospital two days ago even though his condition had not improved. Her brother, 22-year-old Jeetu, was under treatment for a swollen liver and water retention for a month at the hospital. "His condition has not improved and yet he was discharged. The doctors there even admitted that he needed further treatment. Then someone referred us to AIIMS. We came to the hospital last night and queued up at 1 am for the OPD appointment. When we went there, the doctors just asked us to go to the emergency. We have been standing for more than five hours," she said. All hospitals where services are affected have been referring patients to AIIMS.

Senior doctors in North MCD said if the issue is not resolved, protests can reach other municipal hospitals too. The North MCD presides over hospitals such as Hindu Rao, Maharishi Valmiki Infectious Diseases Hospital, Kasturba Hospital, Girdhari Lal Maternity Hospital and Rajan Babu Institute of Pulmonary Medicine and Tuberculosis, in addition to 21 dispensaries, 63 maternity and child welfare centres, 17 polyclinics and seven maternity homes. They employ at least 500 resident doctors.

The objective of this initiative is digitisation and reduction of physical interaction between people. Earlier, people had to register multiple times to access various online services of the civic body.

"During the lockdown period, the NDMC strived to increase online services, thereby eliminating the need for citizens, as well as its employees, to be physically present at the NDMC offices," said an official.

"SSO is an identity access management system to improve the user experience and enhance security to citizens/employees/pensioners and others (as and when required) accessing applications through the internet and intranet. The NDMC will add 20 other services and integrate with the NDMC app 311," said the official.

Registration of birth and death certificates, payment of water and electricity bills, registration in school and pension-related queries are among the 49 online services.

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Hindu Rao, Kasturba hospitals join protest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

WITH HINDU Rao and Kasturba hospitals deciding to withdraw services and joining the strike, the health services at Delhi's two major municipal hospitals are expected to be hit. The resident doctors' association has written a letter to the Hindu Rao Hospital medical superintendent, stating that resident doctors and interns have decided to withdraw all services, including emergency, to register their protest against violence allegedly meted out to resident doctors who were marching peacefully to the Supreme Court yesterday.

"We resident doctors are under great stress due to the delay," said Tanuraj Tyagi, the president of the resident doctors' association of Hindu Rao.

The president of the resident doctors' association of Kasturba hospital, Sunil Kumar, has written a similar letter stating withdrawal from all services, including emergency.

Senior doctors in North MCD said if the issue is not resolved, protests can reach other municipal hospitals too. The North MCD presides over hospitals such as Hindu Rao, Maharishi Valmiki Infectious Diseases Hospital, Kasturba Hospital, Girdhari Lal Maternity Hospital and Rajan Babu Institute of Pulmonary Medicine and Tuberculosis, in addition to 21 dispensaries, 63 maternity and child welfare centres, 17 polyclinics and seven maternity homes. They employ at least 500 resident doctors.

In-laws opposed to inter-faith marriage, man hangs self in Noida

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

A 24-YEAR-OLD allegedly hanged himself from a tree in Noida on Saturday and left behind a suicide note, addressed to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, stating that he had been harassed by his in-laws ever since he married his wife, who is from another religion, earlier this year. Police identified the victim as Mohit Thakur, a resident of Noida's Sector 54.

"We received information that a man's body was found hanging in Sector 54. A complaint has been received against his in-laws. As per the post-mortem, the death was due to hanging. It has been alleged that he took the step after being harassed by the in-laws following his inter-faith marriage. We are questioning acquaintances to ascertain details," said Gyan Singh, the Sector 24 SHO.

According to the victim's family, Mohit met the woman in Noida some years ago and they got married earlier this year. His father Satendra Pal said the family wanted him to marry someone else, and they had even fixed a date, but Mohit decided not to

go ahead with it.

The family said the woman converted after marrying Mohit. Police said both families objected to their marriage. Mohit's family claimed they eventually came around to the idea, but the woman's parents did not.

According to them, the woman's family ceased communication with her and the couple shifted to Jaipur, where Mohit did odd jobs to make ends meet.

In October, a wedding was due to take place in the woman's family and she got in touch with her relatives after looking at their social media posts. Her family asked her to come see them, and to resolve their differences. But once she returned, her parents allegedly refused to let her go back to Mohit.

"From the initial investigation it is evident that the victim had been disturbed.... One accused, Dilshad, has been arrested," said Singh.

Around Diwali time, Pal spoke to the woman's father, who refused to relent. "They said they will never send her back to Mohit. This disturbed Mohit a lot but he never mentioned this to anyone, and we did not realise something this extreme could

happen."

According to Mohit's family, on Saturday evening, the woman's father and relative came to their house and threatened them. Police said they are verifying this claim.

The following day, his body was found hanging in a forested area in Sector 54. The family also alleged that a Sector 54 chowki in-charge had threatened Mohit at the behest of the woman's family.

"Two complaints had been given by the woman's family. As routine, the policeman had made a call to Mohit to enquire facts of the case. Other allegations are baseless," said SHO Gyan Singh.

The victim, in the purported suicide note, said his wife's conversion had upset her family. The suicide letter, uploaded to his Instagram story, is addressed to CM Adityanath, and demands justice. It alleges that his wife's parents and relatives are responsible for his suicide.

An FIR has been filed under section 308 (abetment of suicide) against the woman's father Salim, her mother, and relatives Dilshad and Naushad. Dilshad has been arrested, police said.

BRIEFLY

More than 400 FIRs registered for violating Covid norms

New Delhi: More than 400 FIRs have been registered and 754 challans issued by the Delhi Police for violation of Covid-appropriate behavior during the night curfew imposed across the national capital amid rising cases of coronavirus infections. **ENS**

Minor shot dead in Rohini

New Delhi: A 15-year-old boy was shot dead in Rohini's Budh Vihar area, police said Monday. The incident took place around 9.30 pm Sunday, they said. The boy and his friends were partying at their friend's rented place at the time. Suddenly, a bullet was fired and he sustained a gunshot injury on the chest, an officer said, adding that further probe is underway. **PTI**

Sub-inspector's son stabbed to death after argument with neighbours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, DECEMBER 28

A DELHI Police sub-inspector's 23-year-old son was stabbed to death, allegedly by his neighbours, after an altercation over installing a drainpipe outside his house in Faridabad on Monday. Police said six persons have been booked, and three arrested.

Police said the victim, Pankaj Nagar, was a resident of Tigoan village. According to the complaint lodged by the victim's relative Sonu Nagar, around 2.30 pm, an altercation took place between his family members - Pankaj, Nitin, Vikas and Manish - and a neighbour's family -

Pawan, Rahul, his father Naresh, Naresh's wife Shimla, Dharamveer and Lalaram - over discharge from a water pipe. The two houses share a boundary wall. In the FIR, Sonu alleged the argument escalated and the six attacked them with bricks, following which they went to Tigoan police station.

"While leaving from the police station, two of them, Pawan and Rahul, threatened to kill Pankaj. At 4.30 pm, I saw that Pankaj was going on his motorcycle, when all six accused accosted him as per a planned conspiracy. They were carrying knives and sticks. Pawan shouted and asked them to kill Pankaj. They all took turns to stab

him. He was stabbed in the chest, stomach and hands. As he fell on the ground, two of the accused stabbed him again," he alleged in the FIR.

Sonu added that when he tried to intervene, the accused threatened to kill him. "My friend Vinit tried to save Pankaj, but the accused attacked him and he suffered a cut on his left hand. Several people gathered hearing the commotion and the accused escaped," he said.

Police said Pankaj was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. Surinder Sheoran, ACP Tigoan, Faridabad, said, "The victim had a dispute with a neighbour's family regarding flow of

water from a drainage pipe near his house. They had an argument over this earlier too. In the afternoon, they had a scuffle, both parties went to the police station. A complaint was received and both parties said they would resolve the matter within a day. Within some time of returning from the police station, they again had a fight, in which the victim was stabbed to death." ACP Sheoran said the victim suffered four wounds - on chest, hand and stomach - inflicted with a knife.

Police said they are checking whether the accused have a criminal background. The victim had a small property business and is survived by his wife and a daughter, said police.

which he started working. "He was fond of social media, but he didn't have a smartphone. He used his friend's phone to set up an Instagram account and used that to check updates and upload content," said his cousin.

He had recently started working in a paint factory, where he was getting Rs 12,000 a month. "He left studies and started working to help our younger siblings complete their education. Our dream of living with dignity has been shattered," said his sister.

On Tuesday, his sisters and mother met police officials at the Uttam Nagar police station.

"We found out that my brother had posted a photo of Sohan Lal and his friend on Instagram and used some abusive language. Within hours, he was picked up by Sohan Lal and his associates from the local market," she said.

The victim, who has nine siblings, studied till class VIII, after

Murder over Instagram post: Victim's kin say accused often beat locals, filmed assault

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

TWO DAYS after a 17-year-old was stabbed to death, allegedly by a group of juveniles and a local criminal in Uttam Nagar area over a reel he had posted on Instagram, his family members said that the main accused would routinely bully boys in the area and record videos to post on the social networking platform.

The accused, Sohan Lal, is absconding. According to initial investigation carried out by police, he once worked as a police informer.

Additional DCP (Dwarka district) Vikram Singh said Sohan Lal has a criminal record and a proposal for his extermination is pending. "Around five cases have been registered against him and we are looking for him,"

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F. No. A-12024/1/2018-Admin.(LD)**Government of India****Ministry of Law and Justice****Legislative Department**

Legislative Department proposes to engage 10 Legal Research Associates on contract basis for a period of one year, the educational qualification and other details are available on the website of the Department i.e. <http://http://legislative.gov.in/> under the heading "Recruitment". Interested and eligible candidates may submit their application in prescribed proforma available on the website of the Department within 15 days of publication of this advertisement in Newspaper.

Sd/- (Uttam Prakash)

Deputy Secretary to Govt. of India

Legislative Department

Room No. 411-A, "A" Wing

Shastri Bhawan New Delhi-110001

Tel:23389014

Davn 24301/11/0003/2122

STERLING & WILSON	
STERLING AND WILSON RENEWABLE ENERGY LIMITED (Formerly known as Sterling and Wilson Solar Limited)	
An Associate of Shapoorji Pallonji Group	
Registered Office: Universal Majestic, 9 th Floor, P. L. Lokhande Marg, Chembur (W), Mumbai - 400 043 Phone: (91-22) 25485300 Fax: (91-22) 25485331 CIN: L74999MH2017PLC292281 Email: info@sterlingwilson.com Website: www.sterlingandwilsonre.com	
Recommendations of the Committee of Independent Directors ("IDC") of Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy Limited (formerly known as Sterling and Wilson Solar Limited) ("Target Company" or "TC") under Regulation 26(7) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011, as amended ("SEBI SAST Regulations") in relation to the open offer to the public shareholders of the Target Company ("Open Offer") made by Reliance New Energy Solar Limited ("Acquirer") together with Reliance Industries Limited ("PAC 1") and Reliance Ventures Limited ("PAC 2") (PAC 1 and PAC 2 are hereinafter collectively referred to as, the "PACs")	
1. Date	December 28, 2021
2. Name of Target Company	Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy Limited (Formerly known as Sterling and Wilson Solar Limited)
3. Details of the Offer pertaining to Target Company	Open Offer is being made by the Acquirer together with the PACs for the acquisition of up to 4,91,37,420 Equity Shares of the TC representing the entire public shareholding constituting 25.90% of the Emerging Voting Capital (as defined in the Letter of Offer dated December 23, 2021) of the Target Company at an Offer Price of Rs. 375.00 per Equity Share.
4. Name(s) of the acquirer and PAC with the Acquirer	Acquirer: Reliance New Energy Solar Limited PAC 1: Reliance Industries Limited PAC 2: Reliance Ventures Limited
5. Name of the Manager to the offer	Edelweiss Financial Services Limited Edelweiss House, 6 th Floor, Off. C.S.T. Road, Kalina, Mumbai - 400 098. Tel No.: +91 22 4009 4400; Fax: +91 22 4086 3610 Email id: sws.offenoffer@edelweissfn.com; Contact Person: Lokesh Shah SEBI Registration No.: INM0000010650
6. Members of the Committee of Independent Directors	1. Mr. Keki Elavia, Chairman 2. Mr. Anif Doctor, Member 3. Ms. Rukshana Mistri, Member
7. IDC Member's relationship with the Target Company	All IDC members are Independent and Non-Executive Directors of the Target Company. None of the members of the IDC hold any shares in the Target Company. None of the members of the IDC have any contracts or any relationship with the TC.
8. Trading in the Equity shares/other securities of the TC by IDC Members	No member of the IDC has traded in any of the Equity Shares/ other securities of the Target Company during the period of 12 months preceding the date of the PA. None of the members of the IDC have traded in any of the Equity Shares/ other securities of the Target Company during the period from the date of the PA till the date of this recommendation.
9. IDC Member's relationship with the acquirer	None of the members of the IDC is a Director of the Acquirer or of either of the PACs. None of the members of the IDC hold any shares/ securities in the Acquirer or in the PACs. None of the members of the IDC has any contracts or arrangements or any relationship with the Acquirer and/ or with PACs. Mr. Anif Doctor in his professional capacity as a counsel is currently part of a legal team representing PAC 1 on a legal matter not pertaining to or in any manner connected with the underlying transactions related to the Open Offer.
10. Trading in the Equity shares/other securities of the acquirer by IDC Members	No member of the IDC has traded in any of the equity shares/ other securities of the Acquirer or the PACs during the period of 12 months preceding the date of the PA. Also, no member of the IDC has traded in any of the equity shares/ other securities of the Acquirer or the PACs during the period from the date of the PA till the date of this recommendation.
11. Recommendation on the Open Offer, as to whether the offer is fair and reasonable	The IDC is of the opinion that the Offer Price of Rs. 375.00 per Equity Share offered by the Acquirer and the PACs vide Letter of Offer dated December 23, 2021 is in accordance with the SEBI SAST Regulations and is fair and reasonable. However, the shareholders should independently evaluate the offer, market performance of the Equity Shares of the TC and take informed decisions.
12. Summary of reasons for recommendation	IDC has perused the Letter of Offer dated December 23, 2021, the Detailed Public Statement published on October 18, 2021 and the PA issued by Edelweiss Financial Services Limited (as the Manager to the Open Offer) on behalf of the Acquirer and PACs. IDC has also had engaged BDO India LLP to independently evaluate if the Offer Price is in accordance with the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. BDO India LLP has submitted their report dated December 28, 2021 to the IDC. Under their report, they have commented that the Offer Price is in compliance with Regulation 8(1) and Regulation 8(2) of the SEBI SAST Regulations and is fair and reasonable. IDC has also noted: 1. The Equity Shares of the Target Company are frequently traded in terms of Regulation 2(1)(j) of the SEBI SAST Regulations. 2. The Offer Price is in accordance with Regulation 8(1) and 8(2) of the SEBI SAST Regulations. 3. The Offer Price is the highest negotiated price per Equity Share of the Target Company i.e., Rs. 375.00, under the agreements which attracted the obligation to make this Open Offer i.e. the SSA and the SPA (as defined in the Letter of Offer dated December 23, 2021). 4. The Offer Price is higher than the volume-weighted average market price of the Equity Shares i.e. Rs. 346.69, for a period of sixty trading days immediately preceding the date of the PA, as traded on NSE, being the stock exchange where the maximum volume of trading in the Equity Shares were recorded during such period. Based on the above, the IDC is of the opinion that the Offer Price of Rs. 375.00 per Equity Share is in accordance with the SEBI SAST Regulations and is fair and reasonable.
13. Disclosure of voting pattern	The recommendations of the IDC were unanimously approved by the members of IDC.
14. Details of Independent Advisors, if any.	BDO India LLP The Ruby, Level 9, North West Wing, Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (W), Mumbai - 400 028
15. Any other matter(s) to be highlighted	None
Terms not defined herein carry the meaning ascribed to them in the Letter of Offer dated December 23, 2021	
To the best of our knowledge and belief, after making proper enquiry, the information contained in or accompanying this statement is, in all material respect, true and correct and not misleading, whether by omission of any information or otherwise, and includes all the information required to be disclosed by the Target Company under the SEBI SAST Regulations.	
For and on behalf of the Committee of Independent Directors of Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy Limited	
Sd/- Authorised Signatory Chairman- IDC	
Date: December 28, 2021 Place: Mumbai	

6 THE CITY

CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITAL

VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS
1,75,392



		Total		Vacant	
		13,482	2,762	13,187	2,734
TOTAL CASES	14,44,179	HOSPITAL BEDS			
		ICU BEDS			
Dec 27	331	Recoveries	144	Deaths	1
Dec 28	496		172		1
Total	1612*		14,17,460		25,107
		Tests			3,25,03,696

*Total active cases

Dining industry fears curbs could be death knell for biz

ARANYA SHANKAR & DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

RESTAURANTS, bars and banquet halls in the city are staring at crippling financial losses as curbs come into effect to control a spike in Covid cases. While restaurants and bars are allowed to open with 50% capacity with restricted timings, banquet halls have been closed down as per the Covid graded response action plan (GRAP).

Ranjan Puri, owner of the Grand Imperia banquet hall in Azadpur, said the government should have made some long term plans rather than shutting down banquet halls altogether. "In 2020, even when the government was not prepared, their solution was to close the banquet halls. Today they say they have a plan in place and are well prepared, still their solution is to shut down our business. If restaurants and bars can be asked to run with restricted numbers, why not us? If the Delhi Metro can run with 50% capacity, why not us? They could have just put a cap on the number of people allowed in banquet halls," he said.

Kabir Suri, co-founder & director, Azure Hospitality, who is currently the President of the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) — an umbrella body of more than 20,000 eateries across India — said the order is a setback for the restaurant industry in Delhi, which had just started recovering in the last quarter of 2021 after a hiatus of 18 months.

"It's a double whammy — on one hand, there is a restriction of 50 per cent on seating, on the other hand, the timings have been curtailed. If people are al-



In response to a sharp increase in Covid cases over the last week, the government has put in place a night curfew between 10 pm and 5 am. Amit Mehra

ready following distancing norms, where is the need to shut early? Also, there is no clarity on deliveries — earlier, food delivery was considered part of essential services."

Vidur Kanodia, founder of Padmanabhan restaurant at Janpath, who also runs two nightclubs at Aerocity — Cafe One8 and Club BW — said that if the restrictions continue for long, he has no option but to shut the restaurant. "At a place like Janpath with such high rentals, it is not possible to sustain with so many restrictions. The landlords may not understand. If this scenario continues for long, we will have to shut the restaurant since there is no way to cover the losses. Especially, at this time of the year, when we had just started recovering and were looking forward to the festive weekend, this just changes the sentiment."

Even for the nightclubs, Kanodia says, "We had a good Christmas weekend, so now for the New Year's Eve and beyond, if we have to close down by 10, it doesn't work".

Many feel the order singles out the restaurant and hospitality industry. Priyank Sukhija, founder of First Fiddle F&B Pvt Ltd, which owns restaurant brands like Lord Of The Drinks, Warehouse Cafe, Dragonfly and Lazeez Affaire, said, "It's unfair to think that the virus gets more virulent after 11 pm. I understand that 50 per cent of restaurant capacity is necessary but the night curfew is singling out the restaurant community."

Riyaz Amlani, CEO of Impresario Handmade Restaurants which runs enterprises like Social and Smoke House Delhi, said there could be a loss of about a few lakh rupees per restaurant. "Obviously it will impact us negatively. Hospitality has been looking forward to the festive season to help recoup losses suffered in the last two years. A lot of plans and preparations have been made at considerable cost to prepare for New Year's. With the abrupt cancellation, most restaurants I have spoken to are feeling hopeless and in great despair," he said. Rahul Singh, founder and

CEO of The Beer Café, however, said while they would brace for the losses, the well-being of the economy ultimately depends on the well-being of people and that has to be kept in mind.

"This was bound to happen. From what we know, this virus spreads quickly, so such measures were needed. We'll have to brace for it. The only thing is that the night restrictions don't make much sense. I suppose it has more to do with stopping people from congregating during the festive season. Sales will drop, but we will go into taking some kind of sensible control measures. Like last time, we lost a lot of perishables, we will try not to repeat it now," he said.

Chef Harangad Singh, founder of cloud kitchens Parat and Me-awww, said, "After the curfew was announced, we are shutting the outlets at 10.30-10.45pm because of non availability of riders. It is affecting our business but it's a law by the government so we are following it. Also, we are taking all the precautions to deliver the food safely to their homes."

With civil defence volunteers, govt hopes for 100% containment

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

AMID THE rise in Covid and omicron cases, the Delhi government has directed all the district magistrates (DMs) to ensure containment at houses and clusters having two or more positive cases until the patients recover and test negative, said officials.

The DMs have also been advised to implement the 100% micro-containment plan in small clusters and houses by deploying at least two civil defence volunteers outside the patients' houses for round-the-clock monitoring so as to stop them from stepping outside and ensure that they remain under home isolation until they test negative, said an official.

The directions were taken in an online meeting, attended by all the 11 district DMs, held Monday. They have been directed to focus on three important areas — enforcement, home isolation and 100% containment.

"The focus will be on these areas with stringent measures in place. Under home isolation, staff will visit and call to check in on the patient, counsel if they need any instruction or help, and distribute Covid kits consisting of oximeters and medicines. Secondly, we have been asked to ensure micro-containment of houses with more than two positive cases," said the South East DM Vishwendra.

The DM added, "If the DMs find any RWA, area or housing society with a large number of cases, they can contain the area or society or particular block. In my district, there are 89 active cases contained in 17 zones. Two civil defence volunteers have been deployed for round-the-clock monitoring. Focus is to promote home isolation as well as to control the spread of the disease." The DMs have strengthened



SDMs are supposed to visit public places and stop large gatherings. Archive

YELLOW ALERT RESTRICTIONS

- Educational institutions: closed
- Markets/Malls – shops to follow odd-even restrictions, opening time 10 am to 8 pm (shops selling essential items allowed to open on all days)
- Weekly markets: one allowed to open per day per zone
- e-commerce delivery: allowed
- Restaurants: allowed with 50% seating capacity from 8 am to 10 pm
- Gym/Cinema Halls/Theatres/Multiplexes/Banquet Halls/Auditoriums/Assembly Halls/Spa/entertainment parks: closed

Hotels: allowed but no gatherings permitted

Bars: allowed with 50% seating capacity from noon to 10 pm

Barber shop/salon: allowed

Private offices: 50% staff attendance between 9 am and 5 pm

Parks: open for running/walking/playing

Wedding gatherings: 20 people

Funeral gatherings: 20 people

Places of worship: open but no visitors allowed

Metro and buses: 50% seating capacity allowed

Night curfew between 10 pm and 5 am

night patrolling and challans in public places like markets and malls to fine those not wearing masks and violating Covid norms.

South District Magistrate Sonalika Jiwani said, "We have 100 enforcement teams who will be patrolling in night shifts as the curfew is in effect. Strict actions will be taken against those found violating the curfew."

East DM Sonika Singh said, "Right now there are 11 containment zones in East Delhi... Currently, we have not started the micro-containment but the action will be taken when re-

quired. So, if the number of cases increases in the East district, the 100% containment strategy will be in place. Further, we have increased field visits; sub-divisional magistrate (SDMs) are visiting public places and stopping large gatherings. We have also scaled up testing at Metro stations and sabji mandi of East Delhi. Moreover, an aggressive vaccination drive is going on, and about 70 per cent of the East District has been administered the second dose." A total of 4,122 challans, amounting to Rs 81.5 lakh, have been issued in all districts on December 27.

Yash Garg, deputy commissioner (DC), Gurgaon, directed representatives of hospitals to provide accurate information to the district administration regarding vaccination, availability of beds, oxygen and other healthcare facilities.

On omicron, the DC said, "People should not panic as only one case of omicron variant has been reported in Gurgaon so far." ENS

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR TENDERS
Web site <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
Email: jawhar.ec@mahapwd.gov.in
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 19 for 2021-22

ONLINE Tenders (e-tender) in "B1" form for the following works is invited by the Executive Engineer, P. W. Division, Jawhar, (Phone No. 02520-222226) on Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management System from the Registered Contractors in appropriate class of Public Works Department of Maharashtra State. This tender notice contains 07 (Seven) work and their details can also be viewed on www.mahapwd.com and also downloaded from Government of Maharashtra e-tendering Portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in> and sub portal.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. Lakhs)	Earnest Money (Rs)	Class of Contractor	E-Tender form Fee (non Refundable)	Time Limit in (Calendar Months)	Remark
1.	Construction of Bridge on Kurlod Botoshi Shelampada Road Major District Road No.12, Taluka- Morkhada, District-Palghar.	Part-A (Cost of Architectural Work) 2,98,58,401/- Part-B (Royalty Charges + Testing Charges) 3,29,198/- Total- 3,01,87,599/-	1,51,000/-	Eligible Competent Contractor	2000/- + 18% GST Rs. 360/- Total- 2360/-	12 (Twelve) Months (Including monsoon)	
2.	S. T. B. T. & Widening to State Highway No. 78 to Morkhada Khodala Vihigoon Road Km. 2/400 to 4/750 (SH-78) in Taluka- Morkhada, District- Palghar.	Part-A (Cost of Architectural Work) 2,06,13,896/- Part-B (Royalty Charges + Testing Charges) 5,72,532/- Total- 2,11,86,428/-	1,50,000/-	Eligible Competent Contractor	2000/- + 18% GST Rs. 360/- Total- 2360/-	12 (Twelve) Months (Including monsoon)	
3.	S. T. B. T. & Widening to State Highway No 78 to Koshimshet Dhamanshet Road Km. 0/980 to 3/000 (MDR-22) in Taluka- Morkhada, District-Palghar.	Part-A (Cost of Architectural Work) 1,73,24,309/- Part-B (Royalty Charges + Testing Charges) 5,08,568/- Total- 1,78,32,875/-	1,50,000/-	Eligible Competent Contractor	1000/- + 18% GST Rs. 180/- Total- 1180/-	12 (Twelve) Months (Including monsoon)	
4.	Construction of Retaining Wall on Morkhada Chas Hateri Road (MDR-18) Km. 2/800 to 4/000 Taluka- Morkhada, District- Palghar.	Part-A (Cost of Architectural Work) 1,47,84,582/- Part-B (Royalty Charges + Testing Charges) 5,36,582/- Total- 1,53,21,164/-	1,50,000/-	Eligible Competent Contractor	1000/- + 18% GST Rs. 180/- Total- 1180/-	12 (Twelve) Months (Including monsoon)	
5.	Construction of Retaining Wall and Improvement of Road on Morkhada Poshera Hirve Beriste (MDR-20) Baldyachapada Road Taluka- Morkhada, District-Palghar.	Part-A (Cost of Architectural Work) 1,64,64,337/- Part-B (Royalty Charges + Testing Charges) 4,68,775/- Total- 1,69,33,112/-	1,50,000/-	Eligible Competent Contractor	1000/- + 18% GST Rs. 180/- Total- 1180/-	12 (Twelve) Months (Including monsoon)	
6.	S. T. B. T. & Widening to S.H.-78 to Aadoshi Botoshi Pathardi Road Km. 5/000 to 7/300 (MDR-23) in Taluka- Morkhada, District- Palghar.	Part-A (Cost of Architectural Work) 1,85,21,409/- Part-B (Royalty Charges + Testing Charges) 4,79,056/- Total- 1,52,63,637/-	1,50,000/-	Eligible Competent Contractor	1000/- + 18% GST Rs. 180/- Total- 1180/-	12 (Twelve) Months (Including monsoon)	
7.	S. T. B. T. and Widening to Vadoli Kogada Aakre Talawali Road MDR-17 Km. No. 14/000 to 17/000 in Taluka- Jawhar, District-Palghar.	Part-A (Cost of Architectural Work) 1,43,63,271/- Part-B (Royalty Charges + Testing Charges) 1,44,200/- Total- 1,45,07,471/-	1,46,000/-	Class IV (A) & Above	1000/- + 18% GST Rs. 180/- Total- 1180/-	12 (Twelve) Months (Including monsoon)	

1) Period of E-Tenders : Date-28.12.2021 to Date- 21.01.2022
2) Date of Opening : Date- 25.01.2022 after 1100 hrs. (if possible).
3) Date of Pre bid Work Sr. No. 1 : Date-11.01.2022 at Chief Engineer Office (P.W.) Region, Konkan Mumbai, by 12.00 pm.
4) Date of Pre bid Work Sr. No. 2 to 6 : Date-12.01.2022 at Superintendent Engineer Office, P. W Circle, Thane by 12.00 pm.

The Executive Engineer P. W. Division Jawhar Reserves right to Accept or Reject any offer. Conditional offers will not be accepted.

Note:-
1. All eligible/interested tenders are required to be enrolled on portal enrolled on ports <http://mahatenders.gov.in> before down loading tender documents and participate in e-tendering.
2. The Electronic tendering system for Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra will be available on separate Sub Portal with URL <http://mahatenders.gov.in> as part of the Electronic Tendering system of Government of Maharashtra which is available on the Portal <http://maharashtra.etenders.in>.
3. There is a provision of "Post Qualification Criteria" for 1 crore and above cost works.

E-Tender/O. No./PW/JWVR/5076
Office of the Executive Engineer
Public Work Division, Jawhar
Dist. Palghar. Pin-401603
Date :- 17.12.2021
DGIPR-2021-22-3363

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jawhar (P.W.) Division,
Jawhar, Dist-Palghar

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO.RWF/S/46/2021-22/14 Dated 27/12/2021

E-TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager/RWF invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> from experienced/reputed contractors in the field.

Tender No	RWFSTPT_SR_601-1000_21-22	RWFSTPT_SR_1001-1600_21-22
Due Date & Time	20.01.2022 at 14:15 hrs.	
Scope of Work	Collections of Scrap Rails involving cutting up to a length not exceeding 03(Three) meters, loading and transportation of the same from Various Railway Units to Rail Wheel Factory/Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560 064, by Road.	
Distance slab	601-1000 Kms	1001-1600 Kms
Quantity	1100 MT	1700 MT
Est.Tender Value	₹ 52,80,000/-	₹ 1,07,44,000/-
EMD Amount	₹ 1,05,600/-	₹ 2,03,700/-
Contract Period	12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance	

PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR-761126
Phone No.- 06821-241026 (O) 241079 (R)
Fax No- 06821-241026/240056
e-mail: eerwss_bnj@nic.in/eerwssbnj2009@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. S.E._RWS&S_45/2021-22

1. The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bhanjanagar, Ganjam on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate/G2 bid in Double Cover system according to the norm of "e" Procurement system in online mode for different PWS Schemes in Ganjam District from the eligible contractors as per DTGN.

2. Nature of Work : Construction, testing, Commissioning of RCC ESR/OGR construction of Pump House, Compound Wall, Valve chamber, providing 100% FHTC, laying of distribution of pipe line etc for PWS to different village in the Ganjam District.

3. No. of Tender : 04 Nos.
4. Tender Paper Cost : Rs 10000/-
5. Tender Cost : 321.10 Lakhs to 384.57 Lakhs
6. Class of Contractor : A & Special Class
7. Date and Time of Availability of bid document in the portal : Dt. 08.01.2022 at 11.00 AM to 27.01.2022 up to 5.00 PM
8. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 28.01.2022 at 11.00 AM
9. Period of completion : 360 (Three hundred sixty) days
10. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
RWS&S Division, Bhanjanagar.
OIPR-25021/11/0036/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER EASTERN MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, KEONJHAR
Tel No. (06766) 254768, e-Mail ID seemickonjar@yahoo.com
"e" Procurement Notice
Identification No- 05 EMIC (KJR/2021-22)

The Superintending Engineer, E.M.I. Circle, Keonjhar on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids through e-procurement to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed in the table below.

1. Name of the works: Civil Construction work
2. Total No. of works: 02 (Two)
3. Estimated Cost: varies from Rs.104.13 Lakh to 216.20 Lakhs(Approx.)

4. Class of Contractor: As mentioned against work
5. Period of completion: As mentioned against work
6. Date & time of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal: 03.01.2022 at 10.00 AM to 21.01.2022 up to 5.00 PM.
7. Date/Time of Pre-bid meeting: 11.01.2022 at 11.30 AM in the office of the S.E., E.M.I.C., Keonjhar.
8. Last date/Time for receipt of Bid in the Portal: 21.01.2022 up to 5.00 PM.
9. Date/Time of Opening of Technical Bid: 24.01.2022 at 11.30 AM. at Office of S.E., E.M.I.C., Keonjhar.
10. Date/Time of Opening of Financial Bid: 07.02.2022 at 10.30 AM
11. Name & Address of the Officer Inviting the Bid: Superintending Engineer, E.M.I. Circle, Keonjhar
12. Mode of Payment of Bid Cost & Bid Security: Online
13. Further details can be seen from the "e" Procurement Portal <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Eastern Minor Irrigation Circle, Keonjhar
OIPR-32270/11/0004/2122

DELHI JAL BOARD OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-7 NANGLOI PH-III, NEAR BARAT GHAR NEW DELHI-110041

NIT No-63/EE/(M)10/(2021-22)
Press Notice Tender

S. No	Name of Work	Amount Put to tender (Rs.)	EMD	Tender Fee's	Dt. of release of tender procurement solution A.D. No.	Last Dt./Time of receipt of tender through E-procurement solution
1	Replacement of old/damaged peripheral sewer line by pipe bursting process from B-Block main road to H.No. B-129 in B-Block Mangolpuri AC-12 under EE(NW)/IAEE(M)12	1,80,24,000/-	3,61,000/-	1000/-	27/12/2021 2021_DJB_213617.1	11-01-2022 at 3:00 P.M.

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. 909 (2021-22)

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

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

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
No. CC-6/Leasing/SLR/VP/2021 E-TENDER NOTICE Date: 22.12.2021

Special facility to registered lease holders, Courier Companies as well as business man for loading/unloading/of parcels in VP & brake vans for SLR compartments at reasonable rates

Safe Fast Economic Reliable

North Central Railway has invited open tender through leasing for carriage/transportation of parcels in VP/SLR Compartments of following trains for reasonable Rates. Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, NCR, Prayagraj for and on behalf of President of India invites tender for leasing of following trains for the period of Five Years on 18-01-2022 up to 13:00 hrs. and same will be opened at 15:00 hrs. The tender documents can be downloaded from Railways website www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in & Government of India Portal www.ireps.gov.in. For which the cost of tender documents and EMD should be submitted along with tender in favour of Senior Divisional Finance Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj. Without cost of downloaded tender form as well as Earnest money, tender will not be considered. The competent authority reserves the right to reject/accept any partial tenders without assigning any reasons. The tender will be received and opened in the office of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj on the above mentioned date and time. Open tender for VP/SLR compartment will be invited for a period of Five Years. Offer (s) received below reserve price shall not be accepted irrespective of mode of lease. Note: Eligibility criteria to lease holders for leasing tender: (1) The annual turnover of the business of the applicant/firm/company, who applies for registration of leaseholder under the scheme, shall have the business to the following extent (Audited balance sheet & Profit Loss account of financial year 2020-2021) must be attached with tender documents at the time of opening of tender and with the application for registration. (2) The leaseholder shall be liable to pay GST & any other taxes as imposed by the Central Government from time-to-time for transportation of parcels. (3) The lease holder will have to pay "Development charge" or any other charges levied by the Railway Administration on the Freight over and above the Lumpsum Leased Freight.

Tender No.	Station From	Station To	Scale	Distance (KM)	Reserve Price for each SLR/VP Compartment per tonne in ₹	Reserve Price for 24tonne Round Trip VP in ₹	Available Train Number	Leasable compartments	Running of train per year (Days)
-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-	-5-	-6-	-7-	-8-	-9-	-10-
219/2021	Kanpur Central	New Delhi	R	440	1553.64	NA	12033/02003 06 days in a week	FSLR	1560 Days
220/2021	Kanpur Central	Bhujana	P	607	1404.80	NA	14723/04723 Daily	FSLR	1825 Days
221/2021	Prayagraj	Lokmanya Tikal Terminal	P	1510	3137.52	NA	22130/02130 02 days in a week	FSLR	522 Days
222/2021	Kanpur Central	Lokmanya Tikal Terminal	R	1338	4272.72	153815/-	12541/02541-12542/02542 Daily	VP	1825 Days
223/2021	Prayagraj	Anand Vihar	R	621	2177.44	75388/-	02428/12428-02427/12427 Daily	VP	1825 Days

Note: 1. Tender forms shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in 21 days prior to date of opening of the tender. The Tender Notice can also be viewed on Railways' web site www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, tenders are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letterhead if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of e-Tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 6. Cost of tender document should be deposit under allocation 2-650 and Earnest Money should be deposited under allocation DMX. 7. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 8. Tender online can be submitted up to 13.00 hrs. On 18.01.2022. 9. Verified Audited balance sheet & Profit Loss account of last financial year i.e. 2020-2021 must be attached with tender. 10. Affidavit for no Railway Dues is recoverable from the tenderer against previous contracts in original. 11. Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone/modify or to cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons or to accept any of the tenders through it may not be necessarily the lowest. 12. The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of the tender. Tender received after the date and time specified above shall not be considered. 13/17/21(R)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPFRD NCR

Digital India's Digital Uttar Pradesh

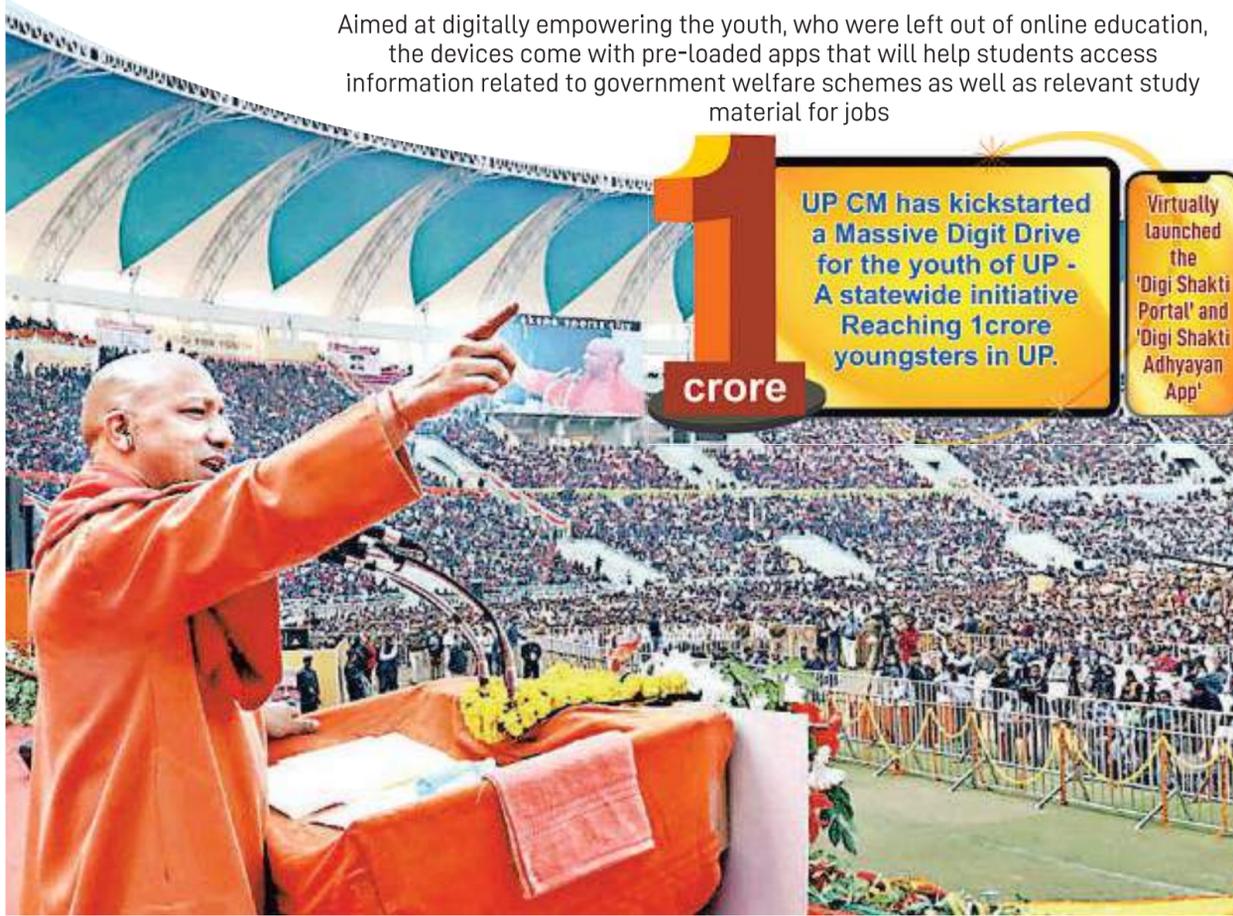
Yogi's free tablets, smartphones bridge education gap

Aimed at digitally empowering the youth, who were left out of online education, the devices come with pre-loaded apps that will help students access information related to government welfare schemes as well as relevant study material for jobs



Digital India has been one of the biggest success stories of New India, enabling services, bringing government closer to citizens, promoting citizen engagement and empowering people

— Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



THE UTTAR Pradesh Government has started fulfilling its promise of giving away free tablets and smartphones to students and empowering them digitally.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a programme to distribute one crore tablets and smart phones to students on Sushashan Divas, the birth anniversary of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as he had committed to do so in his last election manifesto. During the launch ceremony held at a stadium in Lucknow, these devices were given away to more than 60,000 undergraduate and post-graduate students. They also included those preparing for competitive examinations and undergoing skill development training. Undoubtedly, it was the "biggest" distribution drive in the country for youth welfare.

The "Digi Shakti Portal" and the "Digi Shakti Adhyayan App" were also launched amid the cheer of thousands of students. The Digi Shakti Adhyayan App is already installed on all the distributed devices and will help students access information related to government welfare schemes as well as relevant study material.

Launching the distribution programme, Adityanath underlined the importance of devices to overcome the digital divide that became more apparent and wider during the pandemic. Students who did not have the facility of accessing online classes and were thus forced out of the school system made the State Government sit up and take note. It decided to connect one crore youth with technology by providing them tablets and smart phones.

Encouraging the youth further, Union Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan, who was present at the event, said the Centre would ensure internet connectivity in all villages across the country.

Paying a heartfelt tribute to the Bharat

The UP Government, through the distribution of free smart phones and tablets, will be able to make academic material accessible to students. They can share with others as well. This is Digital India's Digital Uttar Pradesh.

— Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Ratna, the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Chief Minister gave a positive message to the youth, saying one had to be big-hearted and inclusive in spirit as narrow-mindedness would not take one anywhere. He also assured the youth of transparency and fairness in recruitment processes and warned those who played foul while staying within the system.

The Chief Minister also mentioned the achievements of youths and girls who had made the State proud in every field, from sports feats to launching start-ups. He even honoured one such achiever, the Olympic 2020 medallist, weight lifter Mirabai Chanu. Giving an example of Lord Krishna, he said that Krishna was young when he liberated the people of Mathura from the tyranny of Kansa. He recalled Lord Buddha and Adi Shankaracharya, who in their youth gave the message of nirvana to the world. Adi Shankaracharya lived only 32 years, he said.

CM Yogi Adityanath has set a benchmark through the statewide distribution of tablets and smartphones. This is hugely empowering and will bring the 21st century in the palm of your hand.

— Dharmendra Pradhan, Union minister, Education and Skill Development

Adityanath then invoked Swami Vivekananda, who represented India on the global stage and lived till 40. Then he invoked young heroes of the independence movement. "Who can forget Guru Gobind Singh, Chhatrapati Shivaji, Maharana Pratap and Maharani Laxmi Bai. During the war of 1857, Rani Laxmibai was only 23 years." He further mentioned Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev, Thakur Roshan Singh, Ashfaqullah Khan, Ramprasad Bismil and Veer

Savarkar among others, underlining that all of them did their greatest deeds in their youth.

Expressing a resolve to take the digital revolution to every village in the State, the Chief Minister informed that the distribution process would start at the district level from the next week.

Elaborating on the tablet distribution scheme, a senior Government official asserted that it was a great initiative to technologically upgrade the youth,

who could not only access online educational content but also information on employment opportunities. The Digi Shakti Adhyayan App installed on these devices will link the students with the educational material to be provided by the education department and various universities. The logo and the wall paper booted on these devices will keep streaming information on various Government welfare schemes and employment opportunities.

Five students — Akanksha Mishra, a final year student of B. Sc. Nursing; Sagar Upamanyu, a visually-challenged student of MA (Political Science); Mehul Gupta, a B. Tech student; Prabal Awasthi preparing for competitive examinations, and Zeba Kausar, a final year student of BA — were invited on stage where they expressed gratitude to the State Government for providing resources to needy students.

- UP's 1 crore graduate and post-graduate students are direct beneficiaries
- CM Yogi launches 'Digi Shakti Portal' and 'Digi Shakti Adhyayan App'
- Tablets/ smart phones distribution to be organised in all UP districts
- Olympic medallist Mirabai Chanu and her coach Vijay Kumar Sharma honoured
- 4.5 lakh youngsters given government jobs in four-and-a-half years
- Rate of unemployment in UP has come down from 17.5% in 2017 to 4.1% in 2021

UP aims to be higher education hub

Apart from setting up new institutions and universities, Adityanath has focused on improving the quality of instruction and academic standards

OVER THE past four-and-a-half years, the Uttar Pradesh Government has taken a number of steps to upgrade the higher, technical and medical education facilities in the State. New universities, college and medical colleges have been set up to ensure that the young people do not have to search for education opportunities in other places. Besides setting up new institutions, the State Government has taken steps to elevate standards of teaching and improving the quality of instruction and courses. It has also taken the far-reaching decision of providing free education to girls up to graduation.

Following the decision to establish a university in every division in the State, 77 new government colleges, eight new State universities and 25 model government colleges have been set up. More are in the pipeline. Apart from this, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Research Chairs have been established in 15 State universities. The Guru Shree Gorakhnath Research Chair at Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University will be a boon for research students.

Technical education

Chief Minister Adityanath has prioritised technical education to develop the competitive edge and skill sets of students from the State. The Centre for Advanced Studies, Lucknow, and Noida Design Institute have been established under the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU). Important labs like the Google Code Lab, Artificial Intelligence Lab, Smart City Simulation Lab, 3D-Printing and Nanotechnology lab and so on have been set up at the Centre for Advanced Studies at a cost of Rs 1 crore. In order to improve the level of education, the Government has



approved 51 newly-constructed Government polytechnics that will be operated on the PPP mode. At present, teaching and training are being imparted at 147 State and 19 State-aided institutions.

Medical education

Before 2017, Uttar Pradesh had a poor medical education set-up as compared to other States. Only one full-fledged PGI and few medical colleges were functional. The Adityanath Government decided to change the situation. So now at least one medical college is functional in 59 districts. Also, the process of setting up medical colleges on the PPP model is under way in 16 districts. With the opening of AIIMS in Gorakhpur and Rae Bareilly, the MBBS

seats have increased by 938. Apart from this, another medical university (Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University) is under construction in Lucknow and an AYUSH University in Gorakhpur.

Five district hospitals (Ayodhya, Bahraich, Basti, Firozabad and Shahjahanpur) have been upgraded into medical colleges. Treatment has started in OPDs of 14 new medical colleges. The MBBS course has been started at RML Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow. Apart from this, the State's first maternal ICU has also been established. Super speciality blocks have been set up at Government Medical Colleges in Jhansi, Gorakhpur, Meerut, Prayagraj, Kanpur and Agra.

One District, One Medical College

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched a campaign to open a medical college in every district to provide better treatment facilities to people. History was created when Prime Minister Narendra Modi simultaneously inaugurated nine medical colleges in the state.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University

Before 2017, the medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh were affiliated to different universities. Because of this, there was no uniformity of curriculum and sessions. In 2019, the Adityanath Government started the construction of the State's second medical university. By deciding to grant affiliation to all medical colleges, the Government has brought about uniformity in academic and research standards. About 60 government and private medical colleges and dental colleges will be affiliated to this medical university.

Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath Ayush University

In order to encourage the education and popularity of "AYUSH" methods, the first AYUSH University of Uttar Pradesh is being established in Gorakhpur district. All Ayush medical institutes of the State will be affiliated to this university. A research institute will also be established here to establish the credibility and acceptability of traditional and ancient medical systems in line with international standards and the utility of yoga in public health. This will help bring in Ayurveda and Unani, Homeopathy and Naturopathy institutions under one roof.

Yogi govt revamps education system

Through 'Operation Kayakalp', basic facilities were provided in nearly 1.35 lakh schools of the state. Children were given free books, school bags, two pairs of uniforms, sweaters and shoes-stockings, separate toilets have been constructed for boys and girls

THE UP Government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has worked consistently for 57 months to revive and consolidate the primary education system that had been woefully neglected by past governments.

When Adityanath took over the reins of the State, the number of basic schools in rural as well as urban areas were insufficient while school buildings and related infrastructure were dilapidated and unsafe. Even the number of teachers in the system was grossly inadequate. Some schools just existed on paper — there were no buildings or teachers. Mending the education system by setting up proper schools and teachers as well as bringing in children for studies was a big challenge. However, the State Government took care of these essential aspects and launched 'Operation Kayakalp' to improve the conditions on ground. Under this, 1.38 lakh government basic schools were refurbished and around 1.5 lakh basic teachers were appointed.

The State Government launched a campaign, "School Chalo Abhiyan", to enroll children and brought more than 4.80 crore students back to where they should have been in the first place. Enrollment of dropouts was also made possible through the 'Har Din

School Aayen' programme.

Apart from this, 771 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas were started in the state. Libraries were established in these schools to inculcate a reading habit among children.

The State Government also gave away free shoes, stockings, sweaters, text books and bags to school children between classes I and VIII.

Secondary education

The efforts to systematise education were not limited to the primary school system. The Adityanath Government has also revamped secondary education by setting up as many as 250 new inter colleges. It further filled up 5,987 posts of teachers. It established Atal Residential Schools in all 18 divisions of the State for free education of the children of labourers. In view of the difficulties in the education of girls, the Government has started construction of girls' hostels in 107 development blocks.

Vocational education

In order to connect education with employment, the Government has also strengthened the vocational education infrastructure. Thirty-five new government ITIs were established. At present, 305 government ITIs and 26 polytechnics are operating in the State. New disciplines have been introduced in all Government training institutes. Candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are given free training at all Government institutions.

Also, in order to promote self-employment and establishment of new ventures by aspirants in the service sector, the State Government has made a provision of loans up to Rs 25 lakh and Rs 10 lakh respectively.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



MINISTER'S ADVICE

MINISTERS OFTEN go for inauguration functions but they giving business tips for ventures is not common. At the launch of Software Technology Park of India's 62nd centre in Meerut on Tuesday, Union minister Rajeev Chandrashekar offered a valuable piece of advice to a young entrepreneur. When the entrepreneur showed his new project with an equipment that collects soil details for the farmer, Chandrashekar told him: "I can give you an advice free of cost." He asked the entrepreneur to use Artificial Intelligence, which would help him provide valuable information to the farmer such as quality of soil, quantity of water and the fertiliser his crop would need. The entrepreneur happily accepted the advice.

CAFE PROJECT

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh inaugurated 27 projects built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Tuesday, taking the tally of projects completed by it in one season to a record 102. Singh had inaugurated 75 projects in June, most of them near areas close to the China border. On Tuesday, Singh announced another initiative by the BRO to boost tourism as well as facilitate the armed forces. It will set up 75 BRO Cafes as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations. These cafes will showcase local traditions and have facilities such as food, parking, sitting area, souvenir shops, medical inspection rooms and photo galleries, the Defence Ministry said.

THE VACCINE LINK

FORMER SECRETARY of Department of Biotechnology, Dr Renu Swarup, on Tuesday took to Twitter and congratulated Hyderabad-based Biological E, hours after the latter received approval for its Covid-19 vaccine. It was a proud moment for Swarup since it was during her tenure that Biological E worked closely with the department in developing India's first subunit protein Covid-19 vaccine. The Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, under Department of Biotechnology, had supported the company's clinical trial by providing crucial data on the immune response generated by the vaccine.

After exits, Bengal BJP sees departures from WhatsApp

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 28

THE problems within the West Bengal BJP, as it tackles another electoral loss, have now seeped into its WhatsApp groups. In a very public exit, nine MLAs have left the groups over the past few days, over disagreement with the new state committee formed by the party.

The dissent comes less than a month before West Bengal heads for another round of elections. Leaders admit that as the committee shortlists candidates for the January 22 civic polls, the differences are set to grow worse. On December 27, BJP national general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh, the party's in-charge of Bengal, Amit Malviya and state president Sukanta Majumdar, held a meeting with national vice-president Dilip Ghosh, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Suvendu Adhikari and others over the new state committee.

Since the Assembly elections in April-May when it finished second to the Trinamool Congress - way behind what it had been trumpeting - the BJP has been struggling to hold on in the state. Several senior leaders

have quit, others feel sidelined. Meanwhile, the party that got 38% votes in the state elections tumbled to 9% in the recent Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) election. While the TMC was expected to retain its hold over the KMC, the results showed a slide of 20% in the votes the BJP had procured in the same area in the Assembly elections.

While the BJP's tally of three wards was one more than the Left Front's, the latter's vote share was 3% higher. Besides, apart from the two wards it won, the Left came second in 65 wards, 17 more than the BJP.

The new state committee was announced by the BJP a day after the KMC results - and it ran straight into controversy as new leaders were picked at the cost of established leaders and MLAs for the 32-member panel.

On December 25, five MLAs left several party WhatsApp groups in protest. Most of them belong to the Matua community, which has been courted by the party. A day later, four MLAs from Bankura district left. None of them found a place in the new panel.

While some MLAs now say they left the groups "by mistake", most don't want to talk about the move. **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

Devender Rana shifts ground for BJP in Jammu, chips away at NC

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, DECEMBER 27

ON DECEMBER 18, National Conference stalwart-turned-BJP leader Devender Singh Rana held a rally in Bathindi area of Jammu city. The rally ground was a stone's throw away from a madrasa set up by the late renowned Muslim scholar Faiz-ul-Waheed as well as the Jammu residence of National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah.

It was the first time a BJP leader had held a meeting in the area, where it has never been welcome. On November 26 last year, a group of BJP leaders who were trying to march up to the residence of Abdullah to demand its

demolition, alleging it was built on forest land, had been thwarted by locals.

That Devender Rana's exit would hurt the NC was known; how much, his party of 20-odd years is realising only now. In his move to the BJP, the man considered the face of the NC in Jammu and a close lieutenant of the Abdullahs has now joined forces with elder brother Jitendra Singh Rana, who is in his second stint as a minister of state in Narendra Modi's Cabinet.

The family belongs to far-off Marmat area in hilly Doda. Their father, the late Rajinder Singh, retired as chief engineer.

Six days before his Bathindi rally, Devender Rana, along with

Previous govts lost time, double-engine govt in UP working at double speed: PM

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 28

TARGETING OPPOSITION parties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said that those who ran governments in the past in Uttar Pradesh lost valuable time and opportunities of the 21st century when the state should have progressed faster. Its development was never a priority for them, he said.

"The double engine government of Uttar Pradesh today is trying to make up for that loss of time. We are working at double speed," the Prime Minister said while addressing a public meeting after inaugurating Kanpur Metro Rail Project.

He also took a Metro ride from IIT station to Geeta Nagar and inaugurated the Bina-Panki Multiproduct Pipeline Project, which extends from Bina refinery in Madhya Pradesh to Panki in Kanpur.

In his address, the Prime Minister said Uttar Pradesh's image has undergone a massive change. The state that was once infamous for gangs and illegal arms is today building defence corridor for the nation's security, he said. "That is why the people of Uttar Pradesh are saying *farg saaf hai* (the difference is clear be-



PM Narendra Modi on board a Kanpur Metro train with CM Yogi Adityanath and Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

tween BJP and others," he said.

Continuing to attack the Opposition, the Prime Minister said that previous governments were run with a mindset that they had won a lottery to loot the state for five years. The previous governments nurtured criminals and mafia, which resulted in closure of industries in the state. "Now, the Yogi (Adityanath) government has restored rule of law and hence investment is increasing and criminals are going to jails... Double engine government is promoting industry culture in Uttar Pradesh," Modi said.

He said that political parties that indulged in corruption and showed hospitality to "bahubalis"

cannot develop Uttar Pradesh and that is why they see problems with every move aimed at empowering society. "So they oppose measures aimed at women empowerment, such as strict law against triple talaq and bringing age of marriage for women on a par with men. They only oppose," he said.

Referring to the seizure of cash and gold from a Kanpur trader, Modi attacked Samajwadi Party. "Boxes filled with notes that have stumbled out, I was thinking they will say that this was also done by us," he said.

The PM said the first phase of the 9-km stretch of the Kanpur Metro will give the people relief from traffic congestion.

Divisive ideologies rooted in hate causing havoc: Sonia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday said divisive ideologies anchored in hate and prejudice are causing havoc on the secular fabric of India and are inflaming passions, instilling fear and spreading animosity, and argued that the party will fight them aggressively.

Gandhi's remarks came as the Congress celebrated its 137th foundation day. Gandhi unfurled the party flag at the AICC headquarters in the presence of senior leaders, including former Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

"Divisive ideologies anchored in hate & prejudice and which had no role whatsoever to play in

our freedom movement are now causing havoc on the secular fabric of our society. They are rewriting history to give themselves a role they do not deserve."

"They inflame passions, instill fear and spread animosity. The finest traditions of our parliamentary democracy are being deliberately damaged. The Indian National Congress will fight these destructive forces with all might at its command," Gandhi said in a video message.

She said the Congress had over the decades confronted several challenges and it has always demonstrated its resilience.

"Electoral ups and downs are inevitable but what is enduring and lasting is our commitment to the service of all people of our diverse society," she added.

With Cabinet expansion, Haryana govt reaches out to JJP's Dushyant, farmers

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 28

THE induction of two ministers in the much-awaited Cabinet expansion in Haryana has made the position of Dushyant Chautala stronger in its coalition with the BJP. The move may help the BJP further mellow the anger against it

in the state over the farm laws. Chautala's Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), like its parent party INLD, counts farmers among its vote base.

The two new ministers are JJP Tohana MLA Devender Babli and BJP Hisar MLA Kamal Gupta, taking the strength of the Manohar Lal Khattar Cabinet to 14.



Dushyant Chautala (centre) greets JJP's Devender Babli (2nd left) and BJP's Kamal Gupta (extreme left), Tuesday, Jaipal Singh

In the existing Cabinet, apart from Chautala, who is the Deputy CM, the only other JJP minister was Anoop Dhanak (Ukna MLA), a Minister of State holding the portfolio of Archeology and Museums (Independent charge) and

Labour and Employment.

Sources said that with two vacancies in the Cabinet, the BJP had been under tremendous pressure from the JJP to accommodate more leaders from the party. Six short of the majority mark of 46 after the 2019

Start working now for India you want in 25 yrs, Modi tells IIT students

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 28

URGING THE fresh IIT graduates to show impatience to make India self-reliant, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday told them to start "working now" for the kind of India they want in the next 25 years, saying a lot of time has already been wasted.

Addressing the 54th convocation of the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur, the prime minister asked the IIT graduates to choose challenge over comfort and advised them to follow their passion for technology and innovation, and not become robot versions of themselves.

"Those who were in their 20s in 1930s must have had quite a journey till 1947 when India achieved Independence. That was the golden phase of their lives. Today, you are also stepping into the same kind of golden era... as you are stepping out of IIT at the time of Amrit Mahotsav (the 75th year of India's

Independence), you should move ahead with the dream of how India will be in 2047. It is the responsibility of all of you to give direction to the country for the next 25 years, to give momentum to the country," he said.

"By the time 25 years (of Independence) were completed, a lot of work should have been done for standing on our own feet. But a lot of time has been wasted... The country has lost a lot of time, two generations have gone by and so we should not miss even two moments now," he said.

Modi said the country is standing on the threshold of "immense opportunities", which brought big responsibilities as well. "You and your generation have got the opportunity to realise those dreams and make a modern India."

Urging the students to "choose challenges instead of shortcuts", he said, "Whether you want it or not, there are bound to be challenges in life, and those who run away from them become victims."



Home Minister Amit Shah in Hardoi, Tuesday, PTI

Shah targets SP, BSP with 'ABCD' jibe; Akhilesh hits back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 28

TAKING A jibe at the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah on Tuesday said that for these two opposition parties, "ABCD" - the first four letters of the English alphabet stood for: "A - Apradh and atank (crime and terror), B - Bhai bhatijawad (dynasty), C - corruption and D - Danga (riots)."

Shah also said the "double engine government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centre and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh, has foiled their 'ABCD'."

Reacting to Shah's 'ABCD' remark, SP national president Akhilesh Yadav tweeted: "Following the incidents in Hathras, Lakhimpur, Gorakhpur, Agra and others, now BJP supporters stood up against BJP and are saying that ABCD means: Ab Bhaaja (BJP) Chhod Do."

Addressing rallies in Hardoi and Sultanpur in the run-up to the Assembly elections next year, Shah said that even if SP, BSP and Congress join hands, the BJP would face no problem in the upcoming elections as the public has "made up its mind to give more than 300 seats to the BJP."

"In UP, people have two options - on one side there are SP, BSP and Congress who are symbols of corruption, bad governance and riots and at the other side is the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government that is dedicated towards growth and development under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi," Shah said.



The photograph tweeted by YSRCP Rajya Sabha MP V Vijaysai Reddy with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat.

Photo with Bhagwat starts buzz, YSRCP says BJP 'no friend'

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 28

WHILE THE YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) and BJP may be a picture of bonhomie in Parliament, back home in Andhra Pradesh, the two parties continue to be at each other's throats. At the Centre, the YSRCP has supported the NDA on various issues such as the farm laws, Article 370 and CAA, but just on Tuesday, the BJP held a massive meeting at Vijayawada to "highlight the failures" of the YSR Jagan Reddy government.

What set off fresh speculation regarding the nature of the ties between the two parties was a photo tweeted by YSRCP Rajya Sabha MP V Vijaysai Reddy with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, as the latter passed through the state on a train. YSRCP leaders insisted it nothing more than a courtesy call.

Leaders on both sides say they believe in maintaining cordial relations and it did not in any way mean they were not opponents in the state. Speaker and YSRCP MLA Tammineni Sitaram said if the BJP

was such a "friend", why was it not speaking out against the disinvestment of the Vizag Steel Plant. "If they care so much about the people of Andhra Pradesh, the BJP's Andhra leaders should protest against it and stop it."

BJP Andhra chief Somu Veeraju said the party believed the YSRCP government had driven the state into a mess due to financial mismanagement. "There are daily attacks on opposition workers, desecration of temples is not being investigated, and police are filing false cases on political workers."

BJP leaders also targeted Vijaysai Reddy over tweeting the photo with Bhagwat, coinciding with the party's meeting at Rajahmundry. "I doubt if Bhagwat was even aware that someone was taking photos," a leader said.

BJP leader Sunil Deodhar said the YSRCP support to the Union government in Parliament was a different issue. "Several parties support us on issues that are important to the nation. Why only the YSRCP, even the TDP and TRS have supported us on the farm laws, Article 370 and CAA."

9 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

KERALA

Minor girls kill man who tried to harass their mother

Thiruvananthapuram:

Two minor girls in Kerala surrendered before the police on Tuesday claiming they had killed a 68-year-old man after he attempted to sexually harass their mother. Police said the girls narrated how they had axed their relative to death and dumped his body in a nearby well. Based on the input from the girls, police recovered the body and took their mother into custody. Police said they are questioning the mother and the daughters to verify further details. **ENS**

KARNATAKA

Man held for sexual abuse after victim's mother seeks VHP help

Bengaluru: A 49-year-old man was arrested on Sunday by the Surathkal police for allegedly sexually harassing a 27-year-old woman. The woman's mother had sought help of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP). The woman's mother alleged the accused had been sexually harassing her daughter for four years and her earlier complaints to the police had yielded no action. City police commissioner N Shashi Kumar said the accused has been sent to 14 day judicial custody. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA

Case against seer for remarks on Gandhi

Mumbai: Police in Maharashtra's Akola district have registered a case against Hindu religious leader Kalicharan Maharaj for allegedly using derogatory words against Mahatma Gandhi, an official said on Tuesday. Kalicharan Maharaj alias Abhijit Sarag, a resident of Shivajinagar in old city area of Akola, made the remarks on Sunday during an event at Raipur in Chhattisgarh. In the speech, Kalicharan is also heard making speeches and asking "Sanatani Hindus" to arm themselves and one of them also hailing Nathuram Godse for assassinating Mahatma Gandhi. **ENS**

ODISHA

Offline classes to resume in Jan

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government on Tuesday announced reopening of schools for Classes 1 to 5 from January 3. As per the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued, classes will be held between 9 am and 12 noon. Midday meal programme will also resume as per existing protocols. **ENS**

1,333 COVID CASES RECORDED ON TUESDAY

In Mumbai, biggest surge in 7 months

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

MUMBAI RECORDED 1,333 cases on Tuesday, a steep rise from 809 infections reported a day ago. This is the highest one-day surge in the city since May 26, when 1,352 cases were registered.

Mumbai also accounted for 63.3% of state's tally of 2,172 Covid cases on Tuesday. Of the 32,369 tests conducted in the city, 1,333 were positive, which pushed the positivity rate up to 4.11%.

In the last 28 days, the daily Covid-19 tally has increased by 1,134% in the financial capital. Active cases have gone up from 1,904 to 5,803.

Although most of the patients are mildly symptomatic, doctors indicated that the sudden surge could be attributed to a possible third wave or spread of the new variant Omicron among the city.

Dr Shashank Joshi, member of the state Covid-19 task force, said, "It will take another two weeks to confirm the speculation about a third wave. But there are some epidemiological factors that are leading to the rise in cases. As the sero prevalence is high in Mumbai, there is a possibility that it is not Delta derivatives but another variant of concern present in the crowd," he said.

He said that in the first wave, the doubling rate was 12 days (706 to 1367), in the second wave it was 20 days (683 to 1325), and now it is only 4 days (683 to 1377).

Nearly 90% of the current Covid-19 cases are from highrise buildings in the city. The A ward, that covers South Mumbai localities like Fort and Colaba, is recording the highest seven-day spike at 0.18%, which is higher than the city's average of 0.09%.

"We haven't noticed any significant surges in slums. Most of the recent patients have contracted Covid-19 in violation of Covid-appropriate behaviour,"

'CASES LIKELY TO RISE SHARPLY IN JAN-FEB'

Mumbai: Covid-19 cases in Maharashtra are likely to see a sharp increase in January and February 2022, Health Minister Rajesh Tope told the Assembly on Tuesday.

"Omicron multiplies very fast. Since the numbers are low, it is not reflecting. But once it increases, the cases will multiply faster. The number of cases in the next two months will rise sharply," he said. **ENS**

said Dr Mangala Gomare, executive health officer, BMC. "We are recording 4-5 cluster infections in a family when they participated in weddings, functions or parties."

With an eye on Omicron, BMC has been conducting stringent surveillance of international fliers and tracing close contacts of infected passengers.

"With the New Year around the corner, footfall of international passengers has increased, and with it the number of positive cases has also surged. This is also contributing to the rise in cases," said Suresh Kakani, Additional Commissioner, BMC.

Despite imposing Section 144, people have been gathering in large numbers in public places. The issue was discussed in the last state Covid task force meeting.

"We don't know what is causing the spike in cases, so people need to be more careful and avoid crowded places. If such a high number of cases can be recorded in Mumbai, where 100% of the population is partially and 70% is fully vaccinated, then it is concerning," said Dr Gautam Bhanals, in-charge of Covid-19 private beds.

Maharashtra recorded a 52.3% hike in daily Covid-19 cases on Tuesday, as cases rose from 1,426 to 2,172.



Samples being taken from incoming passengers at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Mumbai on Tuesday. **Amit Chakravarty**

Maharashtra rejects 10k ex-gratia applications

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

IN THE last 27 days, the state has rejected nearly 10,000 applications for Rs 50,000 ex-gratia by the kin or immediate relatives of people who lost their lives due to COVID-19. The state has, however, set up a system of appeal for those whose applications have been rejected.

Soon, rejected applicants will have the option to apply for a physical appeal on the portal mahacovid19relief.in, which was created to invite applications and pay the compensation.

Nearly a third of the applications were rejected due to duplications, as more than one family member of a patient had applied for the compensation.

Errors in filling up forms is the second biggest reason for rejection. For instance, under 'name of the deceased', many applicants mentioned 'Covid-19', reading it as 'name of the disease'.

"We didn't realise that a word would create so much confusion, so we are changing it to 'name of the patient'. Also, in several cases, they provide incomplete information, which leads to rejection," said a senior officer from the relief and rehabilitation department.

The state IT department is in the process of putting an appeal button on the portal. With this, the kin whose applications have been rejected can apply for an appeal at the click of the button. They will be able to physically appeal for their applications in front of the district-level grievance redressal committees.

Andhra: Fever surveys to find those without job

Hyderabad: The Andhra Pradesh government on Tuesday asked health workers to identify unvaccinated people during fever surveys, and vaccinate them immediately, in anticipation of a rise in the number of positive Covid-19 cases in the state.

Deputy Chief Minister (Health) A K Krishna Srinivas said that 98.96 per cent of eligible population in the state has taken the first dose while 71.76 per cent received the second dose. The first dose of vaccination is 100 per cent complete in Nellore, Vizianagaram, Prakasam, Anantapur, West Godavari, Kurnool and Chittoor districts, the minister said.

The 33rd fever survey in the state began Tuesday. Samples of persons with fever, cold, etc will be sent for testing. **ENS**

Mundra drug haul case: NIA court rejects bail plea of key accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 28

A SPECIAL NIA court in Ahmedabad Tuesday rejected a bail application moved by one of the key accused — Durga PV Govindaraju — in the Mundra port drug haul case.

A key ground canvassed by the accused Govindaraju was that she was "innocent" as she was unaware of the consignment details and was only acting on instructions from her husband, also a key accused in the case — Machavaram Sudhakaran.

Taking into account the prima facie role of Govindaraju established in committing the offence which the court recorded, "clearly and undoubtedly emerges", and observing that the accused "having conspired with other co-accused, prima facie appears to have involved in a grave and serious offence having far-reaching implications", special NIA judge SK Baxi accepted the prosecution's arguments and rejected the plea.

The Chennai-based couple own the company that was allegedly shipping 2,998.21 kg of heroin seized at Mundra port of Gujarat in September.

NIA submitted the offence "involves an international drug cartel and the modus operandi suggests a conspiracy to exploit trade friendly approach of India."

Realty summit: parties in Kashmir see attempt to 'change demography'

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 28

WHILE THE J&K administration has termed the signing of real estate MoUs worth Rs 18,900 crore a "historical transformation", political parties across the mainstream-separatist spectrum in the Kashmir Valley are viewing it as an attempt to alter the region's demographic identity.

The separatist Hurriyat Conference has called the summit a step towards "demographic change". The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) said it was "brazen loot". The National Conference, meanwhile, said J&K is being "put up for sale".

The 39 MoUs were signed Monday at the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Summit 2021, the first of its kind in the region. Nineteen of these MoUs were related to the residential sector, eight were for commercial projects and four were for hospitality. There were three MoUs for infrastructure, two for finance and three for the film and entertainment sector.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration termed it a "historical transformation" and encouraged people from different parts of the country to buy land or second homes in the Union Territory. This has led to the fears of de-

Lakhimpur Kheri case: SIT to file charge sheet soon

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 28

A SPECIAL Investigation Team (SIT) of the UP Police — formed to investigate Lakhimpur Kheri incident — is likely to file chargesheet in a week in connection with the death of four farmers and a journalist. Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra and 12 others, including former Union minister Akhilesh Das's nephew Ankit Das, are accused in the case.

"The investigation is in the final stage and chargesheet will be filed soon," said a senior officer. The agency is verifying evidence collected against accused and also studying forensic and ballistic reports they received from forensic laboratory, the officer added.

During investigation, the SIT sent cellphones of the accused, weapons and also videos of the incident that were being shared on social media to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for examination.

Sources said the SIT has received most of the required forensic and ballistic reports. An officer said that if any forensic report does not come on time, they would send it to the court after chargesheet is filed.

All 13 accused, including drivers of three SUVs and associates of Ashish Mishra and Ankit Das, are lodged at Lakhimpur Kheri jail. The bail application of Ashish Mishra is pending in the Allahabad High Court while bail pleas of the other accused are pending in a local court of Lakhimpur Kheri.

Recently, a local court, on the SIT's request, included two charges — attempt to murder and voluntarily causing grievous hurt — against Ashish Mishra and 12 others accused. In its report to

the court, the SIT said the killing of four farmers and a journalist on October 3 was a "planned conspiracy". It added that the killings "did not happen due to negligence or callousness" and that actions of the accused were "deliberate with an intention to kill". The court also invoked sections of Arms Act against accused.

The court, however, rejected the SIT's plea to invoke the charge of "common intention" behind the incident following objections from the defence counsel.

On October 3, a convoy of three SUVs, including one Thar owned by Ajay Mishra, ran over a group of farmers assembled at the Tikonia crossing to show black flags to Deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, who was scheduled to visit Ajay Mishra's village, Baveerpur, for an event. Farmers were allegedly protesting over a purported video clip where the Union MoS is heard openly threatening to drag the protesting farmers out of the state.

Four farmers and a journalist died in the incident and several others were injured.

In the violence that followed, an angry mob lynched two BJP leaders, Shubham Mishra (26) and Shyam Sunder (40) and Ajay Mishra's SUV driver Hari Om Mishra and also set ablaze Thar and a Toyota Fortuner owned by Ankit Das. The driver of the third SUV, a Mahindra Scorpio, escaped with his vehicle.

The deceased farmers are Lovepreet Singh (20), Daljeet Singh (35), Nachatar Singh (60) and Gurvinder Singh (19). The deceased journalist is Raman Kashyap (30). Two FIRs were registered in connection with the matter at the Tikonia police station in connection with the matter.

Centre kept Jharkhand poor, says minister

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, DECEMBER 28

CITING PENDING payments, Jharkhand Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon Tuesday said Centre had kept Jharkhand "poor".

Oraon told reporters Coal India and other PSUs owed Jharkhand more than Rs 65,000 crore for land acquisition and water charges, among others.

"I should not say it, but I must tell you that the Centre has kept Jharkhand poor. Coal India owed the state Rs 65,000 crore for the 53,000 acres that the Centre took. In addition, PSUs including Damodar Valley Corporation and Heavy Engineering Corporation also owe Jharkhand around Rs 10,000 crore," he said.

The Congress leader said Centre has paid the state just Rs 300 crore a few months ago.

On being told that the Centre, too, had asked for payment for security it provides, Oraon said: "The central government should protect its borders from external threats and also be responsible for its internal security. Why should the state pay?" he said.

Oraon also said the state had, for the first time, set aside Rs 500 crore as a sinking fund — a savings fund. "The benefit of having a savings account is that RBI gives short term loans if they see money parked. Also, in time of need we can get it."

Oraon, who also holds the Food and Civil Supplies portfolio, had recently found himself in the middle of a row over Congress MLA Pradeep Yadav's question on EPOS machines used for distributing foodgrain. The Jharkhand government had paid Rs 250 crore as rent from 2015-16 to 2020-21 for the e-POS machines which they could have bought for Rs 78 crore.

Asked about the issue, Oraon declined to comment. The minister, however, added: "I want to walk ahead and I am not a complete politician...and like a bureaucrat I don't want to speak on the previous government's decision."



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurates Border Roads Organisation projects, at South Block, New Delhi, Tuesday. **PTI**

Facing enemies not possible without infrastructure development: Rajnath

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

WITHOUT NAMING China, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday asserted "what we had to face in the northern sector recently, we were able to face the adversary with determination, it was not possible without proper infrastructure development."

He also mentioned that in the current scenario, the possibility of a conflict cannot be ruled out. "In today's uncertain environment, the possibility of any kind of conflict cannot be ruled out. Such situations motivate us even more for the development of these areas," Rajnath said.

Speaking at the inauguration of 27 new roads and bridges built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), many of them close to the China border, Singh said that "it is a matter of pride that we have the BRO for cooperation in the development of these areas..."

"Infrastructure development in border areas also strengthens our strategic capabilities. As we move forward in strengthening border infrastructure, we must also strengthen our surveillance capacity," Singh said.

The 27 projects, including 24 bridges, were built at a cost of Rs 2,245 crore. "They will play an important role in strengthening the country," said Singh. He stated the new projects will "add many new

links" to BRO's "chain of records".

Singh said one of the "most important roads being dedicated to the nation today is the Chisumle-Demchok Road" in eastern Ladakh. Demchok is one of the areas that has remained unresolved in the 20-month-long India-China military stand-off, as some "so-called civilians" have pitched tents on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control.

"This road, built at an altitude of more than 19,000 feet, on the Umling La pass in southern Ladakh, has now become the world's highest motorable road," Singh said, adding that it will "not only enable faster movement of armed forces to the region but will also boost tourism."

was delivered at a three-day workshop organised by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar.

The idea was floated in February 2020 at the end of a two-day national conference on the conservation of the Sun Temple. The then union culture minister Prahlad Singh Patel had asked ASI to prepare a report on the modalities of removing the sand.

Based on this, ASI formed a four-member committee to study the monument and submit a safe method of removal.

The need to remove the sand was felt after a study

warned of possible damage caused by the sand settling down — resulting in a gap of 17 feet between the sand layer and the structure.

This report was submitted in 2019. CBRI had suggested that the 17-foot gap should be refilled with fresh sand. Alternatively, it had proposed removing all the sand and properly restoring the structure. The CBRI report stated that despite the gap, the structure was still stable.

ASI, the custodian of the world heritage site, will be assisted by IIT Madras in the process.

As per the preliminary pro-

posal, a window will be carved out on the western side of Jagamohan in the first phase. The 6x6 foot window will be created close to an existing opening made in the British era to gain access to the interior of the monument.

The new access will help authorities chart out a future course of action through inspection and documentation of the walls and the interiors.

Apart from this, another opening will be carved out at the bottom of the Antarala (inner sanctum), for the same purpose, the presentation stated.

A working platform is being

planned over the inner sanctum. The windows will also help officials understand the masonry of the wall, the presentation said.

After these steps are officially completed, tenders will be floated for the excavation process.

Built by King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty from 1238-1250 CE, the 13th century late-style Kalingan temple forms part of the golden triangle of Odisha, along with Puri and Bhubaneswar, and attracts tourists, pilgrims, and history and art lovers.

The Jagamohan is the only structure that is fully intact now.



A view of the 'Jagamohan'. **Wikimedia Commons**

Added by British for stability, sand inside Sun Temple may be cleared

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, DEC 28

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL Survey of India is working on a preliminary roadmap to safely remove sand from the interiors of Odisha's Sun Temple, which was filled up by the British 118 years ago to prevent it from collapsing.

A formal decision on this is yet to be taken. But a recent presentation by ASI (Bhubaneswar circle) head Arun Malik spoke of possible approaches to remove the sand from the temple's sealed assembly hall, known as Jagamohan. The presentation

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Robby Batra, S/O Brij Mohan Batra, R/o 639, Double Storey, New Rajinder Nagar, Rajender Nagar, Delhi-110060, have changed my name to Sandeep Batra. 0070766921-1

I, Rahul Kumar, S/o Balmukand Kaushik, R/o 2 C 404, Gurjinder Vihar, AWHO Township CHI 2, Near Yatharth Hospital, Greater Noida, Kasana, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201310, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rahul Kaushik. 0070766905-1

I, Prateek Goyal, S/o Anil Kumar Goyal, R/o F-677, Kamla Nagar, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282005, have changed the name of my minor Son Kshitij Goyal aged about 3 years and he shall hereafter be known as Krishav Goyal. 0070766912-1

I, Poonam Rai, W/o Lakhpat Rai, R/o 698, Sector-11, Panchkula, Haryana-134117, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Pratibha Rai. 0070766907-1

I, Palakh, D/o Ashish Kushwaha, R/o 128/47, Y Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-208011, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aditi Singh. 0070766893-1

I, Neeraj, W/o Vineet Kumar, R/o Village Jageer, Post Office: Seohara, District: Bijour, Uttar Pradesh 246746, have changed my name to Neeraj Yadav. 0070766914-1

I, MOHAMMAD MASUD LASKAR AND MOHD MASUD LASKAR S/O MOHAMMED MUJIBAR RAHMAN R/O 53-A, DDA FLATS, NEAR BULAND MASJID, SHASTRI PARK, NORTH EAST, DELHI - 110053, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SPELLING AS MOHAMMED MASUD LASKAR. 0040597390-10

I, Hari Om Goel, S/o Sadhu Ram Goel, R/o D-889, New Friends Colony, N.Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Hari Om Goyal. 0070766887-1

I, Bhawana Chandalia, D/o Sushil Kumar Chandalia, R/o Kh.No-503, Plot No-47-48, Upper Ground Floor, Shakti Enclave, Cosmos Apartment, Lal Dora, Burari, Delhi-110084, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bhawana Singh. 0070766901-1

I, Aditya Anal, S/o Balendra Kumar Singh, R/O D-64/98 A-2, Madhopur, Sigra, Varanasi, Chhitputr, Mahmoorganj, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh-221010, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aditya Singh. 0070766910-1

I, AMRESH PANDYA, S/o Mata Prasad Pandey, R/o C-479, Avas Vikas, Indira Nagar, Rae Bareilly, Raebareilly, Uttar Pradesh-229001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMRESH PANDEY. 0070766896-1

We, Preeti Barnwal W/O Sunil P. Barnwal S/O Bishwa Nath Barnwal R/O H.No. 42-43 1st Floor, Block F-2, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089, our name Preety and Sunil Barnwal in school record of our minor daughter Bhoomi D.O.B 23.05.2008. Preeti Barnwal, Sunil P Barnwal in adhar card Sunil Kumar Barnwal in RC of vehicle so both are name same person, changed name of our minor daughter Bhoomi to Bhoomi Barnwal. 40597383-9

It is for general information that I Shilpa Pahwa W/o Abhishek Pahwa residing-D-111, 2nd Floor, Mahendru Enclave, Azadpur, Delhi-110033 declare-that name of mine has been wrongly-written Shilpa Sachdeva in my Canara Bank A/c No.2419101017363, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-52 Branch. The actual-name of mine is Shilpa Pahwa respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040597372-1

It is for general information that I Ruchi Bala W/o-Sumit Kumar residing-WZ-204, Gali-No. 5, Krishna Puri, Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110018 declare-that name of mine has been wrongly-written Ruchi Sachdeva in my Canara Bank A/c No.2419101017363, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-52 Branch. The actual-name of mine is Ruchi Bala respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040597375-1

It is for general information that I Meera/Meera Devi (Present name) W/o Mr. Gopi Chand Dodwani R/o. Flat No.-1046, Tower-1B, Landcraft Society, GolfLink, Pandav Nagar, Near NH-24, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201002 declare that I want to change my name from Meera/Meera Devi (Present name) to Meera Dodwani (new name) and I will be known as Meera Dodwani for all future purposes. 0040597271-1

This is to notify that I Ria Chakravarty has changed my name from Riya Srivastava to Ria Chakravarty, now my name is Ria Chakravarty. All of my documents will now be named as Ria Chakravarty. 0040597358-2

I, Rohit, S/o Birbal Singh Negi, R/O M-27, Luxmi Nagar, Jagat Ram Park, Delhi 110092, have changed my name to Rohit Singh Negi. 0070766917-1

I, Baby Siya, D/o Nikhil Naithani, R/O A-304, 86/245, ELDICO, Raipurwa, Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-208003, have changed my name to Shreya Naithani. 0070766919-1

I, Ayushi Bindal, W/o Sahil Aggarwal, R/O- B-7/13-A, Extension, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029, have changed my name to Ayushi Aggarwal. 0070766888-1

I, Andleeb Fatma, W/o Raza Abbas R/O 524/72 Street No-18 Vijay Park Delhi-110053 Have changed my name to Andleeb Fatma. 0040597362-1

It is for general information that I Gopi Chand/Gopi Chand Mal (Present name) S/o Late Lal Chand Dodwani R/o. Flat No.-1046, Tower-1B, Landcraft Society, GolfLink, Pandav Nagar, Near NH-24, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201002 declare that I want to change my name from Gopi Chand/Gopi Chand Mal (Present name) to Gopi Chand Dodwani (new name) and I will be known as Gopi Chand Dodwani for all future purposes. 0040597271-2

I, hitherto known as Shanti, W/o Chhelaram, Residing at, Rasulpur Nawada, Sector-62, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shanti Devi. 0040597373-2

I, hitherto known as Raminder Sokhi, S/o Amarjeet Singh Sokhi, residing at, 1/5895/6, Kabool-Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Raminder Singh Sokhi. 0040597373-3

I, Vipin Sharma, S/o Subhash Chand Sharma R/o-4/2924, Gali.No.1, Shri-Ram Colony, Bholanath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my minor son name, from Laksh Krishna (17Years) to Laksh Krishna Sharma for all purposes 0040597383-4

I, VINAY Khaitan, S/o-Shiv Shankar Khaitan, R/o-Plot.No. 26, 1st-floor, Sec-3, Vaishali, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, UP-201010, have changed my name, from Vinay Kumar Khaitan, to Vinay Khaitan, for all future purposes. 40597388-9

I, Shiny Stanley Jacob and Shiney S. Jacob, W/o Rohan Welwin Eric, R/O-E-21/178-179, Upper-3rd-Floor, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, are one & the same and, I have changed my name to Shiny Rohan Eric, permanently. 40597373-5

I, Shamsul Arfin Siddiqui R/o Zainul Abdin Siddiqui R/o F-4, 3rd floor, Haji Colony, Gaffar Manzil Extn-2, Okhla, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name from SHAMSUL ARFIN to SHAMSUL ARFIN SIDDIQUI for all future purposes. 0040597342-1

I, Sanjay Kumar, F/O Harshit Yadav, R/o village bhageshwari bhagesri(152) bhiwani haryana-127307, inform that my name wrongly-written Sanjay in my minor son Harshit Yadav School-record but my actual name is Sanjay Kumar. 0040597388-1

I, AMRESH PANDYA, S/o Mata Prasad Pandey, R/o C-479, Avas Vikas, Indira Nagar, Rae Bareilly, Raebareilly, Uttar Pradesh-229001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMRESH PANDEY. 0070766896-1

I, Sanjay Goyal, R/O-613A Near-Chirawa Wali Dharmshala, Kath-Mandi Sirsa, Haryana-125055, Have Changed My Daughter's Name, From Priwanshi Goyal To Priyanshi Goyal. 0040597383-10

I, SHEFALI, W/O. RAJIV KUMAR ADD-PLOT.No.144, ANMOL-PAPER STREET SABJI MANDI MAIN ROAD MAJUPUR, NORTH EAST-DELHI-110053, CHANGED my name to SEEMA BHATI, permanently. 0040597388-7

I, Pratima Grover, W/o Late Sh.Lok Nath Grover, R/o.H.No. 45/26, Kila-Mohalla, Gandhichowk, Bahadurgarh, Distt. Jhajjar (Haryana). Affirm and declare that my Husband's LIC-Policy.No.330471039 is wrongly-mentioned nominee name my Son as KUNAL GROVER but actual-nominee name is KONARK GROVER, in other all documents. 0040597386-10

I, Harish Dalal/Harish Kumar, D.O.B. (30.03.1998), S/o-Naresh Kumar, R/o.H.No.W.No. 24, Main-Post Office-Gali, Near-Shanti Mandir, Tehsil Bahadurgarh, Distt. Jhajjar (Haryana) -124507, have changed my name to Harish Dalal. 0040597390-3

I, Smt Kailash Kanta V Goswami, spouse of Late Ramesh Chander Goswami, resident of R-188, Sector-21, Jalvay Vihar, Noida, Dist-Gautam Buddha Nagar, (U.P.)-201301, have changed my name from Smt Kailash Kanta V Goswami to Kailash Kanta Goswami for future reference, vide Affidavit dated 27/12/2021 before Notary Services, Sector-33, Noida (U.P.) 0040597326-1

I, Vishal Kanaojia S/O Pappu R/O 340/22ka, Near Lucknow Hospital, Bhanwaganj, Krishna Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226023, have changed my name to Sunny 0070766928-1

I, Vipin S/O, G D Nautiyal R/O 244/94, G-1, School Bk, Mandawali, Delhi 110092 have changed my name to Vipin Prasad for all purposes. 0040597347-1

I, Jagbir Kataria S/o Satya Narayan Singh R/O H.No.115/1, VPO Ghehra, Delhi have changed my name from Jagbir Kataria to Jabir Singh Kataria Aadhar Card and other documents name is Jagbir Singh Kataria. Jagbir Singh Kataria and Jagbir Kataria are same person 0040597343-1

I, Rishi S/o Late Shri Mehar Singh R/O B-1, Harkesh Nagar, New Delhi-110020, have changed my name Rishi to Rishi Kumar for all future purpose. 0050189441-1

I, Rekha Rani W/o-Pawan Garg R/O-4471-10, Jai Mata Market, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Rekha Garg for all purposes. 0040597370-1

I, Luxmi W/o Manoj Kumar R/O RZ-24, Mahindra Park, Pankha Road, Uttam Nagar Delhi-59 have changed my name to Luxmi Devi. 0040597381-1

I, Jyoti Singh W/O, Kuldeep Singh R/O Villa A-13, Paramount Golfresort Sector 13eta, Greater Noida 201306 have changed my name to Jyoti Sinha for all purposes. 0040597344-1

I, Ashwani Kumar S/o Vishwambhar Jha R/o-79, Gali-No-3, Kh.No-80/10, Vasisth Enclave, Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Ashwani Kumar Jha. 0070766929-1

I, Sanjay, S/o-Hoshiyar Singh, Add-village bhageshwari bhagesri(152) bhiwani, Haryana-127307, have changed my name to Sanjay Kumar. 0040597386-7

I, TABASSUM, W/O, MOHD ABID MALIK, ADD-391, ZAKIR NAGAR JAMIA NAGAR OKHLA SOUTH DELHI-110025, changed my name to TABASSUM MALIK, permanently. 0040597388-5

I, RUVENA W/O, WASEEM, ADD-890-E-1, SECOND FLOOR, FLAT. NO 1/A, WARD, NO-8 NEAR-AULIA MASJID, MEHRAULI, SOUTH DELHI-110030, changed my name to RUBENA. 0040597388-2

I, GAURAV NANDA, S/O. CHAIN LAL NANDA, H.NO.605, KAITH WALI STREET PAHARGANJ, CENTRAL-DELHI-110055, Changed my name to GOURAV NANDA, permanently. 0040597388-3

This is to notify that I Aditya Pratap has changed my name from Aditya Srivastava to Aditya Pratap. I will now be known as Aditya Pratap. All of my documents will now be named as Aditya Pratap. 0040597358-1

I, VERSHA SACHDEVA, W/O. VARINDER SACHDEVA, ADD-32/11, SRINIWAS PURI CHITRANJAN-PARK SOUTH DELHI 110065, Changed my name to AARTI, permanently. 0040597388-1

I, Simi Thomas W/o Sunny Joseph R/O H.No-27, Third-Floor, Kilokari, Maharani Bagh, Ashram, Delhi-110014, have changed my name to Simi Sunny. 0040597386-5

I, Satwant D/o Satpal Singh R/O-2161, First-Floor, Main-Road, Ganeshpura, New Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Simran Kaur, permanently. 0040597373-10

I, SHUBHAM KUMAR, S/O. MANOJ THAKUR, ADD-B-250 DABUA-COLONY. NIT, FARIDABAD, DABUA, HARYANA 121001, Changed my name to SHUBHAM THAKUR, permanently. 0040597388-4

I, SHALABH KUMAR RAGHAV, S/O, HARPAL SINGH RAGHAV, H.NO.128/5 K BLOCK STREET, NO-49 SADATPUR-EXTN KARAWAL-NAGAR DIALYALPUR NORTH-EAST DELHI-110094, Changed my name to SHALABH RAGHAV, Permanently. 0040597388-8

I, SATEESH KUMAR C A S/O-ARAVINDKASHAN NAIRR/O-4B, SHANTI-VIHAR APARTMENT ABHAY-KHAND-3, INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD, UP-201014, have changed my name to SATHEESH KUMAR, for all purpose 0040597383-11

I, SANTUSHTI AGGARWAL, W/o Manish Aggarwal, R/O-B-52, Third-Floor, Pushpanjali Enclave, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034, have changed my name to SANTOOSHTI AGGARWAL, for all future purposes. 0040597383-3

I, S K Anand S/o-Kishan Lal Anand, R/o 21/42 Ground-Floor, West Patel-Nagar, Delhi-110008, Have Changed my name to Shiv kumar Anand, for all future purposes. 0040597383-1

I, Richa Singh, W/O Raj Rishi Singh, R/O, 1901, Tower-6, Uniworld-Garden One Sector-47, Sohna-Road, Gurgaon-Haryana-122018, Have changed our minor daughter's Name, From Raysal Raj Rishi Singh to Raysal Singh. 0040597386-6

I, Ram Babu Mandal S/o. Rajnandam Mandal R/O Village Maidan Sursand, PS. Sursand, Distt. Sitamarhi, Bihar-843331 have changed my name to Lal Babu Mandal for all Purposes. 0040597401-1

I, Sudip Kumar Gupta, S/O Mijaji Lal Gupta, R/O Tichars Colony, G.T Road, Bewar, Grameen, Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh-206301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sudeep Kaushal. 0070766895-1

I, Vaishali Ahlawat D/o-Mahesh Kumar R/O.H.No.1039A, Ward. No.29, Delhi-Road Ram Gopal- Colony, Rohtak (Haryana)-124001, have changed my name to Vaishali. 0040597373-8

I, Sushama Kumari W/O Sumit Kumar R/O DG-1, 53/A, Vikas Puri, Delhi-110018 Change My Name Sushama Kumari. 0040596819-2

I, Rishi S/o Late Shri Mehar Singh R/O B-1, Harkesh Nagar, New Delhi-110020, have changed my name Rishi to Rishi Kumar for all future purpose. 0050189441-1

I, Rekha Rani W/o-Pawan Garg R/O-4471-10, Jai Mata Market, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Rekha Garg for all purposes. 0040597370-1

I, Luxmi W/o Manoj Kumar R/O RZ-24, Mahindra Park, Pankha Road, Uttam Nagar Delhi-59 have changed my name to Luxmi Devi. 0040597381-1

I, Jyoti Singh W/O, Kuldeep Singh R/O Villa A-13, Paramount Golfresort Sector 13eta, Greater Noida 201306 have changed my name to Jyoti Sinha for all purposes. 0040597344-1

I, Ashwani Kumar S/o Vishwambhar Jha R/o-79, Gali-No-3, Kh.No-80/10, Vasisth Enclave, Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Ashwani Kumar Jha. 0070766929-1

I, Sanjay, S/o-Hoshiyar Singh, Add-village bhageshwari bhagesri(152) bhiwani, Haryana-127307, have changed my name to Sanjay Kumar. 0040597386-7

I, TABASSUM, W/O, MOHD ABID MALIK, ADD-391, ZAKIR NAGAR JAMIA NAGAR OKHLA SOUTH DELHI-110025, changed my name to TABASSUM MALIK, permanently. 0040597388-5

I, RUVENA W/O, WASEEM, ADD-890-E-1, SECOND FLOOR, FLAT. NO 1/A, WARD, NO-8 NEAR-AULIA MASJID, MEHRAULI, SOUTH DELHI-110030, changed my name to RUBENA. 0040597388-2

I, GAURAV NANDA, S/O. CHAIN LAL NANDA, H.NO.605, KAITH WALI STREET PAHARGANJ, CENTRAL-DELHI-110055, Changed my name to GOURAV NANDA, permanently. 0040597388-3

I, Jothi K.H.Alias K.H.Jothi D/o K.S. Hariharan, W/o K.R. Muralidharan R/O-A-15, Allahabad-Bank CGHS-Flats, Mayapuri, Delhi-110096, have changed my name to Jothi Muralidharan. 0040597373-11

I, Jaspal Singh Rainu, S/O. Darshan Singh, R/O WZ-15, B-3, F/7, Street-10, N, Krishna Puri, Vikaspuri, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Jaspal Singh. 0040597390-2

I, Jai Parkash Rana S/o Durjan VANDER SACHDEVA, ADD-32/11, SRINIWAS PURI CHITRANJAN-PARK SOUTH DELHI 110065, Changed my name to AARTI, permanently. 0040597386-5

I, Irshad S/o-Nabav Khan R/O.H.No 878/1 Old-Jasola-Village Okhla-Vihar Jamia-nagar, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Irshad Khan, for all purposes. 0040597383-2

I, Inderjit Singh Sial S/O Bikramjit Singh Sial R/O H.No-198, Sector-15A, Noida(U.P) have changed my name from Inderjit Sial to Inderjit Singh Sial for all future purposes. 0040597395-1

I, GAURAV PRABHAT, R/O-FLAT. NO.12322 ATS-ADVANTAGE AHINSA-KHAND-1 INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, UP-201014, have changed my minor daughter name DEVIKA to DEVIKA SINGHAL, for all purpose. 0040597386-9

I, Firoz Khan, S/O Mohammad Aslam R/O-27/296, Trilokpur, Delhi-110091, inform that my name and-DOB wrongly-written Firoz DOB-13.06.1986 in my school certificate but my actual-name and-DOB is Firoz Khan DOB-26.01.1988. 0040597386-8

I, Dev Dutt Singh alias Dev Dutt S/O Vijay Singh R/O-9/3381 Gali No.8, Jain Mohalla, Dharampura, Gandhi Nagar Delhi-110031, have changed my minor son name from Gaurav Kumar (13years) to Gourav Kumar for all purposes 0040597383-5

I, Anju Bansal, D/o Babu Ram Bansal, R/O M4-1602, M3M The Marina, Sector-68, Badshahpur, Gurugram (Haryana)-122101, have changed my minor daughter's name, from Aaishi Bansal. 0040597373-9

I, Smt. Seema Devi W/o Ishwar Singh R/O H.No. 317 VPO Issapur New Delhi-110073 have changed my name Seema to Seema Devi for all future purposes. 0040597398-1

I, Tanvi Narang, D/o Dr. Umang Varma, R/O 194/15, Delhi Road, Jawahar Eye Hospital, Opposite Roadways Bus Stand, Meerut Cantt, Meerut, Sadar Bazar, Uttar Pradesh-250001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Tanvi Varma. 0070766906-1

I, Somnath Bhutani, S/O Ram Ji Das, R/O 85/37, Shastri Park 4, Jeet Restaurant, Chander Nagar, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi-110051, have changed the name of my minor Son Sanyam Bhutani aged about 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as Viaan S. Bhutani. 0070766890-1

I, Bipin Kumar Ram S/O Satran Ram R/O C-21, Pratap Garden, Uttam Nagar, New-Delhi-110059, Have Changed my Name to Vipin Kumar. 0040597383-7

I, RIYA MALIK, D/O AMARJEET MALIK R/O HOUSE NO-B2/2344, 1ST-FLOOR, GREEN GLADE-APARTMENTS, VASANT-KUNJ, NEW-DELHI-110070, have changed my name to RIA MALIK for all purposes. 0040597396-4

I, RAJEEV KUMAR/RAJEEV GOGIA, S/O PRITAM DASS R/O B-70, SECOND-FLOOR, RISHI NAGAR, SHAKUR-BASTI, DELHI-110034, CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJEEV KUMAR GOGIA. 0040597386-1

I, PRAVESH KUMAR SHARMA, S/O SHIV KUMAR SHARMA, R/O-B-92, STREET, NO-10, SHASHI GARDEN, MAYUR-VIHAR PHASE-1, DELHI-110091, have changed my name to PRAVESH SHARMA. 0040597373-7

I, Nusrat Jahan W/o Ashfaq Ahmed R/O-D-603, ATS Greens-1, Sector-50, Noida-201301 have changed my name to Nusrat Ahmed for all purposes. 0040597367-1

I, Nikita Sanya Eric, W/o Charles Paul Nathaniel R/O, 1/7525 First-Floor, Gali.No.12, Gorakh-Park East, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Nikita Charles Nathaniel, permanently. 0040597373-4

I, Meenakshi D/o Suraj Kumar Taluja R/O-19, Delhi Pariwahar, Nigam Apartments Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Meenakshi Taluja. 0040597373-1

I, MOHNI MALHOTRA, W/O PARVEEN KUMAR KHATRI R/O-E2/905 HASTRI NAGAR, DELHI-52, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME MOHNI MALHOTRA TO MONIKA KHATRI. 0040597386-2

I, MOHD ABID, S/O, MOHD SABIR MALIK, ADD-391, ZAKIR-NAGAR JAMIA NAGAR OKHLA SOUTH DELHI-110025, changed my name to MOHD ABID MALIK, permanently. 0040597388-6

I, MAYA DEVI D/O SUKHDEV RAJ R/O-GH-14/1071, 2ND-FLOOR, PASCHIM VIHAR DELHI-110087, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAYA RAJPUT. 0040597383-6

I, Lalit S/O Luxmi Paswan, R/O RZ-A-166, Bharat-Vihar Rajapur, Uttam-Nagar Delhi-110059 have Changed my name to Lalit Paswan, for all Purposes. 0040597390-9

I, Jothi K.H.Alias K.H.Jothi D/o K.S. Hariharan, W/o K.R. Muralidharan R/O-A-15, Allahabad-Bank CGHS-Flats, Mayapuri, Delhi-110096, have changed my name to Jothi Muralidharan. 0040597373-11

I, Jaspal Singh Rainu, S/O. Darshan Singh, R/O WZ-15, B-3, F/7, Street-10, N, Krishna Puri, Vikaspuri, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Jaspal Singh. 0040597390-2

I, Jai Parkash Rana S/o Durjan VANDER SACHDEVA, ADD-32/11, SRINIWAS PURI CHITRANJAN-PARK SOUTH DELHI 110065, Changed my name to AARTI, permanently. 0040597386-5

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I, GAURAV PRABHAT, R/O-FLAT. NO.12322 ATS-ADVANTAGE AHINSA-KHAND-1 INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, UP-201014, have changed my minor daughter name DEVIKA to DEVIKA SINGHAL, for all purpose. 0040597386-9

I, Firoz Khan, S/O Mohammad Aslam R/O-27/296, Trilokpur, Delhi-110091, inform that my name and-DOB wrongly-written Firoz DOB-13.06.1986 in my school certificate but my actual-name and-DOB is Firoz Khan DOB-26.01.1988. 0040597386-8

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Perks of political power and voices from a silence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

SPENDING by legislators on their travel and voices from a community after a police crackdown — these were the subjects of two compelling stories that won the Ramnath Goenka Award in Government and Politics.

Dheeraj Mishra of *The Wire* is the winner of the Politics and Government category in digital media while Seemi Pasha of *The Wire* is the winner in broadcast media.

Using the Right to Information Act to get details, Mishra revealed the expenses of several members of parliamentary committees and bureaucrats ostensibly during study tours on hotels, food and travel.



The report showed that de-



Dheeraj Mishra

spite a CAG report flagging the MPs' high expenses and guidelines that they must stay at government guest houses or hotels, the members stayed at highly priced hotels and incurred hefty expenditure on food and travel.

"I didn't know where to start



Seemi Pasha

as there were thousands of files. I went through them but the information was insufficient. I then filed 30 to 35 RTIs in each ministry, visited each of their fire rooms and collated data," says Mishra.

The story had a noticeable

impact as the Lok Sabha Secretariat issued instructions to sharply curtail expenditure incurred by all parliamentary committees on logistics, including travel and accommodation on their study tours.

Pasha's 30-minute-long documentary provided a glimpse of life inside Jamia Nagar in the aftermath of the police crackdown on students of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) in December 2019.

It captured voices from a neighbourhood and minority community home to thousands of students and staffers, and highlighted their concerns. Locals claimed they had always been viewed with suspicion, not just by the police but also by residents of more affluent neighbourhoods. Teachers said they worried about the future of in-

nocent children, the youth asked if they would be labelled as "terrorists" because they had studied in JMI and lived in Jamia Nagar while senior citizens shared stories of alienation and discrimination. The documentary highlighted the lack of civic amenities and poor infrastructure facilities in the area.

"Getting residents of Jamia Nagar to speak openly on camera was not an easy task. Not only were they scared of being punished for openly criticising the State, they were also suspicious of journalists after being misrepresented and criminalised by several TV news channels. I had to assure them that their statements would not be quoted out of context and that their concerns would be fairly represented," said Pasha.

MALEGAON BLAST CASE

Was pressured to name five RSS members, claims witness

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

A WITNESS in the Malegaon 2008 blast case claimed that he was illegally detained for seven days by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in 2008 and pressured to name five RSS members including current Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The prosecution led by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) sought for the witness to be declared hostile for not supporting the case. The witness was the 220th one to depose in the ongoing trial and the 15th so far to be declared hostile.

The ATS had included a five-page statement of the witness in its chargesheet filed in 2009.

The witness told the court on Tuesday that the ATS did not record his statement. He said he was only made aware about the ATS having included a statement under his name on Tuesday morning, when he reached the court and was told by an NIA officer to depose as per it. The statement does not mention any of the five names.

The witness told the court that he was one of the seven trustees of Abhinav Bharat, founded in 2006 along with Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit and Ajay Rahirkar, who are among the seven accused in the case. The ATS and the NIA claim that the trust was used in the conspiracy for the blast at Malegaon on September 29, 2008 which killed six and injured over 100. The witness told the court that the trust was involved in training youth for entry into the defence forces.

Further, he told the court that he was summoned by the ATS after the blast for the probe in 2008. He claimed that he was first illegally detained for seven days, made to sit on the floor and "treated like an accused". He continued to face interrogation for

1.5 months and his family also faced harassment, he told the court.

He also said that ATS officials were asking him to name five RSS members in the case. During cross-examination by Purohit's lawyer, when he was asked about this, the witness revealed the five names. "I was told that you will be made an accused if you do not take the names. The names were that of Yogi Adityanath, Asemanand, Indresh Kumar, one professor Deodhar and one Kakaji," the witness said.

The witness named an API Chavan and when asked to name the ATS officials involved at that time, he took the names of DCP Shrirao and IPS officer Param Bir Singh.

During cross-examination by the defence lawyers, he also said he was asked to speak about Pragy Singh Thakur, an accused in the case, though he claimed to have not known her. He said he was interrogated even on November 26, 2008 from 10 pm to 1.30 pm the next day, when the city was under a terrorist attack by 10 Pakistani men.

The witness told the court that while at that time he did not know that the police are not allowed to keep any person in their custody for seven days without a court order, he later came to know that it was illegal custody. Special public prosecutor Avinash Rasal asked the witness if he had approached any authority with a complaint against the ATS officials. The witness said he had not.

During cross-examination by the lawyer for Thakur, the witness was asked if he had not approached the authorities due to fear of the ATS, to which the witness answered in the affirmative.

Before leaving, the witness told the court that he was apprehensive about his safety. The court told him that he could approach it if he wanted police protection by any agency.

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Fort show stopped after BJP MP, Rajput outfits raise objections

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 28

THE HISTORY of Rani Padmini and Alauddin Khilji remains contentious in Rajasthan. Shortly after Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated a light-and-sound show at Chittorgarh Fort on Monday evening, BJP MP CP Joshi and members of the local Rajput community objected to a portion in the script involving Alauddin Khilji and Padmini and forced an abrupt end to it.

The disputed part allegedly shows 13th-century Delhi sultan Alauddin Khilji admiring Mewar queen Rani Padmini's beauty through a mirror.

The Chittorgarh district administration said that the disputed part will be removed after review.

"There was an old light-and-sound show at Chittorgarh fort, dating back to 2007. It had a disputed portion in the script of Alauddin Khilji viewing queen Padmini through a mirror. At present, the Government of India has allotted Rs 5.5 crore for the new light-and-sound show, with the scheme being implemented by the state government," BJP MP Joshi told *The Indian Express* on Tuesday.

"Even three days before the start of the show, I had heard the script and asked officials to remove the portion involving the mirror. I was given an assurance that it would be removed. But when the show started yesterday evening, the portion was still part of the show. We immediately stopped the show and said that as long as the disputed dialogues are not removed, the show should not be run," said Joshi.

Rajput outfits said they too intervened on Monday evening, objecting to the show.

"There is no historical truth to the story that Khilji attacked Chittorgarh for queen Padmini or got a glimpse of her through a mirror... We stopped the light-and-sound show yesterday after we got to know that the state government had not changed the script. The show was stopped shortly after it was inaugurated," said Narpal Singh Bhati of Johar Smriti Sansthan, Chittorgarh.

He added that all references of a mirror came from 16th-century poet Malik Muhammad Jayasi's poem *Padmavat*, which is "fictional".

"We will not allow the show to run as long as the disputed parts and all references of the mirror are not removed from the script," added Bhati.

Back in 2017, Rajput outfits had protested against the Bollywood film *Padmaavat* which was based on the story of Khilji and Rani Padmini. After a formal representation by protesters in Chittorgarh and threats from the Karni Sena, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) covered its plaque outside Rani Padmini's palace in Chittorgarh Fort with a piece of cloth. The mirrors at the fort were broken the same year.

"The objection to the show was about the part with references to the mirror. If anything is hurting public sentiments, we will remove that part after review," said Chittorgarh district collector Tara Chand Meena.

The light-and-sound show at Chittorgarh Fort was one of the five such shows across the state inaugurated by Chief Minister Gehlot through video conferencing on Monday evening. Union Culture Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal was also present during the occasion.



STEPPING UP

At women's marathon organised by Congress in Lucknow on Tuesday. Vishal Srivastava

■ The Congress on Tuesday said that 20,000 girls took part in the women's 5-km marathon organised by the party in Lucknow as part of its 'Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon' (I am a girl and I can fight) poll campaign.

■ The marathon, which was earlier scheduled for Sunday, had to be postponed after the administration denied permission citing prohibitory orders. Winners got scooty, smartphones among others. ENS

Maharashtra govt defers Speaker election; Governor's post has to be respected: Dy CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

THE MAHA Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government on Tuesday stepped back from an outright confrontation with Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and postponed the election for the Speaker's post as it might have been legally challenged.

However, the state legislature passed a Bill curtailing the powers of the Governor in the appointment of vice-chancellors in universities.

Sources said that while the government was keen on holding the election for Speaker on the last day of the winter session, MVA leaders on Tuesday morning decided not to go ahead with it after a letter was received from the Governor.

The sources said the government explored legal options

available to it, but many were of the view that if the government proceeded with the election as planned, it was likely to be challenged legally in the absence of the Governor's assent. There was consensus that the election be deferred to avoid legal tangles.

Briefing the media after the conclusion of the winter session, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said, "The Governor's post is an important one and it has to be respected by all of us. We made a conscious decision and did not want to act against the Constitution. We will have a budget session on February 28 and we will have elections then. Till then, we will have another meeting with the Governor because discussion at times can be fruitful."

State Congress president Nana Patole said the Governor should respect the constitutional position and not play politics on the issue. "The Governor was

sent a letter informing him about the entire process to be followed for the Speaker elections. The government had taken care that the Governor's post is not disrespected. The entire election process could have been completed in one day, but on the last day of the session, the governor sent a letter again. To avoid any legal issues, the MVA government avoided holding the Speaker's election in this session," said Patole.

The Speaker's post has been vacant since February, when Patole stepped down. Subsequently, he was appointed state president of the Congress.

Last week, amendments were made by the rules committee of the state legislature to conduct the election for the Speaker through voice vote instead of secret ballot. Subsequently, the government planned to hold the election on December 28.

Five children killed in blaze at house in Bihar

Banka (Bihar): Five children of a family were charred to death after a fire broke out in their house in a village in Banka district on Tuesday, police said.

The children were playing inside their house at Rajavar village in the evening when the fire erupted, Banka Superintendent of Police Arvind Kumar Gupta told PTI.

"The house, belonging to Ashok Paswan, was gutted within an hour. Two other family members of Ashok Paswan also sustained burn injuries," the SP said. The cause of fire is yet to be ascertained.

Probe is on to ascertain whether it was a case of accident or not, he said. PTI

Withdraw permission to Amazon, Flipkart's India operations: SJM

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

MONTHS AFTER RSS-affiliated magazine Panchjanya attacked Amazon for alleged corrupt practices and promoting Christianity in India, Sangh associate Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) demanded that all permissions granted to Amazon and Flipkart to operate in India be withdrawn.

In a resolution, titled "Withdraw Permissions to Amazon, Flipkart-Walmart to Operate in Bharat", passed during its two-day Rashtriya Sabha which concluded on December 26, the SJM said, "All the permissions given to these companies be withdrawn forthwith and all their activities be declared illegal."

Demanding a CBI enquiry into the affairs of the companies, SJM said, "As soon as there is a trace of government officers, including people sitting in the high offices, gaining from these com-

panies, directly or indirectly, they should be sent on leave to facilitate fair investigation of the whole matter; and be punished for their offenses."

In September this year, Panchjanya had carried a cover story on Amazon where the retail giant had been equated with the East India Company for its alleged corrupt practices and criticised for assaulting Hindu values through Prime Videos. The magazine had also accused the company of allegedly being involved in "Christianising" India and funding two Christian organisations.

"Multinational e-commerce companies such as Amazon and Walmart/Flipkart are blatantly contravening and operating uncontrolled in India. It's well known that Amazon and Flipkart hold 80% of online space. Discounts offered by them are adversely impacting offline markets also. They are luring customers by offering high discounts, advertising aggressively

to communicate such offers to the general public. Public is attracted to them more for discounts than convenience. This trend is adversely impacting the neighbourhood shops and kirana stores," SJM said.

According to SJM, there has been a demand for a long time that e-commerce companies be compelled to audit their financial documents and make them public. "But these companies avoided making their documents public," it said.

The outfit alleged that Amazon gave preferential treatment to a select group of sellers, including Cloudtail and Appario, bypassing Indian FDI Regulations and scooped up data from its own sellers to launch competitive products and brands such as Solimo and Amazon Basics.

"Amazon in India has become so powerful that it can pick winners or losers, destroy small businesses, raise prices on consumers and put employees out of work," SJM said.

Why counselling for NEET-PG medical courses remains suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

COUNSELLING FOR admissions to National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Post Graduate medical courses has remained suspended ever since the matter got caught in a legal wrangle in Supreme Court, with a bunch of petitions challenging the July 29 notification of the Medical Counselling Committee providing 27 per cent reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and 10 per cent quota to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in NEET-PG (All India Quota).

The matter was last heard on November 25 when the Centre, responding to questions from the top court, said it will revisit the criteria that fixes a limit of Rs 8 lakh in

annual income to determine EWS for the purpose of extending reservation benefits and sought four weeks to complete the exercise.

Hearing the petitions earlier, a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud had asked the Centre to explain what exercise it had undertaken to arrive at the Rs 8 lakh annual income criteria to determine EWS eligibility for reservation in medical seats under NEET (AIQ). "You can't just pull out Rs 8 lakh from anywhere. There must be some data. Sociological, demographic," the court had said on October 21.

The bench pointed out that Rs 8 lakh was also the limit fixed for the OBC quota, and said people from that community "suffer from social and educational backwardness" but "under the Constitutional scheme, the EWS



Resident doctors of Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital protest on Tuesday, demanding NEET-PG counselling and against Monday's police action. Abhinav Saha

are not socially and educationally backward". Therefore, by having a similar scheme for both, "you are making unequals equals", it

had said. "We are not entering the area of policy but need the disclosure for adhering to Constitutional

principles... These are areas of policy but we will have to interfere," the bench had said.

The court had also pointed out

that the explanation included under Articles 15 and 16 in the 103rd Constitutional amendment, by which EWS quota was introduced, states that the category may be notified by the state from time to time on the basis of family income and other indicators of economic disadvantage. As such, it would be necessary for the Centre to disclose the nature of exercise undertaken in accordance with Article 15(2), the bench said.

On October 25, Senior Advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for the petitioners, said the dates for counselling had been fixed. The Centre then assured the court that counselling will not take place until the pending petitions on the question were decided. Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj conveyed this to the bench, which said, "Counselling

will not start till we decide on the issue. Mr Nataraj, we are taking your word for it."

On the last date of hearing on November 25, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta conveyed to the bench that counselling will continue to remain on hold during the four weeks time when the revision exercise would be undertaken.

Datar pointed out that admissions for the current academic year had already been delayed and sought to know if the quota implementation could be postponed to the next academic year.

The bench asked Mehta if the government would want to consider the option. "What happens that we are at the end of November. Suppose you complete it by the end of December and then implementation etc and then the terms would begin only

some time in February-March. Two months, the students are losing time. This is something you may want to consider," Justice Chandrachud said.

Mehta responded that the option will be to go with the present criteria for the current year. "Deferring a constitutional amendment should be the last resort," he submitted.

Taking note, Justice Chandrachud said: "If they have to do it, let them do it in a proper way. We don't want to push them in a situation where they do something in an improper way.. Four weeks is not unreasonably long. I am only worried that medical admissions and the medical year is being postponed."

The top court listed the matter for hearing next on January 6 next year.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CLEAR THE AIR

Government's action against Missionaries of Charity invites questions. It must answer them

THE CENTRE'S "REFUSAL" to renew the registration of the Missionaries of Charity under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) raises troubling questions. The home ministry is not being very forthcoming in answering them. It has said its decision is based on "adverse inputs" on the charity organisation founded by Mother Teresa, but has not elaborated on what those inputs were. The lack of transparency is worrying, especially in the larger context of how FCRA rules have, over the years, been progressively hardened to give the government sweeping powers over NGOs. The action is also mystifying given that the Missionaries of Charity is an organisation with a long and distinguished record of humanitarian service that began in 1950 on the streets of Calcutta. It remains deeply identified with the altruism of Mother Teresa, an Albanian Christian nun who made India her home, and who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her service. Given the international repute of the charity, it has been a recipient of foreign funds for years now, for which it has consistently submitted annual reports. If it has violated FCRA norms, the law must, of course, be invoked against Missionaries of Charity. But due process — and the law itself — demands that the government declare the nature of those errors.

Civil society organisations in India increasingly operate in an embattled space. Even the vital work done by NGOs in blunting the fury of the pandemic on ordinary people, in stepping in with food and succour when the government was found missing, does not appear to have done much to diminish the state's suspicion of the work they do. That suspicion was embedded in the FCRA law passed last year, which tied up NGOs in a restrictive red-tape regime and armed the government with additional powers to cut off their foreign funding. As a report in this newspaper indicates, the home ministry has shown little reluctance in wielding that provision of the law against several civil liberties groups, even if the judiciary has eventually struck down some of those orders. In the majority of these suspensions, no show-cause notice was served on the NGO, despite it being mandated by law. In effect, the organisations remained in the dark about the reasons for the action against them. In recent months, the government has suspended or cancelled the FCRA licences of prominent NGOs, some of which have been sharply critical of it, like the Amnesty International, The Lawyers Collective, Greenpeace India and The Ford Foundation.

The action against Missionaries of Charity, coming as it does in the backdrop of attacks on churches and Christmas celebrations in several BJP-ruled states and an anti-conversion bill that has stoked anxieties among minorities in Karnataka, sends out a disturbing signal. The Centre must clear the air, and dispel the impression that a law to regulate foreign funding is being used to shrink the space for certain civil society organisations.

A BLURRED FOCUS

Centre's push to merge film archive and other film bodies will ill serve their original mandates

THE CENTRE HAS set a January deadline to merge four public-funded institutions — the Films Division (FD), National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF), and Children's Films Society of India (CFSI) — with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). This is an ill-conceived move. Each of these bodies has its separate mandate and all of them need to be strengthened further with funds and infrastructure updates so that they can deliver.

The primary reason behind the push for restructuring these institutions seems to be that they are loss-making entities. The NFDC is expected to turn around its finances once the merger takes place. This is a flawed assumption premised on comparing these cultural bodies with industrial units in the red. The NFAI, FD, DFF, CFSI are institutions with a history. They have been a part of independent India's nation-building process and have made stellar contributions to producing, disseminating and preserving the labour and creativity of diverse film cultures in the country. Take the NFAI, which was set up in 1964 to archive Indian cinema history. Despite its delayed birth — the first Indian film, *Raja Harishchandra*, was made in 1913 and the first talkie, *Alam Ara*, in 1931 — the NFAI has done a commendable job of preserving Indian cinema history, thanks to the vision and perseverance of its founder director, P.K. Nair. Like any national archive, it is involved in the task of protecting national heritage — countries such as the US and France allot public funds for their film archives precisely for this reason. In fact, the NFAI ought to be expanded so that it can do justice to the huge volumes of films produced in the country — India produces the largest number of films in the world annually. Each of India's major cinema production centres — Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai — has a long history, though much of it has been lost. Regional archives are necessary so that justice can be done to diverse vibrant cinema cultures in numerous languages.

All these years, India's public-funded cinema bodies have focussed mostly on nurturing an ecosystem to facilitate the making of arthouse cinema and documentaries that would not find support from the market. This approach, inadvertently perhaps, also facilitated the production of works that boldly questioned the very systems and processes that enabled their existence. The country was better off for this fine balance between a film industry that defined itself in market terms and a cinema that focussed on the politics and aesthetics of art production. Let it remain so.

STEWARD OF NATURE

E O Wilson's work attracted controversy. But it also laid the foundations for much of our understanding of ecology

EDWARD OSBORNE WILSON, who passed away on Monday, aged 92, was often called "The Modern Day Darwin" — a sobriquet that was both a tribute to his wide-ranging accomplishments in the natural sciences as well as a signifier of the controversies his views attracted. His pioneering work on the survival traits of ants sparked a political firestorm when Wilson extended his ideas to human societies, insisting that characteristics such as aggression and altruism are genetically predetermined and not a product of social experiences. Wilson's detractors, including his fellow Harvard biologist, the other great Darwinian of our times, Stephen Jay Gould, contended that biological determinism harkened to the eugenics movement of the early 20th century, and Nazism. It would be wrong, however, to reduce EO — as he liked to be called — to his controversial pieces of writing. His eloquent descriptions of how myriad interactions between insects and plants produce complex food webs has inspired ecologists trying to understand how biodiversity sustains human life. His work on how habitat size is important in sustaining animal populations has been a guiding principle of the contemporary conservationist movement.

In later life, Wilson admitted to "political naivete" and claimed he was misunderstood. He said he was rebelling against the orthodoxy of the time that did not think the natural world to be important, or that it played second fiddle to human societies. The EO of the last 25 years was a desperate steward of nature trying to "reverse the Sixth Extinction". In his 2006 work, *The Creation*, the lapsed Christian called for an alliance between religion and science to stem the destruction of biodiversity. He wanted half the earth be set aside for reviving biodiversity but did not believe that all human activities needed to be banned, or property rights of people taken away, in such sanctuaries. Instead with proper incentives, people could resuscitate nature. He was perhaps, in part, revising his early work that saw humans and ants as organisms, governed only by genes, as well as confirming those parts that saw them as superbly resilient creatures.

'There is no alternative'

Like all refrains, it needs to be decoded, to see what lies behind it. Amnesia, pessimism, among other things



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

EVEN AS THE wheels are coming off the Republic of India, conversations in polite and not-so-polite circles now have a refrain that is the surest sign of an impoverished democracy. Whenever the topic of the BJP and Narendra Modi's future comes up, the refrain is: "There is no alternative." Some might concede to a few chinks in his armour, and are willing to acknowledge that the BJP might struggle in some state-level elections. But this is quickly followed up with the chorus, "But at the national level there is no alternative." It is almost as if the conversation is like a bad nursery rhyme that goes something like this:

The prime minister is sowing the seeds of division, protecting poisonous speech, the coarsening of civil society and unleashing the furies of hate. This alone would disqualify him. But the refrain goes, "There is no alternative".

There was a prime minister who kissed the floor of Parliament. It turned out to be the kiss of death for parliamentary democracy. But the refrain goes, "There is no alternative."

There was a prime minister who promised strong national security. But the result was the loss of territorial access, being tied down on the land border and the prospect of a two-front war. So confident is the nation that even a parliamentary question on China was disallowed. Yet the refrain goes, "There is no alternative."

There was a prime minister who promised strong internal security. Indeed this goal was achieved. Now that the Missionaries of Charity, human rights activists, environmental advocates, assorted journalists and writers can be hounded, we know the nation is safe. Did we not tell you, "There is no alternative"?

There was a prime minister who promised to secure our border states. Yet for the first time in more than a decade, by the government's own admission, the bogey of violence in Punjab has reared its head, the gains of peace are being rolled back in Northeast, and the deepening alienation and repression in Kashmir continues. But the chorus rises, "We have no alternative."

There was a prime minister who made the stock markets rise. Like every government in the last 20 years, his government has

also done a couple of schemes well. Perhaps the top 10 per cent of the population really flourished. But we are still not at a trend growth rate of eight per cent of the 2003-2009 period, youth unemployment is rising, the fall in poverty levels is arrested, inequality and deprivation are rising, exports are performing modestly, and wholesale inflation spiked to 14.3 per cent in November, the highest since 1991. But even after seven years, this must be the fault of the previous government, or the US Fed. You see, "There is really no alternative."

There was a prime minister who promised you will see less corruption. Even as capital concentration rises, norms governing electoral finance regress, the machinery of the state is used to send a signal that some capital is more equal than others, so long as they bow their head to the right ideology. Perhaps, you indeed see less corruption. The state is so efficient that it will not let you see it or even talk about it. That is why the refrain goes, "There is no alternative".

And on it goes. Every single institution has been decimated. But you see, "There is no alternative." Instead of the moral and spiritual regeneration of Hinduism, you are getting the venting of its dark and crass communal impulses. But still, "There is no alternative." Forget official circles. The broader prestige of India's democracy, its culture and hopes for its future are at their lowest ebb in the last two decades. But the Ribbentrops of the establishment can convince the world otherwise. Perhaps they have even convinced our own leader that the more you beat up on your own people, the more your global stock will rise. Truly, "There is no alternative." The state makes everyone feel so secure: It can snoop on everyone, threaten anyone, and control the information order. "But But But", the chorus still rings out, "There is no alternative."

Like all refrains, this "There is no alternative" needs to be decoded. It can be readily admitted that some citizens may have received benefits or been beneficiaries of schemes. But the attribution of performance to this government far exceeds its actual achievement. Even if we concede success in some areas, that success pales in front of the litany of foundational

crises facing the republic.

The "There is no alternative" chorus is helped by the conduct of the Opposition. The Congress is unable to shed the baggage of its past mistakes. Many Opposition state governments are not exactly models of institutional probity or principled defenders of liberal and democratic values. But what hurts the Opposition most is this duality. On the one hand, it wants to say that the Republic of India is facing an existential crisis. On the other hand, it is not acting as if there is an existential crisis for the republic. It is not uniting around the agenda of saving the republic. Its passions are spent on the scraps of internal infighting. The old guard is not letting new faces emerge. But even if we concede all this, the idea that there is no alternative is preposterous.

This idea is premised on an immense amnesia about recent history: The workability of coalition politics, the complexities of reform, and the delicate capillaries that hold this country together. If nothing else, in a democracy facing both deep communalism and repression, political competition and a little fragmentation of power is by itself the alternative. Not each constituent of the Opposition needs to be fully virtuous for less concentration of power and more competition to make democracy secure.

So one has to wonder what lies behind this pervasive refrain. "There is no alternative." It is likely that this refrain is a symptom of three things: An aestheticisation of politics that is trapping India's elites in a land of unreality, refusing to acknowledge dangers in plain sight. There is perhaps a will to simplification, a suspension of thought, in the face of hero worship. Or perhaps, "There is no alternative" is just a euphemism, a different way of saying "We are just fine with communal poison and authoritarian repression." If you say "There is no alternative" when the current course is heading towards disaster, you are not describing a reality. You are saying you hate democracy, for a democracy in which "There is no alternative" is already dead.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

DIGITAL PUBLIC GOODS

Made-in-India tools can help emerging economies deal with governance challenges



ADITYA NATH JHA

INDIA IS PIONEERING the concept of digital public goods that enhance the ease, transparency and speed with which individuals, markets and governments interact with each other. Built on the foundation of Aadhaar and India Stack, modular applications, big and small, are transforming the way we make payments, withdraw our PF, get our passport and driving licence and check land records, to name just a few activities. Children have access to QR-coded textbooks across state boards and languages, the economically disadvantaged have access to the public distribution system and beneficiaries of government schemes have money transferred directly into their bank accounts.

There is an opportunity for India to embark on digital diplomacy — to take its made-in-India digital public goods to hundreds of emerging economies across the world. This could be a strategic and effective counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

To begin with, the code is highly reusable. The cost of setting up an open source-based high school online educational infrastructure, to supplement the physical infrastructure, for an entire country is less than laying two kilometres of high-quality road. The investments required for transporting digital public goods are minuscule in comparison and there is no chance of a debt trap.

Unlike physical infrastructure such as ports and roads, digital public goods have short gestation periods and immediate, and visible impact and benefits. Digital infrastruc-

ture plugs leaks. It eliminates ghost beneficiaries of government services, removes touts collecting rent, creates an audit trail, makes the individual-government-market interface transparent and provides efficiencies that help recoup the investments quickly. Processes get streamlined and wait times for any service come down dramatically. Issuances of passports, PAN cards and driving licences are such examples. Productivity goes up and services can be scaled quickly. Benefits can be rapidly extended to cover a much larger portion of the population.

Above all, the digital public goods infrastructure compounds while physical infrastructure depreciates. Compounding happens for three reasons. One, of course, is the growth of technology itself. Chips keep becoming faster, engines more powerful, and gene-editing technology keeps improving. The second reason is the network effect. As more and more people use the same technology, the number of "transactions" using that technology increase exponentially — be it Facebook posts or UPI transactions. And the third reason is the rapid creation of new layers of technology. For example, the hypertext protocol created the worldwide web. Then the browser was built on top of it, which made the worldwide web easier to navigate and more popular. Thousands of new layers were added to make it what it is today. To give an example, consider the surge in UPI-based payments in India. This kind of growth doesn't happen with a few entitled and privileged people using UPI

more and more; it happens with more and more people using UPI more and more. The use of Diksha, the school education platform built on the open-source platform Sunbird, has followed the same trajectory — today close to 500 million schoolchildren are using it. Taken together, compounding ensures that the digital divide gets bridged.

Emerging economies are characterised by gross inefficiencies in the delivery of government services and a consequent trust deficit. Digital public goods spread speed, transparency, ease and productivity across the individual-government-market ecosystem and enhance inclusivity, equity and development at scale. India's digital diplomacy will be beneficial to and welcomed by, all emerging economies from Peru to Polynesia, from Uruguay to Uganda, and from Kenya to Kazakhstan.

It will entail a slight rejig in the composition of India's consulates abroad, with technology experts getting incorporated into the structure. It will take made-in-India digital public goods across the world and boost India's brand positioning as a leading technology player in the digital age. It will enable quick, visible and compounding benefits for India's partner countries and earn India immense goodwill. And it will create a strong foothold for India globally to counter the extravagantly expensive, brick-and-mortar led Belt and Road Initiative of China.

The writer is CEO, Kravon Pictures

DECEMBER 29, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

PLAN PRIORITIES

THE PLANNING COMMISSION has decided upon a reordering of plan priorities and reallocation of resources. In taking this decision, the commission had in view the demands of the areas for higher financial allocation — petroleum exploration and power generation. The sixth plan provides for an indigenous crude production of only 2.6 million tonnes by the last year of the Sixth Plan. Recently, while seeking the massive IMF loan, the government had assured a crude production of 30 million tonnes by the end of the plan period. This called for an increase in the allocation for this sector. The government is also

committed to increase the allocation in some other core areas like steel and cement if imports are to be cut.

THREE PARTY PACT

The Janata Party, the Lok Dal and Congress (S) took the first step towards "unity". After a luncheon meeting Chandra Shekhar, Charan Singh and Sharad Pawar decided to set up a four-member coordination to explore the nature and possibility of "joint action" in Parliament and state legislatures. The Bharatiya Janata Party having rejected the move for "organisational unity" with the three parties was not invited to the meeting.

NSA UPHELD

THE SUPREME COURT in a unanimous decision upheld the National Security Act but laid down guidelines on the use of the law. The judgment warned that preventive detention laws like the NSA must be restricted in their application to "as few cases as possible".

TEST TUBE BABY

AMERICA'S FIRST TEST tube baby was born in Norfolk, doctors of the Eastern Virginia Medical School announced. The 3-kg girl delivered at Norfolk general hospital was doing well as was her mother.



The farm stalemate

With many vested interests at work, moving ahead on the much-needed reforms in agriculture will be difficult



MADAN SABNAVIS

THE ACHILLES' HEEL of any government in India is implementing reforms in agriculture. The importance of agriculture is known and while we were able to address issues relating to productivity in the 1960s thanks to the Green Revolution, bringing about changes that involve altering the structures is more challenging. This year, three issues that are hard to resolve gathered attention — two of them pertain to debates that have been brewing, while the third is more medium-term in nature.

The withdrawal of the farm laws was certainly a major victory for the protesting farmers, but it does push back reforms that could have helped in commercialising this sector. The reforms per se did not introduce anything that was not happening in pockets of the country already. For instance, selling outside the mandi is already possible where the Model APMC laws have been passed (over a dozen states have passed these laws, though the mandi continues to be the pivot). Also, the operation of eNAM (e-National Agricultural Market) is well afoot, though the volumes are limited to specific commodities and geographies. Yet, a national law that overtly allows farmers to sell their produce outside the mandi has been opposed. This means that farmers will continue to struggle within the ambit of the mandi system where oligopolistic structures prevail and impede fair play. The intermediaries quite clearly are the winners as they will continue to rule the markets.

Similarly, contract farming is something the government battled for. Contract farming does exist today and most of the supermarket groups have backend relations with farmers which ensures that standardised products are available. This holds especially where food products like ketchups, jams, and wafers conform to uniform standards. The same can be seen with fast-food chains, which have tie-ups with farms to get standardised quality of vegetables. Hence, the concept is not new and while it has worked at the micro-level, scaling up is not possible given the limited avenues for sale. There was actually little reason to oppose this idea, but it has led to exaggerated claims of India Inc buying up the entire agricultural sector and then pauperising the same. While there is no logic, the relentless protest finally worked, and the law has been withdrawn.

The other major reversal is the gradual ban on trading in futures of all major farm products. What started off with chana and mustard now covers the entire soya complex besides crude palm oil, moong, paddy and wheat. The message is very clear — futures trading is not going to be given a free hand. Interestingly, the major agri exchange, NCDEX, has been successfully reaching out to farmer producer organisations and getting them on board. This link will now be severed. The decision taken is clearly not backed by economic rationale as the latest CPI and WPI inflation data for pulses shows that there has been no inflation. Chana had inflation of 2.7 per cent while moong which is hardly traded had witnessed a fall of 0.2 per cent. Paddy is not traded while wheat witnesses limited trades. The same holds for crude



C R Sasikumar

palm oil. Oils have been a problem with high CPI inflation of nearly 30 per cent, but here the cause is global with edible oil prices increasing sharply by 40 per cent according to the World Bank. Since India imports around 60 per cent of its requirements, the same gets translated here. The present ban which is to last for a year virtually puts the nail in the coffin of futures trading in agri commodities which also means that it will be back to the past for farmers.

The last issue relates to MSP and its linking with the project on direct benefit transfer that the government has been working on. As part of the discourse on the farm laws, it was argued that an attempt was being made to gradually remove the MSP system, which would leave the farmers at the mercy of the private companies. MSP, though announced for all crops, is effective for rice and wheat only where there is a procurement system which then gets tied up with the PDS. The government has been trying to use direct benefit transfers to replace the PDS to ensure that there are no leakages. The problem for the government is that the entire system is convoluted. MSP is tied to procurement, which in turn is tied to the PDS and buffer stocking. MSP is open-ended and FCI ends up procuring large quantities of rice and wheat as the price offered is very attractive. Farmers prefer growing them as it gets them better income, but these two are water-guzzlers and their cultivation lowers the water table. There is no cogent policy for the disposal of surpluses and hence, large stocks are lying with the FCI. To get some idea one can look at some numbers.

The withdrawal of the farm laws was certainly a major victory for the protesting farmers, but it does push back reforms that could have helped in commercialising this sector. The reforms per se did not introduce anything that was not happening in pockets of the country already. For instance, selling outside the mandi is already possible where the Model APMC laws have been passed (over a dozen states have passed these laws, though the mandi continues to be the pivot).

The buffer stock norms are fixed for every quarter. The highest that must be held is 41 million tonnes as of July 1, while the lowest is 21 million tonnes as of April 1. As of December 7, 2021, 59 million tonnes were held — almost 38 million tonnes higher than the January 1 norm. The government must at some stage address the issue of procurement and distribution, else this cost will continue to be borne by the budget. Cash transfers, which have been largely successful for LPG, have been a non-starter here because of the system that has to be maintained even if it is inefficient. Ideally, if farmers are brought on the futures platform for selling their grains, the government could pay the option premium to ensure they get a good price. The distribution part can be served by cash transfers where households buy their foodgrains locally. FCI would only have to keep the buffer stocks.

If one looks at the buffer stocks, one realises that these stocks have never been dipped into in the last two decades or so as India produces large quantities of rice and wheat which end up as surpluses in warehouses. Logic demands that buffer stocks be abandoned as the carrying cost is high and there is not any real gain in a world where countries can freely trade in agricultural commodities.

One cannot be sure as to when these reforms will finally be accepted as there do appear to be many vested interest groups at work who will ensure that it will be hard to move forward.

The writer is an independent economist and author of Hits & Misses: The Indian Banking Story

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The British monarchy is therefore on the threshold of a new phase after this long, stable — and feminised — period in its history. This newspaper believes that Britain needs to talk more — and talk more publicly and seriously — about what should come next.” — THE GUARDIAN

Rules of the online game

Leaving the virtual gaming space unregulated will have social costs. Regulating it will provide economic opportunities



SUSHIL KUMAR MODI

OF THE NUMEROUS things that the pandemic has changed in our lives, an obvious one is the way we entertain ourselves. Amid the proliferation of OTT channels and the rise in viewing hours what has gone unnoticed is the burgeoning use of online gaming. The average time spent on online gaming has gone up almost 65 per cent from pre-Covid levels. More than 43 crore people have spent time on virtual gaming.

There are three types of online gaming. The first is e-sports. These are video games which, in the 1990s, were played privately or on consoles in video game shops but are now played online in an organised way between professional players, individually or as teams. The second is fantasy sports. These are games in which you choose a team of real sports players from different teams and win points according to how well the players perform in real life. Finally, there are online casual games which could be skill-based — where the outcome is predominantly influenced by mental or physical skill — or based on chance, where the result is strongly determined by some randomised activity, such as rolling a dice. A game of chance may be considered as gambling if players wager money or anything of monetary value.

This flourishing industry suffers from lack of regulatory oversight. Online gaming falls in a regulatory grey area and there is no comprehensive legislation with respect to its legality, or its boundaries with gambling and betting even as the applicable tax rate is being debated in relevant circles.

From this definitional issue flows the legality of online gaming. Games based on skills are allowed in most parts of the country while games of chance are in the ambit of gambling, treated as immoral and prohibited in most parts of the country. As betting and gambling is a state subject, different states have their own legislation. Every state in India, except Goa, Sikkim, and the Union Territory of Daman explicitly prohibits any sort of gambling, betting or wagering on games of chance. Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have placed restrictions on games of skill as well. Online games based on the traditional ludo, arguably the most popular online game in India, have run into controversy, and allegations of betting and gambling.

Notwithstanding the legal position, a large number of people are developing a strong dependence on online gaming. This addiction is destroying lives and devastating families. Compulsive usage of technology was heading towards becoming an issue and the pandemic managed to catalyse the steady journey. It has caused a dramatic increase in our screen time.

Parents across the country are struggling — without much success — to help their children set limits around technology usage and gaming. Young boys and girls are trapped in compulsive gaming, many spending as

much as six to eight hours per day playing online games. This is affecting their performance in school and straining their social lives and relationships with family members.

Psychologists have opined that the opportunity cost of this is immense as the impact on health is growing with each passing day. Online games like PUBG and the Blue Whale Challenge were banned after incidents of violence and suicide. This addiction is also said to be causing near-sightedness in our youth. Further, inadvertent sharing of personal information can lead to cases of cheating, privacy violations, abuse, and bullying.

There is a need to build checks and balances to prevent the youth from becoming pathological gamers. Various high courts have nudged state governments to regulate the virtual gaming landscape. The Centre, in a recent advisory to states, has laid out useful dos and don'ts to educate parents and teachers. Even casinos do not allow underage participants hence there is no reason why online gaming companies should be lax about it. Incidentally, the Chinese, as is their wont, have announced rules to limit online video games for those under 18 to three hours a week. The Chinese state media has called online gaming the “opium of the mind.”

A well-regulated online gaming industry presents compelling advantages in terms of economic benefits too. This industry is expected to generate revenues in excess of Rs 29,000 crore in 2025 with over 65.7 crore users. It is estimated that more than 15,000 direct and indirect jobs will be created. A Group of Ministers (GoM) of the GST council is seized of the matter of fixing the rate for online games. The debate between a GST rate of 18 per cent for games of skill and 28 per cent for games of chance is expected to be settled soon. The GST and Income Tax generated from this industry will add to the economic multiplier. This sector has the potential to attract significant global investments — current investments in gaming companies like Dream11 are good indicators.

There is an urgent need to regulate this industry suitably. The government should ensure that KYC norms are strengthened. Each game should follow a well-established age-rating mechanism and minors should be allowed to proceed only with the consent of their parents — OTP verification on Aadhaar could potentially resolve this. No in-game purchases should be allowed without adult consent and wherever possible, the in-game chat option should be disabled. Gaming companies should proactively educate users about potential risks and how to identify likely situations of cheating and abuse. They should remove the anonymity of participants and build a robust grievance handling mechanism.

A Gaming Authority at the central government should be created while various forms of self-regulation are encouraged for the industry. This authority could be made responsible for the online gaming industry, monitoring its operations, preventing societal issues, suitably classifying games of skill or chance, overseeing consumer protection, and combatting illegality and crime.

The writer is a Rajya Sabha MP and former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar



JOHN BRITTAS

Shine a light on justice

Lack of diversity, flawed system of selecting judges, hurt judiciary and democracy

WHEN I RECENTLY spoke in Parliament about the need for an independent judiciary, I did it because we still look up to the courts with great hope. Even when other powerful institutions appear to be faltering and floundering, people continue to have faith in the judiciary as the last post of justice.

During the winter session of Parliament, I spoke specifically about the challenges to the independence of the judiciary. The twin dangers that would inflict irreparable damage to the judiciary, I said, are the lack of diversity and the secrecy around the appointment of judges. The collegium has indeed found brilliant judges but the system needs an overhaul.

While it is true that senior judges with integrity, erudition and vision will certainly find suitable people who can occupy the high seats of justice, the selection process is fraught with inherent dangers. An executive that believes in excessive power will always find it expedient to have an individual-centric rather than system-centric apparatus. It is no surprise, therefore, that the former CJI Ranjan Gogoi made it clear in his memoirs that he wanted to avoid any confrontation with the Centre.

We have seen such tendencies play out in front of our eyes — of the most senior judges appearing to yield to the Centre. It is imperative that we need to draw up a system that emulates the best practices from

elsewhere. The executive, legislature, judiciary, the bar, the public must be represented in the judicial appointments commission. The general public should have a crystal-clear view of the people who are going to be the judges of our top courts. The resultant transparency will ward off growing suspicion over judicial appointments.

The social composition of the judiciary has always been a matter of concern. It's not that any particular caste can be blamed for this trend. Yet, a community that hardly accounts for 4 per cent of the population occupying more than 30 per cent posts in the higher judiciary is a cause for worry. The chief architect of our Constitution and the first law minister, B R Ambedkar, would certainly not have envisaged such a scenario. Out of 47 Chief Justices of India to date, at least 14 have been Brahmins. From 1950 to 1970, the maximum strength of the Supreme Court was 14 judges — of whom 11 were Brahmins. From 1971 to 1989, the number saw a further spike, and 18 judges were Brahmins. Irrespective of who is in power, the average 30-40 per cent representation of Brahmins in the SC has remained constant. The situation is no different in the high courts. For example, out of 45 judges of the Karnataka High Court, 17 are Brahmins.

We have had brilliant judges with high levels of competence and social commit-

ment from among them. No one can forget the contribution of luminaries such as V R Krishna Iyer, P N Bhagwati, Y V Chandrachud, P B Gajendragadkar and others whose judgments enriched the nation and armed millions in their aspirations to secure justice. But should we shut our eyes to the fact that our highest court didn't have a judge from the OBC, SC or ST communities until 1980? Merit and quality do not have anything to do with the massive under-representation of Dalits, OBCs, minorities and women.

The omissions and commissions of constitutional courts have a huge impact on a democracy like ours. It was precisely because of this that there were raging debates on verdicts like Rafale, divesting the powers of CBI director Alok Verma and the silence over the abrogation of Article 370 and the conversion of a state into a Union Territory. Besides, despite the Election Commission expressing serious reservations about the anonymous electoral bonds schemes by describing it as a “retrograde step”, our judiciary has not thought it appropriate to adjudicate on it.

The legislature, judiciary and the media are crucial to ensure checks and balances in a democratic system. We all know how our legislature and media have turned out to be.

The judiciary remains the only flicker of hope. When Chief Justice NV Ramana commented about the way in which laws are

made, they were considered to be words of wisdom. He lamented the “sorry state of affairs” on law-making and parliamentary debate in the country. After the conclusion of yet another chaotic Parliament session, his words must ring louder in our ears.

The Chief Justice also rued the demise of investigative journalism in the country. Courageous journalism makes democracy robust and, as a journalist, I have been closely watching how media exposés have influenced both the legislature and executive. These days, ministers' interviews have replaced investigative stories and we can imagine how this metamorphosis leaves our democracy utterly deprived.

Justice Gautam Patel of the Bombay High Court said: “History will not judge us by our highways or statues, it will judge us by how well we have preserved the constitutional idea of India and saved it from being undermined. Governments will come and go but the idea of India, the constitutional idea of India, parliamentary democracy must be protected. In the constitutional scheme of things, there is no such thing as too much noise or too much dissent.” Indian democracy requires a vibrant judiciary to guide us through these dark hours of authoritarian excesses.

The writer is a CPI(M) member of the Rajya Sabha

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HATE AND SILENCE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘The thin red line’ (IE, December 28). The open calls for genocide at the conclave in Haridwar and the virtual lack of condemnation from the government mark a dangerous low. This is in stark contrast to the speedy action taken against various activists and protesters regarded as a threat to the nation. Censorship under the banner of hurt feelings is commonplace. One wonders whether different laws exist for the majority and the minorities. A clear demarcation between freedom and hate speech is necessary. Courts must step in.

Ila Railkar, Mumbai

POLITICAL TEST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘The new seed’ (IE, December 28). While the launch of a new political party by the farm unions seems to be the obvious next step after their victory in the long standoff with the Centre, it also makes the political battle in poll-bound Punjab more interesting. If Samyukt Samaj Morcha (SSM) comes up with a good show in elections, it would not just be a validation of the unions’ “all or nothing” approach, but also make the farmers in the state confident of their political clout. On the other hand, if SSM fails to make a mark in its political debut, it would give credence to the belief that the ag-

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

DU'S NEP CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY: ABHISHEK TANDON

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itation was the handmaiden of a rich coterie of farmers, without substantial ground support.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

TIME TO REPEAL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Welcome outreach’ (IE, December 28). The tragic Mon incident is but one in a series of grave events that have been witnessed since AFSPA was promulgated. Botched operations and fake encounters have taken place many times in states where the Act is in force and it is time to consider withdrawing it. The civil administration, rather than the Army, must deal with local law-and-order situations. The heavy-handed approach of the Army only worsens the problem.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

Son summoned in assault case, Narayan Rane loses cool

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, DECEMBER 28

WITH HIS SON Nitesh Rane receiving police summons in a Shiv Sena worker assault case, Union Minister Narayan Rane Tuesday lost his cool at journalists, snapping at them and saying he would not reveal the whereabouts of Nitesh.

"Where are you from? What kind of question is this?... Am I a fool to reveal his whereabouts? Even if I know, I am not going to reveal it. Go and ask those who are trying to implicate him," Rane said, while interacting with the media at Kankavli in Konkarn.

Defending his son, Rane said, "What big (crime) has happened? Is he a terrorist? DG, Additional DG have landed... The complainant has got only minor scratches and they have slapped Section 307 and are searching him."

Last week, a Kankavli resident had filed a police complaint

claiming he was assaulted and he overheard the assailants say they would "inform Nitesh Rane". Narayan Rane on Tuesday said the police had gone to a hospital and accosted his wife. "They were asking all kinds of questions to her. Did they know whose hospital it is? Did they know whose wife they were talking to? I am also a minister at the Centre... And Nitesh is not running away," he claimed.

"You have deliberately come to meet me... If there is anything against Rane, you are happy to telecast it..." he said, adding, "This state does not have a government... I don't know if the CM is there."

The minister also said he doesn't know who is Ajit Pawar, the deputy Chief Minister in the MVA government. "Who is Ajit Pawar? I don't know who he is," he said to a question. "Why are you giving the reference of a man who is facing charges of corruption involving crores of rupees?" he added.

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

CHINA'S FOREIGN Minister Wang Yi will visit Sri Lanka next week in the midst of a crippling economic crisis that has seen Colombo turn to Delhi for help and fast pedal the long-delayed India-Sri Lanka plan for joint development of the Trincomalee oil tank farm.

Wang Yi's two-day visit, expected between January 7 and 9, will take place against the backdrop of a spat between the two countries over a contaminated consignment of organic fertiliser that has resulted in unexpected tensions between both countries.

After Colombo cancelled an order for the import of 99,000 tons of the fertiliser, Beijing blacklisted the Sri Lankan state-run People's Bank and accused it of a "vicious" default on the letter of credit payment.

Earlier this month, with the

Chinese company launching arbitration proceedings for a compensation of \$8 million, Sri Lanka drew a line under the controversy by agreeing to make a payment of \$6.4 million.

Wang Yi's visit will be significant for the sweeteners he may offer the Rajapaksa government to retrieve lost goodwill.

Meanwhile, Colombo is moving ahead on finalising plans for jointly developing with India a massive oil tank farm at Trincomalee. Although neither country is saying it in so many words, Delhi may offer in return financial assistance to help Sri Lanka tide over its present crisis.

"We have said that both matters should progress in parallel, and progress in one should reinforce the progress in the other towards strengthening economic ties," said an official source, adding that the coming month may see important developments on the Trincomalee oil tank farm deal.

EXPLAINED **India angle: 1987 Accord**

INDIA'S INTEREST in the oil tank farm dates back to the signing of the 1987 India-Sri Lanka Accord, which stated in the annexure that the work of refurbishing the tank farm located in the north-eastern province of Trincomalee would be undertaken jointly by the two countries. The agreement lay dormant as first India and then Sri Lanka fought the Tamil Tigers. An attempted revival in 2003 went nowhere. In 2017, the two sides agreed to operationalise the long-standing agreement, but opposition from trade unions of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation held up any progress in the matter.

Sri Lanka's foreign exchange reserves sank to \$1.6 billion at the end of November. The shortage has led to a drop in food imports, pushing up prices of essentials in the country. An IMF bailout is the last option that Sri Lanka does not wish to take.

Earlier this month, international ratings agency Fitch downgraded Sri Lanka from CC to CCC, warning that the country was likely to default on two international sovereign bonds, one coming up in January 2022 for \$500 million, and another due in July for \$1 billion.

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka termed Fitch's action "hasty" and said it had not taken into account Colombo's diplomatic outreach to friendly countries for help with

financial assistance. A statement from the bank said cash flows were expected by the end of December 2021 and March 2022.

"The government and the Central Bank remain confident that these inflows will materialise and the end-2021 level of Gross Official Reserves will remain above USD 3 billion. Fitch appears to have ignored the standby SWAP facility with the People's Bank of China of around USD 1.5 billion," the media release said.

Apart from loans and Foreign Currency Term Financing agreements with China during the year, Sri Lanka signed the three-year "standby" swap agreement with Beijing in March 2021. The Central Bank Governor said earlier this month that the government may draw on this to pay for imports from China.

But Colombo has also appealed to India for help. Sri Lankan Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa, who visited Delhi in

November, was offered a "four-pronged package" - a line of credit for fuel imports only from India; early finalisation of the joint India-Sri Lanka development plan for the Trincomalee oil tank farm; an offer of a currency swap to help Lanka pay its foreign debt and facilitation of Indian investments in different sectors.

Earlier this week, the Sri Lankan weekly Sunday Times reported that Energy Minister Udaya Gammampila had instructed the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) chairman to form a subsidiary company, Trinco Petroleum Terminal Ltd, which will be the special purpose vehicle for the India-Sri Lanka joint development of the Trincomalee oil tank farm.

The decision is expected to be approved at a Cabinet meeting next week. The newspaper reported that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had given approval for the formation of the subsidiary.

At Kashi fest, Thakur praises PM for saving Indian heritage

HARIKISHAN SHARMA VARANASI, DECEMBER 28

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi has dedicated the Kashi-Vishwanath corridor to the world without any "lawsuits" and "fight", and has worked to save Indian culture and take it forward, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the first Kashi Film Festival, Thakur said, "People are coming to Kashi to see Baba Vishwanath Corridor and Kashi Dham. This is wonderful."

He said: "Na koe muqadama, na koe jhagda; pyaar mohabbat se ek shaandaar kaam hokar duniya ko jo samarapit Modi-ji ne kiya hai, vah mujhe lagta hai 250 saal intezaar karne ke baad ek phir hamein aage badhane ka, hamaaree sanskriti ko



I&B Minister Anurag Thakur

bachaane ka, badhaane ka kaam Modi-ji ne kiya hai (No lawsuits, no fight; the wonderful work Modi-ji has dedicated to the world has been done through love and affection. Modi-ji has done great work to take us forward, and to save and take our culture forward after a long wait of 250 years.)

Thakur reiterated the Prime Minister's slogan - "Virasat bhi, vikas bhi" - and said that the

government has not only saved the country's heritage but has also added new dimensions of development.

In the last few days, since the inauguration of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, several programmes have been organised here, and this is "just the beginning - tourism will increase in coming years", Thakur said.

The three-day Kashi Film Festival is being organised by UP government's Film Bandhu and the Union I&B Ministry. The festival began on Monday.

Thakur, who was chief guest at the event on its second day, said the Centre will take every step to encourage the film industry in Uttar Pradesh and across the country. "We will make India the content subcontinent of the world," Thakur said.

He also announced that the government will provide a platform to artists from the state.



TEACHERS HIT STREETS FOR JOBS

Candidates demanding recruitment in primary school teachers' posts hold demonstration against UP government in front of the Vidhan Sabha in Lucknow on Tuesday. Vishal Srivastav

HC censures inspector for 'moral policing', imposes Rs 1 lakh fine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, DECEMBER 28

THE DHARWAD bench of Karnataka High Court has imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on a police inspector who confined a woman and her three-year-old daughter to a rehabilitation centre against her will. The rehabilitation facility has also been fined an equal amount.

Calling the act "moral policing", a bench headed by justice NS

Sanjay Gowda expressed his displeasure and said the police had no right intervening in an individual's married life.

The court was hearing the woman's petition seeking her release from the centre, which is meant for victims of human trafficking and sexual assault.

In her petition, the woman had said she moved out of her husband's house along with her daughter in May this year over domestic issues. She said her husband filed a "missing complaint" with the police, following which inspector Balasahab Patil "summoned" her. She said Patil tried to mediate between the couple, but she told him she had ended the marriage because she was in love with another man. That's when, she said, the inspector forcibly sent her to a rehabilitation centre.

The bench ordered the court registrar to deposit the fine amount as a fixed deposit in the name of the woman's daughter. Her mother can draw interest from the fixed deposit, the court added.

'If someone has a better plan, I will support them. But there is no plan yet'

NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU, who has never hidden his ambitions for the chief minister post in Punjab, speaks to KANCHAN VASDEV about his "Punjab model" and why that makes him the most suitable for the job. He also continues to attack his own party's government on issues like drugs and "sacrilege". Excerpts:



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW WITH NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU PUNJAB PRADESH CONG COMMITTEE CHIEF

The Akali Dal is alleging vendetta after Bikram Singh Majithia was booked in a drugs case.

This is no vendetta... There has to be deterrent punishment for those who are wiping out a generation... A nexus exists between drug paddlers, politicians and police... For five years, the STF report (on the drugs racket) was not opened... Why would a CM not open a report that the court has asked him to open and take action?... The same goes for sacrilege... Give me more power. I will hang them (the DGP and Advocate General) like scarecrows. It all depends on giving powers to those people who can deliver, take decisions.

What do you think of farmer organisations jumping into the poll fray?

If an Independent can stand, why can't farmers contest for their rights?... Let the people decide... You look at the treachery of the Centre, the FCI (Food Corporation of India) is being unbundled, (farm) debt is Rs 4 lakh crore, the PDS is down from Rs 70 crore to Rs 40 crore... We know the intent of the Centre, but what is the state doing? Has a farming organisation given a progressive agenda?... We have to go in for crop diversification...

Should AICC leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi have made you the CM right away after Amarinder Singh's ouster?

Say that this system is so entwined that you need an upright man on the top. That is the only way honesty will percolate down.

So will the Congress announce you as CM candidate?

It is the people of Punjab who will decide who can deliver, has the moral authority, who will create a new system... Last time AAP lost because they did not have a face... You either fight on issues or you fight on a face... It took me six years to (get an

FIR against Majithia (lodged). Have you heard of a person who got the DGP and Advocate General removed?

You have been announcing tickets for the elections. Do you have the high command's approval for that, as they have constituted committees?

What did I say? I only said that this person will not run away (from the constituency)... This does not mean I am announcing tickets, I am just stating the truth.

Why is the ticket announcement delayed?

The Congress has a system.

Some apprehend that any move to replace Charanjit Singh Channi as CM now, or later, if the Congress wins, could backfire among the Dalits.

Is this about merit? Is this about a roadmap and agenda, or is it about caste?... It is not about caste... Punjab is na Hindu n musalmaan, Punjab jeeve guruman de naal (Punjab is neither Hindu nor Muslim, it lives by the creed of the Gurus). We should be looking at policies that are beneficial for Dalits.

The party knows the best time to announce the CM candidate, it has done it for 70 years. They will only take one criterion into consideration, that is merit. The party will honour merit... The youth are very hopeful about the Punjab model... If someone has a better plan, I will walk behind that person. But till now, there is no plan.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSAMB REWARI	PUBLIC NOTICE/TENDER NOTICE 48/2021 CONST. OF LINK ROAD FROM VILL. MASTAPUR TO MOHDINDRIN IN KOSLI DISTRICT, HRY. DIST. REWARI ID 10564	22.12.2021 07.01.2022	AS PER TENDER NOTICE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-2298431 xehsamb.rewari@gmail.com

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

जिला आयुर्वेद अधिकारी, रेवाड़ी
Ravidas Mandir Near Main Post Office, Rewari.
E-Mail - dap.rwr@gmail.com Telephone No. 01274-254367

ADVERTISEMENT
District AYUSH Society, Rewari invites application for filling up of District Programme Manager vacant post under scheme of NAM Programmes in District Ayurvedic Office Rewari, purely on contract basis initially up to 31/03/2022 or as per approval received in NAM Haryana ROP 2021-22. The number and details of various posts are as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Post & No. of Post	Honorarium	Qualification
1	District Programme Manager - 01 Post	Consolidated Salary: Rs 30000/- P.M.	Graduation degree in any discipline including AYUSH and MBA in Healthcare Management/ Masters in Health/ Hospital administration/ Post Graduation diploma in Hospital & Healthcare management (Two years) from AICTE recognized institute with minimum 3 years working experience in Public health programme. Exposure in social sector schemes/misssions at national, state and district level and computer knowledge including MS office, MS word, MS Power Point, MS Excel would be desirable. Preference will be given to persons having experience of working in health sector including AYUSH.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:

- Application form will also be available from day of advertisement published in news paper and updated on website www.Rewari.gov.in
- Application form without having the post name and category will be rejected.
- Date of Test and interview will be intimated on Mobile No & E-mail ID provided by the applicant.
- Full particulars along with contact no., email id, Postal address with PINCODE and one Passport size photo pasted on application form and self attested copies of Educational Qualification & Experience should be attached with the application form. The authentic experience with a bank statement showing salary/Salary slip from employer for the period of experience is mandatory from the candidate otherwise experience will not be considered.
- Original documents in support of academic qualifications and work experience shall be required to be produced at the time of interview.
- If the candidate had done his /her qualification diploma/degree through distance mode/regular mode then the university should be approved from Distance Education Council or joint committee of DEC, UGC and AICTE as the case may be. It will be responsibility of the applicant to produce the proof of approval of his/her degree/diploma from above mentioned authorities as the case may be. The qualification should be completed before closing date of submission of application. Knowledge of Hindi or Sanskrit up to Matric Standard is required.
- District authorities (District Ayurvedic office) has right to reject any application if found incomplete/having misleading information. District Ayush Society, Rewari has right to cancel any post/written test/interview at any time without specifying any reason and No claim will be entertained in this regard. Any information provided in the application found false or misleading at any stage of recruitment as well as after recruitment, the contract of such candidate will be terminated without giving any further notice and legal action will be done.
- Number of Posts can be increased or decreased by District AYUSH Society Rewari.
- Haryana Government Policies will be followed related to reservation and age.
- Applicant should bring proof of reserved category in original and self attested copy.
- This post is non-transferable and the selected candidate will remain posted at the place of appointment.
- Any additional work/placement under NAM can be assigned by appointing authority. Contract may not be renewed automatically and District Ayurvedic Office has the right to terminate the contract immediately if performance is found unsatisfactory.
- Selected candidate shall not have any claim for regularization of his/her services based on the duties performed under this contract, as he/she has been engaged for project financed by Government of India having specific tenure.
- No TA/DA will be paid for coming for written test & interview and no separate information will be sent to applicant for interview.
- Application form incomplete/not full filling essential selection criteria will be rejected and No document will be accepted after last date of submission for application form.
- Last date for submitting of duly filled application form is 13-01-2022 up to 05:00 PM in the office of District Ayurvedic Office, Rewari at Ravidas Mandir & Hostel Circular Road opposite Main Post Office Rewari by hand and Registered/Speed Post only. Application sent through other mode will not be considered. This office will not be responsible for any postal delay.

Sd/-
District Ayurvedic Officer-cum-
Member Secretary, Governing
Body D.A.S. Rewari

6513/Hry

TEMPORARY CANCELLATION & PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

In order to further strengthen the infrastructure and to enhance safety standards, Delhi Division of Northern Railway will undertake the work for provision of 3rd Foot Over Bridge at Ghaziabad Railway station. To execute this work, there will be a Power and Traffic Block for a duration of 08.00 hours on 30.12.2021 (Thursday) instead of 29.12.2021 (Wednesday) as announced earlier from 09.30 to 17.30 hrs. As a result, the following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No.	Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
04183/04184	Tundla Jn - Delhi Jn - Tundla Jn MEMU Special Express	on 30.12.2021
04444/04443	New Delhi - Ghaziabad - New Delhi Special Express	on 30.12.2021
04439	Palwal - Ghaziabad Special Express	on 30.12.2021

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short Originate from	Partially Cancelled between Station	Date of partially cancellation (from the Originating Station)
04407 Palwal - Ghaziabad EMU Special Express	at Sahibabad	Sahibabad - Ghaziabad	on 30.12.2021
04409 Ghaziabad - Shakurbasti EMU Special	from Sahibabad	Ghaziabad - Sahibabad	on 30.12.2021
04419 Mathura Jn - Ghaziabad EMU Special	at Sahibabad	Sahibabad - Ghaziabad	on 30.12.2021
04420 Ghaziabad - Mathura Jn EMU Special	from Sahibabad	Ghaziabad - Sahibabad	on 30.12.2021

For any other information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL	REPLACEMENT/ REPAIRING OF CHOWKHAT OF POWER COOLERY QUARTERS AT 220KV S/STN. HANDEWAR PANCHOLA DURING FY-2021-22.	27.12.2021 12.01.2022	7.00 LACS	www.hvpsn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpsn.org.in
2	HVPNL	1. REPAIR, MTC AND TILE TERRACING ON THE ROOF OF CONTROL ROOM BUILDING OF NRB AT 220 KV S/STN SID 2. PROVISION FLOORING TILES AND ROOF REPAIRING IN THE OFFICE OF RESIDANT AT DHALUKOTE COMPLEX AS PER SCOPE OF WORK.	27.12.2021 15.01.2022	3.47 LACS	www.hvpsn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpsn.org.in
3	HVPNL	PROVIDING ADDITIONAL EARTHING TRANSFORMER NEUTRAL EARTHING AND EARTH FITS OF EXISTING PITS AT 132KV S/STN. HOU ROHTAK, BANU, MACHRAULL, MATANHA, LAND 220 KV S/STN, SHADANA.	24.12.2021 10.01.2022	4.30 LACS	www.hvpsn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpsn.org.in
4	HVPNL	SHIFTING OF TL NO. 13 (C-TYPE TOWER OF HSB DESIGN) BY PROVIDING 6KV D/C DD TYPE +6 MTR. EXTENSION TOWER (O&R DESIGN) IN 6KV S/C PINORE TO SECTOR-32 PANCHOHILA LINE.	27.12.2021 05.01.2022	13.27 LACS	www.hvpsn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpsn.org.in
5	HVPNL	REPAIR, MTC, WHITE WASHING, TILE TERRACING AND FALSE CEILING IN THE OFFICE OF SSE AT SID AT 66 KV S/STN MULLANA.	27.12.2021 10.01.2022	2.43 LACS	www.hvpsn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpsn.org.in
6	HVPNL	AUGMENTATION OF 12.5/15 MVA, 66/11 KV T/F T-2 BY 25/31.5 MVA, 66/11 KV T/F AT 66 KV S/STN. HVPNL, PURHANA.	24.12.2021 12.01.2022	6.28 LACS	www.hvpsn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpsn.org.in

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

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL DELHI CANTT
SADAR BAZAR ROAD, DELHI CANTT-110010
www.apsdelhicantt.com, 25693777, 25692720

TENDER NOTICE
Sealed Tenders are invited from dealers with professional expertise in-
(a) Procurement of Interactive (LED) Flat Panel Display.
(b) AMC of CCTV Cameras.
(c) Procurement of 40 X Desktop Computers along with Monitor.
RFPs with specification can be downloaded from school website www.apsdelhicantt.com. Tender Form duly completed in all respect be submitted to APS Delhi Cantt by 17 Jan 2022 at 1030 hrs along with DD (Tender Form Fee & EMD) as per RFP in favour of Army Public School Delhi Cantt. For any queries contact APS Delhi Cantt on 25693777, 8700817317.
Presiding Officer

कार्यालय प्रबन्ध निदेशक पश्चिमोत्तर विद्युत वितरण निगम लि.
विकटोरिया पार्क, मेरठ

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना, निविदा विशिष्टीकरण संख्या: 14/पबिनिविद/मे/मु/ / कार्टेज रिफिलिंग / 2021-22 के अन्तर्गत बाह्य एजेंसी से पश्चिमोत्तर विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., मुख्यालय मेरठ पर स्थापित विभिन्न मेक के लेजर प्रिन्टर्स को कार्टेज रिफिलिंग/आपूर्ति एवं सम्बन्धित कार्य कराने हेतु, दिनांक 11.01.2022 अपराह्न 12.00 बजे तक अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित है। निविदा में यदि कोई संशोधन अथवा निविदा खुलने की तिथि में विस्तार होता है, तो इसकी सूचना ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर तथा www.pvvn1.org पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी। हस्ता/-अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (मु) कृते प्रबन्ध निदेशक, राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये "बिजली चोरी की सूचना हेल्पलाइन नम्बर पर दै: 1800-180-3002 (मेरठ), 1800-180-8752 (लखनऊ) " RO. 11708, Dt. 28.12.2021

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MUMBAI

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR VARIOUS RETAIL CONCESSIONS AT CSMI AIRPORT

Mumbai International Airport Limited ("MIAL") invites parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for various Retail Concessions at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport ("CSMIA"), Mumbai.
Parties are requested to visit the website: <https://csmia.adaniairports.com/> → Business → Tenders for downloading form of Application for purchase of Request for Proposal document(s).
Please check the website for last date and time for submission of Application.

SBI
IT-Partner Relationship and Budget & Cost Control Department
4th Floor, Railway Station Building, State Bank of India,
Global IT Centre, Sector 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614

CORRIGENDUM-1
RFP for Empanelment of Service Providers for providing IT Human Resources for Bank
Please refer "Corrigendum-1" dated 29.12.2021 issued for the RFP No. SBI/GITC/IT-PR and BNCC/2021-22/810 Dated 09.12.2021 available under "Procurement News" at Banks website <https://www.sbi.co.in> or <https://bank.sbi/> and e-Procurement agency portal <https://etenders.sbi/>
sd/-
Place: Navi Mumbai
Deputy General Manager (IT-PR and BNCC)
Date: 29.12.2021

कार्यालय पर्यावरण अभियन्ता, नगर निगम, बरेली।
ई-निविदा संशोधित आमन्त्रण सूचना
पत्रांक 212 पर्या.अभि./2021-22 दिनांक: 28 दिसम्बर 2021

नगर निगम, बरेली द्वारा नगर निगम के पूर्व पत्रांक 187/ एन.आई.टी./ पर्या.अभि./ 2020-21 दिनांक 25 नवम्बर, 2021 के द्वारा सथरापुर स्थित एस.डब्ल्यू.एम. प्लांट स्थल पर प्रसंस्करण संयंत्र स्थापन एवं प्लांट के संचालन (इस संबंध में Procurement, Construction, Operation & Maintenance of SWM Plant (500 TPD) at Sathrapur) कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गई थी। उक्त के क्रम में पुनः ई-निविदा हेतु नगर आयुक्त महोदय द्वारा दिनांक 27 दिसम्बर, 2021 ई-निविदा उतर प्रदेश की ई-प्रक्रियामेन्ट की वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। शासनादेश सं.-4848/नौ.-5-2018-470 सा/2018 नगर विकास अनुभाग-5 लखनऊ दिनांक 10 दिसम्बर, 2018 के क्रम में निविदा शुल्क+GST ऑनलाईन आर.टी.जी.एस. के माध्यम से E-TENDER BNN/NAGAR NIGAM BAREILLY के नाम नगर निगम कोष में नगर निगम बरेली के खाता सं.-3647000100980707 तथा आई.एफ.एस.सी. कोड-PUNB0364700 पंजाब नेशनल बैंक में जमा किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा। जिसकी स्कैन कापी टेण्डर अपलोड करने होगी। जमानत राशि बी.जी./ एफ.डी.आर. के माध्यम से नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम बरेली के नाम बन्धक होगी। जिसकी स्कैन कापी टेण्डर अपलोड करते समय अपलोड करनी होगी, अन्य शर्तें एवं विवरण निम्नवत् उक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है। ई-निविदाएं निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

Sr. No.	Critical dates and time	
1	upload/publishing of the NIT Document date & time	28 Dec. 2021 (15:00 hrs)
2	BID starting date & time	30 Dec. 2021 (12:00 hrs)
3	Pre BID meeting & Technical Presentation	04 Jan. 2022 (12:00 hrs)
4	Bid Closing date & time	07 Jan. 2022 (15:00 hrs)
5	Technical Bid Opening date & time	08 Jan. 2022 (12:00 hrs)
6	Financial BID opening date & time	after Technical Evaluation

किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिये उक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।
हस्ता./-
पर्यावरण अभियन्ता
नगर निगम, बरेली

DEFENCE ESTATES OFFICE, AGRA CIRCLE, AGRA CANTT.

NOTICE INVITING E-AUCTION
E-auction for grant of rights for collection of parking fee from GLR Sy No. 321-E, Agra Cantt.

Online Bids (E-Auction) are invited on behalf of Defence Estates Officer, Agra Circle from the eligible Individuals/Agencies/Organization/Firms etc. for Awarding the Contract for grant of rights for collection of parking fee for one year in respect of Sy. No. 321-E, Agra Cantt. Term of contract is for one year from the date of issue of work order. Manual bids/ offers will not be accepted. The interested contractors/firms may visit the website <http://eauction.gov.in/eAuction/app>. No conditional bids will be accepted. The Defence Estates Officer Agra Circle reserves the right to cancel or withdraw the auction without any notice and the Defence Estates Officer Agra Circle decision in this regard will be final. Terms/Conditions, eligibility criteria and connected details can be seen in the website - <http://eauction.gov.in/eAuction/app>. Clarification needed, if any may be enquired/clarified from the office on any working day through telephone 0562-2225457.

Sl. No.	Activity	Date	Time in IST
i)	Date of Publication	29-12-2021	At 10:00 HRS
ii)	Start Date and Time for downloading of auction documents from http://eauction.gov.in/eAuction/app	29-12-2021	At 10:00 HRS
iii)	Submission Start date and time	29-12-2021	At 16:00 HRS
iv)	Submission End date and time	19-01-2022	At 13:00 HRS
v)	Payment/Approval Start Date and time	19-01-2022	At 14:00 HRS
vi)	Payment/Approval End Date and time	21-01-2022	At 17:00 HRS
vii)	Auction Start Date	24-01-2022	At 10:00 HRS
viii)	Auction End Date	24-01-2022	At 17:00 HRS

The bidder may download the "Auction Document" and other terms and conditions as available on the website of <http://eauction.gov.in/eAuction/app>.
-sd-
Defence Estates Officer
Agra Circle, Agra Cantt.

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
Container Corporation of India Ltd.
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Open Tender Notice (e-Tendering mode only)
Tender No. CON/IT/BLCS/e54172/R/2021

Online Open E-bids are invited through two packet Open tendering system from the indigenous suppliers for the Manufacture and Supply of 36 BLSs Rates i.e. 1620 nos. (i.e. 548 nos. BLSA Wagon and 972 nos. BLSB Wagon) Broad Gauge BOGIE CONTAINER FLAT WAGON TYPE "BLS (A&B-CAR)" in accordance with RDSO's Particular Specification no. WD-01-BLCS (A&B Car)-2018 or its latest

Bid Reference	CON/IT/BLCS/e54172/R/2021		
Tendered Quantity	1620 nos. (i.e. 548 nos. BLSA Wagon and 972 nos. BLSB Wagon) Broad Gauge BOGIE CONTAINER FLAT WAGON TYPE "BLS (A&B-CAR)"		
Bid Security (Earliest Money) Deposit	Bid Security Declaration as per clause 3 of section II (Refer Detailed Tender Document).		
Cost of Document	₹ 1,000 through online payment gateway to CONCOR		
Tender processing fee (Non-refundable)	₹ 4720.00 (including GST @18%) Through online payment gateway to CONCOR.		
Pre-Bid Meeting	05.01.2022 at 11:00 hrs at Container Corporation of India Ltd, NSIC, MDBP Building, 3rd Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate, Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station, New Delhi-110020.		
Period of Tender Sale (online)	29.12.2021 at 15:00 hrs to 18.01.2022 at 15:00 hrs.		
Date and time of Submission of Bid	18.01.2022 at 16:00 hrs.		
Date and time of opening of Bid	19.01.2022 at 11:00 hrs		
Place of Opening	Executive Director (P&S)/ Area-III, Container Corporation of India Ltd, NSIC, MDBP Building, 3rd Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate, Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station, New Delhi-110020		
Communication Address	Executive Director (P&S)/ Area-III, Container Corporation of India Ltd, NSIC, MDBP Building, 3rd Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate, Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station, New Delhi-110020 Email: akmishra@concordia.com		

The detailed tender document can be viewed from the website www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL from 29.12.2021 at 15:00 hrs to 18.01.2022 at 15:00 hrs.
Executive Director/P&S/III

रजिस्ट्री सं. ची.एल.-33004/99 REGD. NO. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India
सौ.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.- 1312201-231813
CG-DL-E-1312201-231813

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

नं.- 4787] नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, दिसम्बर 13, 2021/अग्रहायण 22, 1943
No. 4787] NEW DELHI, MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021/AGRAHAYANA 22, 1943

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 13th December, 2021

S.O. 5168(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under subsection (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH11 on the stretch of land from Km 12 to Km 35.55 (Mini Secratariat rewar) in the district of REWARI in the state of HARYANA

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "The Indian Express" and "Dainik Bhaskar" both dated 2/09/2021; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the competent Authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances

SCHEDULE
Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH11 in the stretch of land from km. 12 to km. 35.55 (Mini Secratariat rewar) in the district of REWARI in the state of HARYANA

State: HARYANA					District: REWARI
Sr. No.	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Hectare)	Name of the Land Owner/Interested Person Part Survey No
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: Manethi					
Village: Dhani Santo					
1	30//4/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0025	Ganeshi Lal S/o & Smt. Manbhari D/o Peru S/o Dalu Ram, Har 2 Sam Bhag, 1/5 Hissa, Om Prakash, Indra Singh urf Indra Pal Putran Udami Ram S/o Peeru, Har 2 Sam Bhag, 1/35 Hissa, WasiDeh, Rajesh, Raghuraj Putran Om Prakash S/o Udami, Har 2 Sam Bhag, 1/10 Hissa, wasi-Pithadawas, Harikishan, Surendra Kumar, Sajjan Singh Putran, Udami Ram S/o Peeru, Har 3 Sam Bhag, 9/140 Bhag, Ajay Kumar S/o Indra Singh Urf Indra Pal S/o Udami Ram, 1/140 Hissa, Ram Kanwar S/o Jeewa Ram S/o Dalu Ram, Har 3 Sam Bhag, 3/8 Hissa, Bal Kishan, Mahabeer, Ranveer Putran Ram Singh S/o Peeru, Har 3 Sam Bhag, 1/10 Hissa, wasi- Deh (30//4/1)
Village: Gumina					
2	7//16Min	Government	G.M. Sadak	0.0708	Tejpal Singh son Vikram Singh son Sultan Singh 22/221 part, Shyam Singh son Dalip Singh son Vikram Singh 31/221 part, Rajbala widow Dalip son Vikram Singh 2/221 part, Babulal son Bholaram son Kuldrum 9/221 part, Ashok Kumar son Balveer son Sultan Singh 55/221 parts, Bhupsingh, Bharatbhushan, Kuldeep son Tejpal son Vikram Singh every three divisions 15/221 parts, Abhay Singh son Chandan Singh son Ramchandra 5/221 parts, Chitar son Dilukh son Chhajuram 1/221 part Wasideh, Vikram Singha Son Jhabar Singha son Man Singha 22/21 part resident Tint, Jitendra Singh son Jaipal Singh son Jaipal Singh son Balveer Singh 11/221 part Wasideh, Babulal son Bhup Singha 1/221 etc (7//16)
Village: MajraMustilBhalkhi					
3	16//12	Private	Agriculture	0.0025	Matadin s/o pyara s/o jagnathn 16/69 bhag kanvarsingh, jlesingh, jaypal, bharatsingh putran sml bhagwati putri kudaram har 4 sambhag 1/6 bhag muralini , rampal putran savant singh s/o shyoram har 2 sambhag 22/152 bhag lllam.krishna.lali putriya bhagwana s/o pyara har 3 sambhag 11/1736 bhag smt sunita devi widow & sanjay s/o & smt pinki,urmlia putriya kalusingh s/o bhagwana har 4 sambhag 37/736 bhag wasideh. (16//12)
4	16//18/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0051	Kailashchand s/o divandayal s/o ramchandra 33/164 bhag vasi kund mandi gulam mohammad s/o md ramjan s/o md suban 1/4 bhag vasi lakhra bajar jodhpur ramssudin s/o md jaman 1/4 bhag vasi lakhra bajar jodhpur rajesh kumar s/o krishna singh s/o ganpat singh 49/164 bhag wasideh. (16//18/1)
5	16//19	Private	Non-Agriculture	0.0025	Stone land majra mustil bhalkhi kund pro. & owner samshudhin s/o md jamal s/o bhola 48/241 bhag owner kabja gulam mohammad s/o md ramjan s/o md suban 48/241 bhag owner kabja smt suman puri s/o k c puri 73/241 bhag owner kabja rajesh kumar s/o krishna singh ganpat singh 12/241 bhag owner kabja subhash,dinesh kumar putran banwarial s/o ramjiva har 2 sambhag 30/241 bhag malkan kabja jamman singh s/o rangrut wasideh hakdar shamaat. (16//19)
Village: Manethi					
6	90//14/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0152	Vedvrat s/o ramji lal s/o natha singh 1/2 bhag raj kumar, sumer singh,kapil dev putran pyare lal putran ganpat har 3 sambhag 1/2 bhag vasedeh (90//14/1)
7	92//14/1	Private	G.M	0.0481	Ramkumar s/o ganpat s/o laskhman 1/8 bhag, Ramchander S/O Ishwer S/O Laxman 1/4 bhag, Madan Lal S/O Rajaram S/O Amar Singh 1/8 bhag, Omparkash, rangrao putran ruda s/o laxman har do sambhag 3/16 bhag, shakuntala, vidha putriya ruda s/o laxman har do sambhag 1/16 bhag, sheroaj s/o and smt. saroj d/o chanderkala widow subhash s/o bhagwana har teen sambhag 1/4 bhag wasideh (92//14/1)
8	92//17/2	Private	Non-Agriculture	0.0051	Ramchandra hissedar baya omkar s/o jaykam s/o daula wasideh mushtri (92//17/2)
Village: Padla					
9	360/1	Private	G.M.	0.0076	Rajkumar son Mohar Singh son Ram Prasad 1/2 part, Shishram son and Savita, Krishna daughters and Janaki widow Raghuvver son Ram Prasad every four parts 2/5 part, Kamlesh Devi wife Madanlal son Rajaram 1/10 part Wasideh (360/1)
Village: Pali					

10	114	Common (Gram Panchayat)	G.M. Rasta	0.0025	Gram Panchayat (114)
11	17//9	Private	Agriculture	0.1113	Harpul ,smdat putran mangtu putra mamraj har 2 sambhag 338/4053 bhag roshanlal putra mangtu putra mamraj 45/1351 bhag bhag smt sona, chandrawali, ramkala,shakuntla putriya and smt sarti widow mauji putra mamraj har 5 sambhag 481/4053 bhag ashok kumar ,rajpal putran roshanlal putra mangtu har 2 sambhag 34/4053 bhag amarsingh ,jaswantsingh putran kanhaiya putra mamraj har 2 sambhag 811/4053 bhag ishwarsingh putra mahender singh putra mula 270/1351 bhag smt chandra kala widow sri bhagwan putra fusa 811/48636 bhag ravinder putra hoshiyar singh putra mangtu 169/4053 bhag vishwajit,vikash putran and smt sharda, shilochana, sunita putriya smt chalti devi putri mangtu ram har 5 sambhag 45/1351 bhag randhir, subesingh putran fusa putra mamraj har 2 sambhag 1622/12159 bhag dharmisingh, sanjit kumar putran sri bhagwan putra fusa har 2 sambhag 811/16212 bhag wasideh (17//9)
12	18//15	Private	Agriculture	0.1391	Yogender singh putra hardwarilal putra mangtu 1/2 bhag smt maya devi ,naresh kumari,babli putriya ramingsh putra mangtu har 3 sambhag 1/4 bhag wasideh smt mukesh devi w/o surender singh s/o gajraj singh 1/8 bhag vasi kalwari mahendergarh smt vidha devi w/o jai singh s/o ganpat 1/16 bhag wasideh smt manisha w/o jitender kumar s/o daharampal 1/16 bhag (18//15)
13	34//1	Private	Agriculture	0.0008	Gram Panchayat (34//1)
Village: Pitthrawas					
14	577/3	Private	Non-Agriculture	0.0632	Gajraj, Kuldeep Putran and Satish alias Lalsingh alias Balram son Ramlal every three divisions 29/216 parts Jai Singh, Balwant Singh, Niranjan Singh son Man Singh every three divisions 1/150 parts Tej Singh, Lalsingh son Harisingh son Mangal every two divisions 1/90 parts Ganeshilal , Ramchandra, Raghuraj Singh, Mahabir Singh son Ganpat adopted son Netram every four divisions 2/135 part Surendra Singh son Mukhram son Bhup Singh 1/540 part Harvansh Singh, Kishan Singh, Jaswant Singh son Bhup Singh son Ghadshyam every three divisions 1/180 part Hamarayan son Khemram son Tula 1/45 part Ravi son and saint daughter and Sarbati widow Rajendra son Ramjilal every three divisions 1/180 part Gyanendra son Sohan Lal son Ganpat 1/810 part Prashant son Ravindra son Sohan Lal 1/1215 part Manisha daughter and Sharda widow Ravindras son Sohan Lal every two divisions 1/2430 part resident non Kabjan Devendra Yadav, Jitendra Yadav, Satendra, Rakesh Putran and Chandravati widow Pramanand son Chandan every five divisions 1/180 part Mrs. Shanti widow Balram son Ramlal 11/486 part Mohanlal son Shivdayal Son Ramlal 7/3888 Bhag Somdev Put.Su Jawan Singh son Totaram 65/486 part Shanti widow Balram son Ramlal 55/144 part Ramgiri wife Somdev son Jawan Singh 7/486 part Sunita Yadav daughter Umrao Singh son Mansingh 1/540 part Shivdayal, Shivkumar son Sher Singh son Mansingh every two divisions 1/450 part Mrs. Anita wife Dinesh Kumar son Raghuraj Singh 1/270 part Pradeep Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Dinesh Putran and Snehalata, Rekha daughter and Mrs. Santosh Devi widow Raj Singh son Ramjilal Har Che Sambhag 1/210 part Harish, Abhimanyu Putran and Mrs. Nirmala Widow Narendra son Raj Singh every three division 1/1260 part resident Anil Kumar, Vijay Kumar son and Anita daughter and Santosh Devi widow Ajit Singh every four division 61/1944 part resident Ramesh Kumar, Suresh, Naresh, Krishna Kumar son Gopal Singh son Patram Every four divisions Mrs. Kanchan Yadav wife Harish Yadav son Narendra Singh 1/180 part Mrs Urmila Devi wife Omprakash son Ramjilal 1/180 part Surendra, Mahendra, Vinod, Pradeep son Puran Singh son Jawana every four divisions 4/27 part Inder Jeet Singh, Ravindra Kumar son Moti Singh P Father Bhup Singh every two divisions 1/540 parts Satendra, Indrajit, Putran and Kavita, Anita Putria and Salochna widow Pratap Singh son Man Singh every five divisions 1/450 parts Dheeraj, Neeraj, Putran and Pooja, Aarti Putria and Veda Devi widow Jitendra Singhs son Sohanlal every five divisions 1/810 part Wasideh Rajendra putran Shivdayal alias Shival son Ramlal alias Ramdayal every two divisions 101/1944 parts brahmprakash son Abhay Singh son Shivdayal alias Shival 101/3888 parts Vasi8/27 parts (577/3)
15	583/37	Private	Non-Agriculture	0.1518	Ramkanwar, Ramchandra son Jiva son Daluram every two divisions 1/4 part Rajesh, Raghuraj son Omprakash son Udmi every two divisions 97/1190 part Wasideh Mrs Rajbala widow and Mrs Payal daughter and Mohit, Rohit son Rajesh Kumar son Umrao Singh every four divisions 16/255 part resident Bhimgarh Railway part 2 GGN Mrs Shashi daughter and Mrs Narayani widow Ganeshilal son Piru every two divisions 9/200 part Ajay Kumar son Indra Singh alias Indrapal son Udmiram 481/57120 part Wasideh Taravati widow and Suman daughter Abhay Singh son Manbhar alias Manbhari Every two divisions 1/140 part resident Gurugram, Nikrish son and Sonia widow Pankaj son Santosh every two division 1/96 part resident Dharambir, Narendra son Naval Singh son Deepchand every two divisions 1/280 part Baljit, Manjeet son Rajbir Singh son Jagdish Chand every two divisions 1/8 part Vinod Kumar, Manoj Kumar son Ramkishan son Jiva every two division 1/196 part Wasideh Balkishan, Mahabir, Ranbir son Ram Singh son Piru every three division 211/1680 part resident Vedprakash, Hemant Kumar, Rajesh Kumar putran Ganesilals son Piru every three years Part 677/8400 part residents Harkishan, Surendra Kumar, Sajjan Singh son Udmiram son Piru every three division 23/280 part residents Inderpal son Udmi son Piru 11/3360 part residents (583/37)
Village: Sundroth					
16	48//24/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0025	Ramsingh s/o poorn singh s/o ramdayal 1/3 bhag vasi dhamlavas smt veena devi w/o vinod kumar s/o lalsingh 1/9 bhag smt rekharani w/o manoj kumar s/o mahendra singh 2/27 bhag smt premlata w/o satpal s/o hosiya singh 2/27 bhag smt laxmidevi w/o banshilal s/o kundanlal 2/27 bhag wasideh smt santra devi vidhva v subah singh, satpal putran v sarladevi d/o jaysingh s/o poornsingh har chaar sambhag 1/3 bhag vasi dhamlavas jilla rewadi (48//24/1)
17	48//24/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0025	Ramsingh s/o poorn s/o ramdayal 1/8 bhag smt sarti , bhagoti putriya chotu s/o ramdayal har do sambhag 1/3 bhag Devendersingh shamsershingh, jayprakash putran v smt krishna d/o maduram s/o har chaar sambhag 1/6 bhag wasideh smt rakharani w/o manoj kumar s/o mahendra singh 1/24 bhag vasi mohalla Ahir chopra Smt premlata w/o satpal s/o hosiya singh 1/24 bhag vasi marvariya, smt laxmi devi w/o bansilal s/o kundanlal 1/24 bhag pradeep kumar, bhopendra kumar, manoj kumar putran omparkash s/o ramsingh har teen sambhag 1/48 bhag pramad, dinesh kumar putran vijaypal s/o ramsingh har do sambhag 1/48 bhag brijesh s/o subah singh s/o jaysingh 1/32 bhag naveen, chandrapal putran satpal s/o jaysingh har do sambhag 1/32 bhag wasideh smt santra devi vidhva v subah singh, satpal putran v sarla devi d/o jaysingh s/o poornsingh har chaar sambhag 1/8 vasi dhamlavas jilla rewadi (48//24/2)
Taluk: Rewari					
Village: Gangoli					
1	31//13	Private	Agriculture	0.0101	Anil Singh S/o Abhay Singh dattak S/o Smt. Rajkaur (31//13)
				TOTAL	0.6432

[F. No. PIU/EC/08/07/01/2017-18/3D]
RAJESH GUPTA, Director

PUBLIC NOTICE
In pursuance of section 3(D) of the NH Act, 1956 on insurance of notification (S.O. 5168(E)) & on its publication in the Gazette of India on date 13 December, 2021 the land as mentioned in the notification has vested with the Central Government. Therefore in pursuance to section 3G (3)(4), for determination of compensation, all affected land owners are informed through this newspaper publication to kindly present their claims supported with relevant certification document for their acquired land, within 7 days, from the date of this publication, either by themselves or through their authorized representatives/advocate, in the office of the undersigned, After expiry of 7 days, no any objection/ representation shall be entertained and the unilateral decision will be pronounced and compensation list will be declared.
DRO
Competent Authority (LA),
Rewari

कार्यालय-उप महाप्रबन्धक (तकनीकी), राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड, एग्रो कैम्पस, शीशमबाग, हल्द्वानी (नैनीताल)

निविदा सूचना

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दिनांक 05.01.2022 को राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड में वित्तीय रूप से सुरक्षित पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से अपरान्त 200 बजे तक अघोस्ताहरी के कार्यालय में मोहनचन्द निविदाय विभागक निधि के अन्तर्गत आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो उसी दिन अघोस्ताहरी द्वारा अपरान्त 2:30 बजे उपरिस्थ निविदादाताओं/प्रतिनिधियों के सम्म खोली जायेगी।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	लागत रु (लाख में)	घरोहर धनराशि	निविदा का मूल्य	समय अवधि	पंजीकरण श्रेणी
1.	दमुवाढूगा शिवपुरी के निकट अमेडकर स्कूल में हॉल का निर्माण कार्य।	21.60	62000.00	2000.00 + GST	09 माह	ब
2.	काठगोदा क्षेत्र गौला नदी के दायाँ तट से लगे हुये गुलाबगोटी बूगी के पास रिहायशी क्षेत्र के सुखा दीवार का निर्माण एवं शीशमहल में स्थित कर्नल वाई मन्दिर प्रांगण में जमनिमल केन्द्र के सोनर्यकरण एवं उच्चोकरण का कार्य।	14.14	42000.00	1000.00 + GST	06 माह	स
3.	बरेली रोड स्थित गौधीनगर में सीओ/0 टीपी/0 केंद्र स्थापित किये जाने का कार्य।	1.19	2000.00	500.00 + GST	06 माह	द

नोट:- 1. निविदा व विवरण सम्बन्धी सूचना कार्यालय में किसी भी कार्य दिवस में देखी जा सकती है। 2. घरोहर धनराशि निविदा क्रय करने समय प्रार्थना-पत्र के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा, जो उप महाप्रबन्धक (तकनीकी), राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड, हल्द्वानी के नाम संबद्ध होगी। 3. निविदा 04.01.2022 तक कार्यालय समय में वैधो जायेगी तथा राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों को ही श्रेणीवार दी जायेगी। 4. पंजीकृत ठेकेदार/फर्म को श्रेणीवार पूर्व में अनुबंधित कार्य की कुल लागत की गणना के सम्बंध कार्य की क्षमता के अनुसार ही निविदा दी जायेगी। 5. उपरोक्त निविदा राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड की वेबसाइट www.ukapmb.org पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता पंचदशम् मण्डल, सिंचाई कार्य, गोण्डा

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या-05 / अधि०अधि० / 2021-22

महाहमि राज्यपाल उत्तर प्रदेश को ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अनिवाइन <http://etender.up.nic.in> के माध्यम से प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन टेक्निकल विड एवं प्राईस-बिड / फाइनेन्शियल विड, सिंचाई विभाग में वर्गीकृत श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक- 01.01.2022 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 07.01.2022 अपरान्त 4.30 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन टेक्निकल विड / दिनांक- 07.01.2022 को अपरान्त 5.00 बजे अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, पंचदशम् मण्डल, सिंचाई कार्य, गोण्डा, उत्तर प्रदेश के कार्यालय में मुख्य अभियन्ता, (सरयू परियोजना-प्रथम) सिंचाई विभाग, उ०प्र०, गोण्डा द्वारा गठित समिति के समक्ष अनिवाइन खोली जायेगी। प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन टेक्निकल विड में उपयुक्त पाये गये निविदादाताओं के प्राईस- बिड / फाइनेन्शियल विड खोलने की तिथि कुल प्राप्त निविदाओं की संख्या के आधार पर नोटिस बोर्ड / ई-पोर्टल पर सूचित किया जायेगा। कार्यालय बन्द होने या छुट्टी होने की दशा में यह बिड अगले कार्यालय दिवस में उसी समय प्राप्त की जायेगी।

लाट सं	कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख रु. में)	घरोहर धन (लाख रु. में)	कार्य शुरू होने की तिथि	कार्य पूरा होने की तिथि	निविदा प्रथम का मूल्य - जी.एस.टी. - स्टेशनरी चार्ज	पंजीकरण श्रेणी
1	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित एलिन ब्रिज चरसरी बाँध के किमी 35.850 पर स्थित स्पर के पुनर्स्थापना का कार्य	407.00	300 + 54+2000	8.14	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
2	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित एलिन ब्रिज चरसरी बाँध के किमी 35.865 से किमी 36.035 तक बोल्डर रिपेमेंट का निर्माण एवं परक्यूपाइन लगाने का कार्य	310.00	300 + 54+2000	6.20	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
3	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित एलिन ब्रिज चरसरी बाँध के किमी 36.065 से किमी 36.185 तक बोल्डर रिपेमेंट का निर्माण कार्य।	375.00	300 + 54+2000	7.50	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
4	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित एलिन ब्रिज चरसरी बाँध के किमी 36.500 पर स्थित स्पर के पुनर्स्थापना का कार्य	318.00	300 + 54+2000	6.36	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
5	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित एलिन ब्रिज चरसरी बाँध के किमी 43.520 पर रेगुलेटर निर्माण का कार्य	90.00	300 + 54+2000	1.80	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
6	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित एलिन ब्रिज चरसरी बाँध के किमी 50.710 पर रेगुलेटर निर्माण का कार्य	90.00	300 + 54+2000	1.80	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
7	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित एलिन ब्रिज चरसरी बाँध के किमी 0.000 से किमी 9.100 तक बाँध सुदृढीकरण का कार्य	75.00	300 + 54+2000	1.50	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
8	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित एलिन ब्रिज चरसरी बाँध के किमी 13.700 से किमी 21.000 तक बाँध सुदृढीकरण का कार्य	56.00	300 + 54+2000	1.12	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
9	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित एलिन ब्रिज चरसरी बाँध के किमी 21.150 से किमी 28.000 तक बाँध सुदृढीकरण का कार्य	176.00	300 + 54+2000	3.52	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
10	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित एलिन ब्रिज चरसरी बाँध के किमी 28.200 से किमी 37.100 तक बाँध सुदृढीकरण का कार्य	376.00	300 + 54+2000	7.52	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
11	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित एलिन ब्रिज चरसरी बाँध के किमी 9.100 से किमी 13.700 तक बिटुमिन रोड का निर्माण कार्य	316.00	300 + 54+2000	6.32	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
12	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित सड़करी मिखाड़ीपुर रिग बाँध के किमी 15.355 पर टी-स्पर के निर्माण का कार्य	446.00	300 + 54+2000	8.92	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
13	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित सड़करी मिखाड़ीपुर रिग बाँध के किमी 15.510 पर टी-स्पर के निर्माण का कार्य	443.00	300 + 54+2000	8.86	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
14	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित सड़करी मिखाड़ीपुर रिग बाँध के किमी 14.880 पर बोल्डर स्पर के निर्माण का कार्य	308.00	300 + 54+2000	6.16	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
15	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित सड़करी मिखाड़ीपुर रिग बाँध के किमी 15.000 पर टी-स्पर के निर्माण का कार्य	403.00	300 + 54+2000	8.06	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
16	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित सड़करी मिखाड़ीपुर रिग बाँध के किमी 16.820 से किमी 17.020 तक बोल्डर रिपेमेंट का निर्माण कार्य एवं परक्यूपाइन लगाने का कार्य।	339.00	300 + 54+2000	6.78	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
17	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित सड़करी मिखाड़ीपुर रिग बाँध के किमी 17.040 से किमी 17.130 तक बोल्डर रिपेमेंट का निर्माण एवं परक्यूपाइन लगाने का कार्य।	138.00	300 + 54+2000	2.76	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
18	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित सड़करी मिखाड़ीपुर रिग बाँध के किमी 16.000 से किमी 20.000 तक ब्रिक सोलिंग का कार्य	173.00	300 + 54+2000	3.46	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
19	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित सड़करी मिखाड़ीपुर रिग बाँध के निर्धारित स्टैक यार्ड पर निर्माण कार्य एवं परक्यूपाइन लगाने का कार्य।	57.00	300 + 54+2000	1.14	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च
20	जनपद गोण्डा में घाघरा नदी के बाँधे तट पर स्थित एलिन ब्रिज चरसरी बाँध के निर्धारित स्टैक यार्ड पर निर्माण बोल्डर आपूर्ति का कार्य।	61.00	300 + 54+2000	1.22	4 माह	300 + 54+2000	बी या उच्च

1- यह निविदा सूचना उ०प्र० सरकार की वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> एवं सिंचाई विभाग की वेबसाइट <http://irrigation.up.nic.in/> या <http://idup.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

आर.ओ. संख्या-173001 दिनांक-27/12/2021
www.upgov.nic.in

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
पंचदशम् मण्डल, सिंचाई कार्य
गोण्डा

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely: Unknown S/o Unknown, R/O Unknown, Age: about 40-45 years, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Golden colour jacket & Black colour pant & bare footed** has been found dead at Main Chandni Chowk Road, near Shish Garj Gurudwara footpath, Delhi on 24.12.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No. 109A dated 24.12.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Kotwali, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours in Subj Mandi Mortuary, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Kotwali, Delhi North Dist., Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23977100, 23953442, 8750870121

DP/1849/N/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one boy **Namely: Jyotiraditya Mishra, S/o Pehlad Mishra, R/O: H.No. A-49C, DDA Flat, Shivaji Enclave, New Delhi** has been missing since **15.12.2021** at 09:30 am. from the area of P.S. Rajouri Garden, New Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 12A** dated **16.12.2021** has been registered at P.S. Rajouri Garden, New Delhi. The description of the missing boy is as under:- **Age: 19 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval, Built: Normal, Wearing: Grey colour hoody, black colour jeans and white colour shoes in his feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the Missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this Missing boy kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbl.nic.in
E-mail Id - cbl@cbl.nic.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/668/W/2021

SHO P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi
Tel.No. 011-25453990, 8750871127

निरस्तीकरण की सूचना

सिविल सर्जन सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक जिला चिकित्सालय जरापुर के संशोधित निविदा क्रमांक/1340/भण्डार/2021 जरापुर दिनांक 14.7.2021 को वर्ष 2021-22 के लिये औषधी प्रयोगशाला रसायन/उपकरण एवं भण्डार कच्चा माल सामग्री के लिये निर्माता फर्म अथवा अधिकृत विक्रेताओं से निविदा जी-61989 के तहत आमंत्रित की गई थी। उक्त निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त की जाती है। उक्त निविदा की शर्तों तथा औषधी, प्रयोगशाला रसायन/उपकरण एवं भण्डार कच्चा माल सामग्री की सूची हेतु 1000/- रु. निर्माताओं एवं फर्मों से ली गई थी, जो कि सिविल सर्जन कार्यालय से कार्यालयीन समय में प्राप्त की जा सकेगी।

हस्ता/-
सिविल सर्जन सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक जिला चिकित्सालय जरापुर छ.ग. 66232

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LTD
(Wholly Owned by Govt. of Karnataka)
Corporate Office, Navanagar, P.B Road, Hubballi-580 025
Phone: 0836-2223877, Fax: 0836-2324307
email: sepcmc.hescom@gmail.com
Web Site: www.hescom.co.in

Corporate Identity Number (CIN) : U31401KA2002SGC030437
No:HESCOM/SEE(PMC)/EE-P/2021-22/Cys-4591 Date: 27.12.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Superintending Engineer (Ele), Project Monitoring Cell (PMC), Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubli invites tender on Total Turn Key and Lumpsum Basis for the following works.

- Construction of 11kV link line from 33/11kV Joida MUSS to Ulavi by using UG cable in Joida Taluk of Dandell Sub-division in Uttar Kannada District vide Bid Indent No. HESCOM/2021-22/EL/WORK_INDENT5519.
- Replacement of existing 63/100/250KVA Conventional Distribution transformers by Star 2 Rated distribution transformers with allied works at City Sub-Division-1 in Hubli Urban Division vide Bid Indent No.HESCOM/2021-22/EL/WORK_INDENT5520.

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiries can be obtained by logging on to the website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 30.12.2021 @ 17:00 Hrs.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Project Monitoring Cell, HESCOM, Hubli

DIPR/DWD/802/2021-22/DESHBANDHAPUBLICITY
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

FEDERAL BANK
YOUR PERFECT BANKING PARTNER
The Federal Bank Ltd., Regd. Office: Aluva

LCRD/Kolkata Division
91A/1, Park Street, 1st Floor
"Avani Signature", Kolkata - 700016
Ph. Nos. 033-6815 1676 / 2264 4334
e-mail: kollcird@federalbank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of The Federal Bank Ltd. under the **Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** (hereinafter referred to as Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(1)(d) of the said Act read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as Rules) issued a demand notice dated 28/09/2021 calling upon the borrowers, (1) **Satvinder Pal Singh Domir, S/o. Mr. Uttam Singh Domir (2) Ramanjeet Kaur Domir, W/o. Satvinder Pal Singh Domir and (3) Uttam Singh Domir S/o Manohar Singh Domir**, all residing at Chandel Nagar, M 1 G A/39, Ring Road 2, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh-495001 to repay, jointly and severally, the amounts mentioned in the notice being (1) Rs.5,67,275.94 (Rupees Five Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Five and PainsNinety Four Only) in Loan A/c.No.16666600000046 as on 10/09/2021, and,(2) Rs.32,328.47 (Rupees Thirty Two Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Eight andforty Seven Paise only) in Loan A/c.No.16665600000170 as on 31/08/2021,Both with Branch Bilaspur of the Bank, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on this 27th day of December in the year 2021.

The borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of section 13 (B) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets (security properties). The borrowers in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of The Federal Bank Ltd. for the amount Rs.31,30,427.47 (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Seven and Forty Seven Paise only) as on 4/12/2021 in Loan A/c.No. 16665600000170 and interest and cost thereon.

Description of the Immovable Properties

All the piece and parcel of Leasehold landed residential property measuring 1500 Sq.ft, in Plot No.22.23,24,25, out of a total area of 11969 Sq. ft, thereon, situated at Mouza & Village- Juna Bilaspur, PH No.22, Vyapar Vihar Vyavasayik Yojna, Zone-2, Block-Bilha, Tehsil- Bilaspur, Dist-Bilaspur, Chattisgarh, and bounded on East-South of Vendor Shri Anuj Saraf, West-30 feet Road, North-Plot of Smt. Saraj Plotla and South-60 feet Road (As per Lease Deed Book No. A1, Volume 12643, Serial No 999 Page No 23-27 dttd 21/10/2005 executed by Bilaspur Municipal Corporation, Uttam Singh Domir and Anuj Saraf, registered with SRO, Bilaspur)

For The Federal Bank Ltd.
Date: 27.12.2021, Place: Kolkata (Authorised Officer under SARFAESI Act, 2002)

UJVN LTD.
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road Dehradun-248006
Telephone Nos: 0135-2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC228666 Website: www.ujvnl.com

Tender Notice Dated-28.12.2021

Ro.No.- 1040

Office of the Executive Engineer (M&G) Dhalipur Power House, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No : 32/EE/M&G/DLR/2021-22 for Hiring of Vehicle
Tender No : 33/EE/M&G/DLR/2021-22 for Providing, Fixing and installation of Electric Fencing/hydel colony
Estimated cost : Rs 3,70,650/-; Rs 16,22,850/- (GST Extra) respectively

Date of availability of bid document on website : 28.12.2021
Last date for submission of tender : 19.01.2022 upto 16 Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com" (Executive Engineer)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Tender Notice No.: 14-Elect/G/PRYJ/21-22 Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer (G) Dated: 28.12.2021 North Central Railway, Prayagraj

ELECTRICAL GENERAL SERVICES

Senior Divl. Electrical Engineer/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following short term E-Tender notice on prescribed form for the following work upto 11:00 hrs. on 12.01.2022. The details of the tenders are as under:-

SN	Tender Notice	Name of work	Cost of work (In Rs.)	Duration of Completion
1	ELG-17-2122	Provision of internal temporary lighting arrangement at Sangam area, NYN, PCOI, PRYJ, SFG & BDL during Magh mela.	5452625.58	03 Months

Tender Opening Date : 12.01.2022, 11:00 Hrs.

Note:- (1) The complete information along with tender document of above e-Tender is available on website www.ireps.gov.in upto 11:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 1359/21 (P)

North central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ GPRONCR

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL, PROJECT ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, PIU DAMOH

NIT No.- 33/2021/CENTRALISED TENDERING/G/APD/ JABALPUR DATE 23.12.2021

Online bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of reputed fulfilling registration criteria:

S. No.	Tender Portal No.	Name of work	District	Probable Amount Cost (Rs. in lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs.)	Period of completion (in months /i/ Rainy Season)	Name of office to which physical submission to be sent	90% Incumbance Free Land Available And MOU Signed
1	2021/PWPIU/175217	CONSTRUCTION OF 6 ADDITIONAL ROOM AT KAMLA NEHRU COLLEGE DAMOH M.P. (FIRST CALL)	Damoh	325.87	325870.00	15000.00	12 MONTH	-	-
2	2021/PWPIU/175220	CONSTRUCTION OF TRIBAL SENIOR AND NAVEEN BOYS HOSTAL BUILDING AT BATAJAGARH IN DISTT. DAMOH (FIRST CALL)	Damoh	622.12	622120.00	20000.00	18 MONTH	-	-

- All details relating to the Bid Document(s) can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the website: <http://mpcproc.gov.in>
- Bid Document(s) can be purchased after making online payment of portal fees through Credit/Debit/ Cash Card/Internet Banking.
- The Bid Document can be purchased only online from 24.12.2021 (time) 09:00 AM to 08.01.2022 (date) 06:00 PM (time). Other key dates may be seen in Bid Data Sheet.
- Amendment(s) to NIT, if any, shall be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

G-20753/21 **DPE PWJ PIU DAMOH**

कोरोना से बचने की तीन बातें बहुत जरूरी, टीका लगवाना, मास्क पहनना और अपना ना दोग दूरी।

Government of Uttarakhand
Secretariat Administration Department
4, Subhash Road Dehradun

Letter NO. 382/XXXI (7)/2021-16 (6)15 T.C.-4 (15253) Dated : 24. December 2021

NOTICE INVITING E- TENDER

Online bid are hereby invited from reputed firms/suppliers/dealers in two bid system (Technical and financial) on behalf of Governor Uttarakhand for the Closed User Group (CUG) Mobile Telephone connections for officers and employees working in Uttarakhand Secretariat office Dehradun.

S.N.	Particular	Date
1	Date of availability of Tender Documents on website for download	27.12.2021
2	Bid submission start date and time	27.12.2021 at 5p.m.
3	Venue for tender related work	Government of Uttarakhand Secretariat Administration Department, 4 Subhash Road, Dehradun-248001
4	Tender document is also available at	https://uktenders.gov.in
5	Last Date and time of Bid submission	10.01.2022 at 12 a.m.
6	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	10.01.2022 at 4 p.m.
7	Date of Opening of Financial Bid	11.01.2022 at 10 a.m. (Tentative)

The details/terms and conditions can be opened from website <http://uktenders.gov.in> and can be download.

(Vedi Ram)
Additional Secretary

सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश
कार्यशाला स्थापन खण्ड, कानपुर।
अति अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना सं०-11/WEDK/2021-2022

महाहमि राज्यपाल, उ०प्र० को ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु मुहरबन्द निविदाय सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग, उ०प्र० में यात्रिक कार्य हेतु "A" श्रेणी में पंजीकृत एवं सम्बन्धित कार्य के अनुभवी ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 04.01.2022 से 12.01.2022 अपरान्त 1:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है जो दिनांक 12.01.2022 को अतिशर्तों अभिप्राय, कार्यशाला स्थापन खण्ड, 777 लक्ष्मणबाग, कानपुर के कार्यालय कक्ष में नामित समिति द्वारा समय अपरान्त 3:00 बजे निविदा खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 04.01.2022 से 11.01.2022 तक प्रातः 11.00 बजे से सायं 4.00 बजे तक किसी भी कार्यदिवस में (1) कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता कार्यशाला स्थापन खण्ड, कानपुर (2) कार्य प्रबन्धक सिंचाई कार्यशाला खण्ड इलाहाबाद (3) कार्य प्रबन्धक सिंचाई कार्यशाला खण्ड, बरेली (1) पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र (2) जिलाधिकारी द्वारा निर्गत चरित्र प्रमाण पत्र (आइ०डी०पी०-1) (3) हैसियत प्रमाण-पत्र (आइ०डी०पी०-2) एवं स्वयंसेवा प्रमाण-पत्र (आइ०डी०पी०-3) को मूल प्रतियां प्रस्तुत करते हुए तथा उनकी सत्यापित छायाप्रति ठेकेदार या उसके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि द्वारा जमा करने के पश्चात् निर्धारित मूल्य देकर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि को ठेकेदार द्वारा प्रदत्त अधिकृत पत्र, जिसमें प्रतिनिधि का हस्ताक्षर प्रमाणित किया हो, भी एम्प्लॉयमेंट/एम्प्लॉयीओ अथवा नियमानुसार अनुपम अन्य प्रतिभूति के रूप में, जो कि अधिशासी अभियन्ता कार्यशाला स्थापन खण्ड कानपुर के पक्ष में बंधक होगी एवं स्वयंसेवा प्रमाण पत्र को मूल प्रति जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा अन्यथा निविदा स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। एक या समस्त निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार अघोस्ताहरी को होगा।

लाट सं.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित धनराशि	घरोहर धनराशि	निविदा प्रथम मूल्य	कार्य शुरू होने की तिथि
1.	Erection of Gate Shutter Assembly Gate size 10,00x7.00 m Tier-(Size 10,00x1.60 m) and Tier-2 (size 10.00x2.40 m) with Roller Assembly in Bay#07 of Bhaurat Dam in Distt. Lalitpur including G.S.T.	987672.00	19800.00	225+18% GST	20 दिवस
2.	Erection of Gate Shutter Assembly Tier -3 (size 10,00x3.00 m) with Roller Assembly, Lifting Arrangements and Rubber Seals (Side and Bottom) in Bay#07 of Bhaurat Dam in Distt. Lalitpur including G.S.T.	684096.00	13700.00	225+18% GST	20 दिवस
3.	Erection of J-Bolt, Stanchion Legs & Super Structure (Hoist Bridge) Gate size 10.00x7.00 m in Bay#07 of Bhaurat Dam in Distt. Lalitpur including G.S.T.	687568.00	13800.00	225+18% GST	20 दिवस
4.	Erection of Lifting Mechanism Gate size 10,00x7.00 m including all Machines, Rope drum and its parts in Bay#07 of Bhaurat Dam in Distt. Lalitpur including G.S.T.	910448.00	18300.00	225+18% GST	20 दिवस</

SEBI EXTENDS ANCHOR INVESTORS' LOCK-IN TO 90 DAYS FOR HALF OF QUOTA

Stricter IPO norms: Cap on proceeds for future acquisitions, corporate use

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Tuesday tightened the guidelines for usage of proceeds from the initial public offering (IPO) by companies.

The regulator, in a board meeting, has prescribed certain conditions for selling shares in an Offer-for-Sale (OFS) under IPO by significant shareholders and has extended anchor investors' lock-in period to 90 days for half of the quota for such investors.

The regulator has decided to put a cap on IPO proceeds earmarked for making future acquisition of unspecified targets and will bring under monitoring the funds reserved for general corporate purposes. In addition, Sebi has decided to revise allocation methodology for non-institutional investors (NIs).

The Sebi move follows a slew of new-age technology companies



Securities and Exchange Board of India Chairman Ajay Tyagi at Sebi building in Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai. PTI

filings draft papers with Sebi to raise funds through IPOs. "Price discovery is a function of the market and that is how it works globally as well," Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi said at a media briefing after the board meeting. The board of Sebi cleared a proposal to prescribe a combined limit of up to 35 per cent of the fresh issue size for deployment on such objects of inorganic growth initiatives (takeovers) and general corporate purpose (GCP),

where the intended acquisition/strategic investment is unidentified in the objects of the offer. However, such limits will not apply, if the proposed acquisition or strategic investment object has been identified and suitable specific disclosures are made at the time of filing of the offer document.

In some of the draft documents, new-age technology companies have proposed to raise fresh funds for objects where the

object is termed as 'funding of inorganic growth initiatives'.

Sebi said the amount raised for GCP will be brought under monitoring and utilisation of the same will be disclosed in the monitoring agency report. The report will be placed before the audit committee for consideration "on a quarterly basis" instead of "on an annual basis".

The regulator has prescribed certain conditions for OFS to the public in an IPO, where draft papers are filed by an issuer without track record. Under this, shares offered for sale by selling shareholders, individually or with persons acting in concert, holding more than 20 per cent of pre-issue shareholding of the issuer, should not exceed over 50 per cent of their pre-issue shareholding. Further, shares offered for sale by such selling stakeholders, holding less than 20 per cent of pre-issue shareholding of the issuer, should not exceed more than 10 per cent of pre-issue shareholding of the issue. With re-

gard to lock-in period for anchor investors, Sebi said existing lock-in of 30 days will continue for 50 per cent of the portion allocated to anchor investors and for the remaining portion, lock-in of 90 days from the date of allotment will be applicable for all issues opening on or after April 1, 2022.

In the case of book-built issues, Sebi said a minimum price band of at least 105 per cent of the floor price will be applicable for all issues opening on or after notification in the official gazette. For book-built issues opening on or after April 1, 2022, Sebi said one-third of the portion available to NIs will be reserved for applicants with application size of more than Rs 2 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh.

Meanwhile, to further safeguard the interest of mutual fund investors, Sebi on Tuesday decided to mandate trustees of mutual funds to obtain the consent of unitholders when the majority of trustees decide to wind up a scheme.

Write-offs in Covid year helped banks reduce bad loans: RBI

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

THE BANKING sector managed to improve asset quality during the Covid year with the ratio of gross non-performing assets to advances declining from 8.2 per cent at March-end 2020 to 7.3 per cent at March-end 2021 — and further to 6.9 per cent at September-end 2021, according to a new report by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

According to 'Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2020-21', loan write-offs were the predominant recourse for lowering gross NPAs in 2020-21. This improvement was also driven by lower slippages, partly due to the asset classification standstill, it said.

In absolute terms, gross NPAs declined to Rs 8,37,771 crore in March 2021 from Rs 9,99,803 crore in March 2020. NPAs worth Rs 4 lakh crore were added during the year while bad loans of Rs 2.08 lakh crore were written off by banks. Of the total NPAs, Rs 6.16 lakh crore in bad loans were accounted for by public sector banks, the report said.

The ratio of gross NPAs to advances indicates the proportion of loans out of the total lending that has not been repaid within the due period. Banks normally write off a non-performing asset when all recovery measures are exhausted and chances of recovery are remote. In April 2020, when Covid hit the economy, the RBI decided to provide relief to standard bank accounts availing a loan moratorium between March 1 and May 31 that year. The 90-day NPA norm excluded the moratorium period for such accounts. The RBI provided a standstill on asset classification for standard bank accounts, implying these couldn't be classified as bad assets after the stipulated 90-day period.

With the decline in delinquent assets, the provision requirements also dropped and the net NPA ratio of PSU banks and private banks eased from the previous year. On the contrary, foreign banks reported increasing accretions to NPAs and deteriorating asset quality due to amalgamation of troubled private banks and foreign

EXPLAINED
Red flag on asset quality

WHILE BAD loans fell till September 2021, the RBI has pointed out that the asset quality of banks may get dented. Also, credit growth — at 7.3 per cent as on December 3, 2021 — is muted, which indicates the pandemic's impact on aggregate demand and risk aversion of banks in lending to productive sectors of the economy.

banks, the RBI said.

In India, most pandemic measures had a well specified sunset clause, and some ran their course during the year. However, the impact of these transient measures on banks' financial health can be fully fathomed only after passage of time, the central bank said.

A fallout of the pandemic and the slowdown in economic activity is that credit growth of banks remained subdued in 2020-21 but non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) stepped up to fill this space. In the first half of 2021-22, although credit growth of banks showed some uptick, concerns emerged about NBFCs' asset quality, the RBI said.

Going forward, however, banks would need a higher capital cushion to deal with challenges on account of the ongoing stress experienced by borrowers as well as to meet the economy's potential credit requirements, the report said. Based on the capital position as on September 30, 2021, all public sector banks and private banks maintained the capital conservation buffer (CCB) well over the minimum requirement of 2.5 per cent.

During 2020-21, the consolidated balance sheet of banks expanded in size, notwithstanding the pandemic and the resultant contraction in economic activity. "In 2021-22 so far, nascent signs of recovery are visible in credit growth. Deposits grew by 10.1 per cent at end-September 2021 as compared with 11.0 per cent a year ago," the RBI said.

Loan recovery via IBC, Lok Adalats falls

Mumbai: Loan recovery through various channels, most notably Lok Adalats, witnessed a sizeable decline in the cases referred for resolution during 2020-21, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said. Meanwhile, the number of cases of frauds reported by banks declined during 2020-21 when the Covid pandemic ravaged the country, the RBI said. **ENS**

CBDC distribution architecture being weighed by RBI

Mumbai: The RBI is considering whether the decision about distribution architecture of central bank digital currency (CBDC) should be by the central bank or through commercial banks. **ENS**
Full reports on www.indianexpress.com

ago," the RBI said.

The central bank said some of the policy measures taken by the RBI in response to the pandemic reached the pre-announced sunset dates in 2021-22.

Certain liquidity measures have been wound down as a result, while other regulatory measures have been realigned to avoid extended forbearance and risks to financial stability while providing targeted support to needy sectors, it said. The measures realigned include deferment of implementation of net stable funding ratio, restrictions on dividend payouts by banks and deferment of implementation of the last tranche of capital conservation buffer. Even though initiation of fresh insolvency proceedings under the IBC was suspended for a year till March 2021, it constituted one of the major modes of recovery in terms of amount recovered.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Remittances to Asia Pacific to rise 6.7% in 2021: ADB

Remittances to the Asia Pacific region from citizens working abroad could grow 6.7% this year and 5.9% next year, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said

In absolute terms, remittances to the Asia Pacific region were expected to rise by \$21.2 billion this year and \$19.8 billion next year

Last year, inflows to the region reached \$314 billion, recording a slump of 2%

Source: ADB/Reuters



RIL in process of momentous leadership transition: Ambani

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES (RIL) CMD Mukesh Ambani on Tuesday indicated that the group is "in the process of effecting a momentous leadership transition."

"Achieving big dreams and impossible-looking goals is all about getting the right people and the right leadership. Reliance is now in the process of effecting a momentous leadership transition... from seniors belonging to my generation to the next generation of young leaders," he said, speaking at the Reliance Family Day.

Ambani's children Akash, Isha and Anant are already on the boards of the group companies. "I have no doubt that Akash, Isha and Anant as the next-gen leaders will lead Reliance to even greater heights," Ambani said.

The speech was reported by news outlet News18.com, owned by the RIL group. Isha and Akash are already on the board of Reliance Jio, RIL's digital arm. Anant is a director of Reliance New Energy Solar and Reliance New Solar Energy. They are yet to join the board of RIL, the parent firm.

Ambani said he saw "the same spark and potential" that his



"I have no doubt that Akash, Isha and Anant... will lead Reliance to even greater heights"

MUKESH AMBANI
CHAIRMAN & MD, RIL

father and industrialist Dhirubhai had "for making a difference to millions of lives and contributing to India's growth." "Let us all wish them good luck in their mission to make Reliance ever more successful with even more transformative initiatives and achieving even greater accolades for our Reliance," he added.

"All seniors — myself included — should now yield to the highly competent, extremely committed, and incredibly promising young leadership talent at Reliance," Ambani said. "We should guide them, enable them, encourage them and empower them... and sit back and applaud

as they perform better than us."

Stating that it was time to lay the foundation for Reliance's future growth just as his father had laid for today's Reliance at the beginning of the 1990s, he said given the existing portfolio, growth engines and strong balance sheet, availability of finance and opportunities will be unlimited. "What we must focus on is imperative to build an organisation culture capable of translating the opportunity into reality," Ambani said.

The RIL group has three verticals: energy business, digital arm Jio and retail business. It has a market capitalisation of Rs 16.21 lakh crore. The Ambani family owns 50.62 per cent stake in the company. Ambani also said the time is now to "lay the foundation for Reliance's future growth over the coming decades" by seizing the humungous opportunity.

"As we enter the second half of Reliance's golden decade, I can tell you that the future of our company looks brighter to me than ever before. I can confidently make two predictions. First, India will become one of the top three economies in the world. Second, Reliance will become one of the strongest and most reputed Indian multinational companies in the world," the RIL CMD said.

Curbs on PMC Bank extended

Mumbai: The restrictions on Punjab and Maharashtra (PMC) Cooperative Bank have been extended for another three months till the end of March next year.

The RBI has extended the restrictions as further action on the draft scheme for the takeover of the crisis-hit bank by the Delhi-based Unity Small Finance Bank is in process. **PTI**

Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy, Heavy Water Plant (Kota)

e-Tender invitation notice no.- HWP/KECH/2021/MTA/288
Online item rate tenders are invited through e-Tendering mode for "Removal, shifting, re installation of valves and maintenance of flange joints at HWP/KECH during MTA-2022" by General Manager, Heavy Water Plant (Kota), Post: Anushakti, 323303, Via - Kota (Rajasthan) for and On behalf of the President of India. From approved, eligible and experienced contractors. Estimated cost of work: Rs.64,27,900/-
Tender document can be viewed/downloaded from 29.12.2021 (10:00 hrs) to 08.01.2022 (14:30 hrs). The last date for online submission of tender is 11.01.2022 (14:30 hrs). The technical bids will be opened on 15.01.2022 at 15:00 hrs.
The detailed NIT and Tender Documents are available on the website <https://procure.gov.in/procure/app> for free to view/download. The detailed NIT can be seen at www.hwb.gov.in. For further information, please contact: Telephone no. 01475-242201/242216/242225, fax-01475-242203 and dymmm@kot.hwb.gov.in on all working days.
General Manager
For & on behalf of President of India

E-TENDER NOTICE

Offers are invited from reputed civil contractors for following civil work on item rate basis.

Proposed construction work for Renovation & expansion of milk packaging centre at Vashi, Navi Mumbai.	Estimated Cost Rs.4,15,00,000+ G.S.T.	Time period 6 Months
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Details are available on our website- <www.gokulmilk.coop> and <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/proc>. E-Tender offers is to be submitted on or before 16:00 hrs of 12/01/2022. Right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason are reserved.

Managing Director
Kolphapur Zilla Sahakari Duddh Utpadak Sangh Ltd., Kolhapur
B-1, M.I.D.C, Gokul Shrigaon, Tal-Karveer, Dist. Kolhapur. 416234.

Government of Tamil Nadu
TAMILNADU HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (TANHODA)
3rd Floor, Agriculture Complex, Olo the Directorate of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.

MIS/18915/2021 Invitation for Registration Dated: 29.12.2021

The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Horticulture Development Agency (TANHODA) Chepauk, Chennai - 5 invites applications for "Registration for Micro Irrigation Firms for Installation of Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation System".

For further information, Micro Irrigation Firms may visit the URL: <https://tanhoda.tn.gov.in> and download the application form for Registration. The application with all required documents should reach this office on or before 20.01.2022 by 5.00 PM. This Office is not responsible for delay due to any reason.

Managing Director, TANHODA, Chennai - 5.
DIPR/1189/Display/2021
"செய்தல் கட்டுவதற்கான அபிவிருத்தி, எந்தவொரு பரிசீலனையும் இல்லாமல்"

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003
PHONE: 0291-2742343 FAX: 0291-2741772

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Short term Techno-commercial and Price e-Bids are invited for following work:

Tender No.	Name of Work	UBN No.
TNTV-595	Operation and Maintenance works of 33 KV lines, 33/11 KV Sub-stations along with associated 11 KV lines and 11/0.4 KV sub-stations of various sub-divisions under BFL Circle of Jodhpur Discom	JVV2122 WSOB00388

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening etc are available on our website at www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/dvni and also at www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. The bidders, in their own interest are requested to read very carefully the tender documents before submitting the bid only through on line website www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.

Interested bidders please note that in future any other notices /information regarding amendment/corrigendum/addendum/dates extension of bid submission etc for above tender will only be available on website www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, energy.rajasthan.gov.in/dvni
Raj.Samwadi/C/21/9941 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TV)
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SECTOR WATCH TECHNOLOGY

Intel looking at semiconductor plant in India

May apply for incentives

AASHISHARYAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING giant Intel has expressed interest in setting up a new plant in India and is likely to apply for incentives under the new scheme to promote manufacturing for development of sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem, sources in know of the development said. The new unit, sources said, could be set up for development and fabrication of test chips on Intel 18A, which is among the newest technologies developed by the company.

Intel did not respond to queries asking its confirmation on whether it had indeed applied for setting up a new plant and whether the new plant would involve work on 18A chipsets. Earlier in the day, following a tweet by Randhir Thakur, a senior vice-president and president of Intel Foundry Services, Minister for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Ashwini Vaishnaw welcomed the company to India by tweeting "Intel-welcome to India".

Vaishnaw's reply came to a tweet by Thakur in which the latter congratulated MeitY, Vaishnaw and Minister of State for MeitY Rajeev

'Would love to see Intel, TSMC, Samsung invest'

New Delhi: The government would love to see Intel, TSMC, Samsung and others investing in the country, Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said. **PTI**

Chandrasekhar for the new scheme which envisages to set up new units for domestic production of high end semiconductor fab and fabless chips, among other newer hardware.

"Congrats to @Col_MeitY @AshwiniVaishnaw @Rajeev_Gol for Semiconductor design & manufacturing incentives for India as hub for electronics & semiconductors. Glad to see a plan laid out for all aspects of the supply chain: talent, design, manufacturing, test, packaging & logistics," Thakur had tweeted.

In an interview to *The Indian Express* earlier this month, Vaishnaw had said that new scheme for domestic manufacturing of semiconductor wafer fabrication facilities was significantly different from the older schemes as the country had now the capacity to consume the new chips being manufactured.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

NPS investment

New Delhi: PFRDA will soon let NPS subscribers to change investment pattern up to 4 times in a fiscal.

J&K Bank MD

New Delhi: J&K Bank's board named Baldev Prakash as MD-CEO for 3 years. **PTI**

Court on Pichai

Bengaluru: Plaintiffs who accused Google of unlawfully tracking internet use while on 'Incognito' mode can question CEO Sundar Pichai for up to 2 hours, a California federal judge ruled. In a June 2020 lawsuit, users accused Google of invading privacy. Google spokesman José Castañeda said the new requests were "unwarranted and overreaching". **REUTERS**

PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS: FOCUS ON EXPENDITURE PLANS

Sitharaman, state FM's meet tomorrow

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman will hold a meeting with finance ministers of states on Thursday as part of pre-Budget consultations. The meeting is likely to focus on states' expenditure

plans especially related to capital expenditure and investment along with suggestions for the upcoming Budget, which is likely to be presented on February 1.

Spending by states and government departments has been in focus of the Finance Ministry. A spending push is being seen as crucial for supporting economic

recovery. The economy had clocked growth of 8.4 per cent in July-September, having contracted 7.4 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year. For the full year, the Reserve Bank of India estimates growth of 9.5 per cent.

The meeting on Thursday will be a physical meeting unlike the earlier held meetings this month.

90-DAY COMPLIANCE DEADLINE TO INDUSTRY

Direct selling norms notified

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

WITH AN aim to protect consumers, the government on Tuesday notified new rules for the direct selling industry, to be complied with within 90 days. The norms ban direct selling companies like Tupperware, Amway and Orifl-

ame from promoting pyramid or money circulation schemes.

Now, such companies will also be liable for the grievances arising out of the sale of goods or services by its direct sellers. The Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021, as notified by the Consumer Affairs Ministry, are to be complied with by both direct selling entities and direct sellers using e-

commerce platforms for sale.

As per the new rules, state governments will have to establish a mechanism to monitor or supervise the activities of direct sellers and direct selling entities.

Furthermore, both direct selling companies and direct sellers are required to ensure that the terms of the offer made to consumers are clear. **WITHPTI**

CSIR-NATIONAL CHEMICAL LABORATORY
PUNE - 411008

No.NCLE-II/OS/ FMC(GeM)/2021 Date - 27/12/2021
Bid Number: GEM/2021/B/1773397

CORRIGENDUM

CSIR-NCL, Pune has published NIT No. NCL/E-II/OS/ FMC(GeM)/2021 for providing Facility Management Manpower at CSIR-NCL through GeM vide Bid Number: GEM/2021/B/1773397 on 17/12/2021. Pre-bid conference for the said NIT was held on 23/12/2021 at CSIR-NCL. Clarifications given during the pre-bid conference are published on CSIR-NCL website www.ncl-india.org in the public interest. Prospective bidders may see the clarifications given before submitting their bids.

Sd/-
Controller of Administration



MEANWHILE

BOOKER PRIZE-WINNING NOVELIST DIES AT 74

Keri Hulme, the New Zealander whose 1984 novel 'The Bone People' won the Man Booker Prize, has died. She was 74. Hulme worked as a tobacco picker, dropped out of law school and was a charity worker before becoming an unusual literary star when 'The Bone People', her first novel, won one of fiction's greatest prizes.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Sarah Weddington in 1978. AP

UNITED STATES
Weddington, Roe v. Wade lawyer, dies at 76

SARAH WEDDINGTON, the young Texas lawyer whose successful arguments before the Supreme Court in the landmark Roe v. Wade case led to the legalisation of abortion throughout the United States, died on Sunday at her home in Austin. She was 76. Rebecca Seawright, a former assistant to Weddington and a member of the New York State Assembly, said that she had been in declining health but that the cause of her death had yet to be determined. Polls show that Americans are more familiar with Roe than with almost any other Supreme Court decision. It has been at the centre of political debate for decades. NYT

ISOLATION ADVICE: USCUTS
isolation restrictions from 10 days to fiveCOVID PILLS: GERMANY SET TO BUY
a million packets of 'promising' PaxlovidAIR TRAVEL: FAUCI SUGGESTS
vaccine mandate for air travel in US

Virus surge puts brakes on celebrations

Cities across the world scale down
New Year's events for second yearTHE NEW YORK TIMES
DECEMBER 28

AS THE OMICRON variant drives infection rates to their highest levels of the pandemic in many parts of the world, major cities have scaled down or cancelled New Year's Eve events for a second consecutive year.

Only months ago, expanding Covid vaccinations and loosening travel rules had promised a return of raucous New Year gatherings amid hopes that the pandemic might finally be waning. But the emergence of Omicron — the highly transmissible variant that is now dominant in the United States and fuelling record surges in many nations — has prompted governments to reinstate travel restrictions, mask mandates and bans on large gatherings.

Even as early studies suggest that Omicron produces less severe illness, experts warn that the staggering caseload could still overwhelm health systems. A number of December 31

events have been cancelled in countries where caseloads are rising swiftly, including in Italy, where the 14-day average of new cases is up 128 per cent, and in France, where cases are up by 48 per cent, according to the Our World in Data Project at the University of Oxford.

In the US, where daily cases have doubled over the past two weeks, some events have been cancelled, but the annual celebration in Times Square in New York will go on, with attendance capped at 15,000.

Dr Anthony S Fauci, the nation's top infectious-disease expert, recommended on Monday that people "stay away" from large New Year's Eve parties, especially when it is not clear who has been vaccinated. "There will be other years to do that, but not this year," he added.

In London, Sadiq Khan, the mayor, announced last week that the New Year's Eve event in Trafalgar Square was cancelled, saying: "The safety of Londoners must come first."



The attendance at the annual celebration at New York's Times Square has been capped at 15,000. NYT

With 2.1 lakh
fresh cases,
Spain sets
pandemic
recordASSOCIATED PRESS
MADRID, DECEMBER 28

SPAIN IS dealing with the highest ever number of coronavirus infections, with some regions considering further curbs on social life ahead of the end of the year.

Updating pandemic figures for the first time in four days, health authorities reported 214,619 new cases late on Monday, bringing the 14-day national caseload to a pandemic record level of 1,206 new infections per 100,000 residents. At the height of the January surge, which until now was the one that infected most people in Spain, the rate had surged to 900.

The explosive spike is largely blamed on the Omicron variant, which scientists say spreads faster than previous strains although the number of infected patients who need hospital care is proportionally less than in previous surges. Official data shows that 7.5% of Spanish hospital beds and 18% of intensive care units are treating Covid patients.

Authorities reported 120 new deaths since December 23.

In response to the soaring caseload, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez had earlier held a meeting to pass a law by decree that makes it mandatory to wear masks outdoors. Sánchez had announced that he was consenting to extend mask-wearing rules, his office said. A decree-law does not require a debate and vote in parliament before taking effect.

The northern regions of Navarra, Aragon and Cantabria, among others, are now limiting nightlife, imposing curfews or considering caps on members of different households allowed to gather together.

As Xian outbreak expands, China's
local Covid cases up for fourth dayREUTERS
BEIJING, DECEMBER 28

CHINA'S LOCAL coronavirus cases rose for a fourth day, with the majority of infections reported by Xian, a northwestern city that has put its 13 million people under lockdown.

Xian reported 175 symptomatic cases for Monday, up from the previous day's 150. No Omicron infections have been announced yet from the more than 800 confirmed cases in Xian since December 9.

Case numbers in Xian are small compared with many clusters in other countries, but Chinese officials have imposed tough curbs on travel within the city and on leaving it, in line with national guidelines to contain



Xian reported 175 cases for Monday, up from the previous day's 150. Reuters

any Covid-19 outbreak.

Some residents in Xian were anxious to know when they could next stock up on daily necessities, such as vegetables, as officials had barred people from

going out to shop during a new round of mass testing that started on Monday.

Officials had said shopping could resume for people in less risky areas once test results came back negative, but did not say exactly when the suspension would be lifted. Prior to the restriction, each household had been allowed to send only one person out to shop for essentials every two days.

Since last week, Xian residents have not been allowed to leave the city without clearance from their employer or community authorities. Officials have also banned non-essential vehicles.

Nationwide, mainland China detected 182 local symptomatic cases for Monday, as per a statement by the National Health Commission, compared with 162 a day earlier.

EXPLAINED
E. Omicron could displace Delta: Study

RESEARCH BY South African scientists suggests that Omicron could displace the Delta variant because infection with the new variant boosts immunity to the older one. According to the scientists, implications of this displacement would depend on whether or not Omicron is less pathogenic compared to Delta. If so, then the incidence of Covid-19 severe disease would be reduced and the infection may shift to become less disruptive to individuals and society.

As Omicron powers
spike, Australia debates
domestic border curbsREUTERS
SYDNEY, DECEMBER 28

AUSTRALIA RECORDED another record surge in Covid-19 infections on Tuesday as an outbreak of the highly infectious Omicron variant disrupted reopening of the economy, while state leaders argued over domestic border controls.

The country reported 11,264 new cases in the previous day, according to a Reuters calculation of state figures, again surpassing its peak of a day earlier, as it grapples with a planned reopening while the new variant rages.

The outbreak has also fuelled a resumption of fractious domestic politics which defined much of



The country reported 11,264 new cases. Reuters

the pandemic as some states resist calls to remove border controls.

NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard said a quarter of clinical tests in his state were "tourism tests" for asymptomatic people, bringing huge pressure of the health system.

Gunman kills 4 in shooting
spree across Denver: CopsMIKE IVES
DENVER, DECEMBER 28

A GUNMAN killed four people and wounded at least three others, including a police officer, during a series of shootings in Denver on Monday, police said.

The suspect, whom the authorities did not immediately identify, died during a shootout.

The authorities were seeking a motive after the shootings, which occurred across several locations in and near Denver, Colorado's capital. "This is the holiday season. To have this type of spree take place is not normal for our community," police said.

The shootings started shortly after 5pm in central Denver, where two women were killed and a man was injured.

Shortly afterward, a man was fatally shot several blocks away, the cops said, and police officers exchanged gunfire with a suspect during a pursuit.

The same suspect then fled to Lakewood, an officer said. Just before 6pm, the Lakewood Police Department received a report of shots fired at a business, John Romero, police added. A gunshot victim was later found and pronounced dead at the scene, police said, adding that officers identified the car and the shooting suspect. They did not reveal his name.

When the officers found the car, the gunman opened fire, and officers shot back. The gunman then fled on foot to a Hyatt hotel, where he is believed to have shot a clerk. He also shot and wounded a Lakewood police officer after he left the hotel, police added. NYT

Israeli PM says not opposed to
'good' nuclear deal with IranTIA GOLDENBERG
TEL AVIV, DECEMBER 28

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Naftali Bennett said on Tuesday he is not opposed to a "good" nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, but voiced skepticism that such an outcome would emerge from the current negotiations.

Bennett spoke a day after negotiators from Iran and five world powers resumed talks in Vienna on restoring Tehran's tattered 2015 nuclear deal. He said Israel was not bound by any accord, leaving it room to maneuver militarily.

"At the end of the day, of course there can be a good deal," Bennett told Israeli Army Radio. "Is that, at the moment, under the current dynamic, expected to



Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. Reuters file

happen? No, because a much harder stance is needed."

Bennett also denied claims by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he had agreed to a policy of "no surprises" with Washington, meaning that it would be frank about its military intentions regarding Iran

with its prime ally and thus be potentially hobbled.

"Israel will always maintain its right to act and will defend itself by itself," he said.

Israel has watched with concern as European nations, Russia and China have restarted talks with Iran in recent weeks. Tehran has taken a hard stance in the negotiations, suggesting everything discussed in previous rounds of diplomacy could be renegotiated and demanding sanctions relief even as it ramps up its nuclear programme.

Bennett has urged negotiators to form a firm line against Iran. Israel is not a party to the talks but has engaged in a blitz of diplomacy on the sidelines in an attempt to sway allies to put more pressure on Iran to rein in its nuclear programme. AP

Pakistan endorses first
National Security PolicySAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 28

PAKISTAN'S CABINET on Tuesday endorsed the country's first-ever National Security Policy that emphasised that economic progress should be at the centre of national security, a move criticised by the Opposition which accused the government of ignoring the parliament while formulating the new policy.

In a series of tweets, National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf called it a "historic moment" for the country, saying the Cabinet had adopted the document which was approved by the high-powered National Security Committee (NSC) on Monday. "It is a truly historic achievement," he said.

Yusuf thanked the civil and military leadership for their support in preparing the policy which, he said, "would not have seen the light of day without the Prime Minister's constant leadership and encouragement."

"The success of the policy will lie in its implementation for which a plan has been developed," he said, adding that a public version of the NSP document will be launched by the Prime Minister and released in due course. PTI

PHILIPPINES OFFICIALS WARNED THAT RESIDENTS WERE GOING HUNGRY. MANY WERE STILL IN EVACUATION CENTRES

'Help Us': After Typhoon Rai, miles of destruction and odour of death

JASON GUTIERREZ
MANILA, DECEMBER 28

"THE TREES snapped like matchsticks."

Ed Boysillo, 54, a municipal worker in Ubay, in the central Philippine province of Bohol, was describing the fearsome power of Super Typhoon Rai. The storm made its first landfall on December 16, bringing torrential rains and packing winds up to 168 miles per hour, comparable to a Category 5 hurricane.

It blew away buildings, swelled rivers to overflow and forced more than seven mil-

lion people to flee their homes. It cut off power, water and communications. It damaged critical infrastructure.

As of Monday, the storm had killed 389 people, injured 1,146 others and left 65 missing, official figures show. More than half a million people were still in evacuation centers or staying with friends and relatives. The smell of death hung in the air in Bohol, where a family emerged from the wreckage to try to salvage a door festooned with Christmas decorations. An inflatable Santa Claus that had survived the lashing winds swayed forlornly in the air, its affable face a striking contrast to the destruction.

Antero Ramos, 68, who is from the village of Casare in Ubay, lost his wife, Tarsila Ramos, 61, and two of his daughters, Nita, 37, and Nenita, 28, in the storm. "My wife decided that we should evacuate, so we decided to shelter in the bodega we used to store rice," he said. "But as soon as we entered, the bodega collapsed on us," he said.

The bodega's caretaker also perished. "This is a very sad Christmas," Mr. Ramos said. "We had to bury them immediately because the funeral parlor could not get to the bodega because of the debris that was still on the roads." Rai, the international name for the storm (the local



'Help Us' scrawled on a road in Alicia, Bohol Province. The governor has sought donations to buy food, other items. NYT

name is Odette), was the 15th typhoon to hit the country this year. The storm made eight more landfalls in multiple regions be-

fore veering away.

The Philippines sits on a typhoon belt and typically gets about 20 storms a year. After Rai's devastation, the country's Climate Change Commission called for urgent action at the local level "to build community resilience against extreme climate-related events and minimise loss and damage."

"As the level of global warming continues to increase," it said in a statement last week, "these extreme weather events and other climate impacts are becoming severe, and may be irreversible, threatening to further set back our growth as a nation." In Bohol, where many of the

storm deaths were recorded, overturned vehicles were piled up on the side of the highway and in fields on Monday. Countless trees and debris littered the terrain. Many of the deaths had occurred in coastal areas inundated by storm surges or where people had been crushed by houses that crumbled in the wind. Everywhere, people could be seen scouring the ruins of homes to salvage what was left of their old lives.

On a highway leading to Ubay, near a bay in Bohol, survivors of the storm had scrawled, "Help us," a desperate plea to passing helicopters and airplanes. Officials warned that resi-

dents in remote areas were running out of food. Countries such as the US, Canada, China and South Korea have pledged aid. A United Nations agency called for \$107.2 million "to support the government in responding to the most urgent humanitarian needs for the next six months."

Bohol's governor, Arthur Yap, has sought donations to purchase food and other relief items. An early appeal brought in generators, but fuel is now a coveted commodity. "Many bought generators, and that tripled the demand for gasoline," Mr. Yap told reporters on Friday. "That's the reason why we have long queues at the gasoline stations." NYT



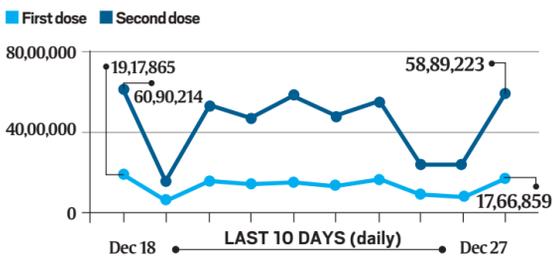
@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

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

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

INDIA TOTAL DOSES 142,46,81,736
(1st DOSE: 83,82,63,409; 2nd: 58,64,18,327)



DOSES ON DECEMBER 27 76,56,082

DEC 26 : 32,53,229 (1ST DOSE: 9,47,376; 2ND: 23,05,853)

DOSES ON DECEMBER 27, BY STATE

TOP 5	BOTTOM 5*
Uttar Pradesh 14,81,280	Punjab 52,235
Bihar 8,58,547	Chhattisgarh 82,301
Maharashtra 6,18,069	Kerala 158,016
West Bengal 5,15,223	Assam 162,898
Andhra Pradesh 4,63,379	Delhi 175,375

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

ACTIVE CASES
75,456

385
from Dec 26

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Dec 27 figures updated on Dec 28

Infection with Omicron may also protect against Delta, study in South Africa finds

AN INFECTION with the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 not just induces an immune response against this variant but also offers heightened protection against the Delta variant, a South African study has found. The research is not yet peer-reviewed and had a small sample size, of about 30 people. The researchers obtained antibodies from a group of Omicron-infected individuals two weeks after infection and assessed their ability to neutralise the Omicron and Delta variants. While the antibodies, not surprisingly, showed after two weeks a 14-fold increase in the ability to neutralise the Omicron variant, it was also found to have over four times higher neutralising capacity against Delta.

"The increase in Delta variant neutralisation in individuals infected with Omicron may result in decreased ability of Delta to re-infect those individuals," the researchers were quoted by Reuters as saying.

Scientists said this could result in Omicron replacing Delta as the most prevalent variant. This can be good news if Omicron continues to produce only milder forms of the disease as current data suggest.

US guidelines

The Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) in the United States has recommended a shorter isolation period for people infected with coronavirus but without any symptoms. In new guidelines issued on Monday evening, the CDC said such patients needed to isolate themselves for only five days, instead of the earlier mandate of ten days.

The guidelines were changed apparently to minimise the economic disruptions caused by large number of people having to isolate themselves even though the chances of them passing on the infection to others were slim.



OMICRON TRACKER

France restrictions
In Europe, France became the latest country to bring in stricter restrictions in the New Year. The new restrictions, which prohibit the assembly of more than 2,000 people indoors, and more than 5,000 outdoors, and make work from home compulsory for those who can, would kick in on January 3. France has been detecting record numbers of coronavirus cases amidst the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

Several other countries, including Germany, Portugal and Italy, had announced restrictions after Christmas.

AMITABH SINHA

Worries remain, but India and the world are better prepared

Omicron's spread recalls Delta's last year, with a similar Covid trajectory. But since then, vaccines and drugs have come up, and the variant seems milder — although stronger ones in future can't be ruled out.

NEW IN
THE NEW YEAR
2022

COVID-19

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, DECEMBER 28

AROUND THIS time last year, coronavirus cases in India were in steady decline even while most of Europe, the United States and Brazil were detecting record numbers of infections. The festival season in India had gone without any spike in cases, and even an election had been conducted, in Bihar. Normal activities were resuming and most people believed, mistakenly as it turned out later, that the worst of the pandemic was over.

One year later, the situation is eerily similar. The daily count of cases in India is at its lowest in 18 months. Five months of a continuous decline in cases after the devastating second wave has ensured a return, in most cases, to normal activities. And the general refrain, once again, seems to be that the worst is probably over for India. This, even when Europe and the US, and several other countries, are in the midst of their worst phase in the pandemic so far.

Behind those similarities, however, are key differences between the situations last year and now. Some of these, the threat from Omicron for example, point to the possibility of the events repeating themselves, while others — such as development of vaccines, and even therapeutics — are indications that 2022 could be remarkably different from 2021, for the better. The uncertainties and the experience of the pandemic until now, however, make it difficult for anyone to make predictions.

The Omicron threat

The Omicron variant has emerged at roughly the same time this year that the Delta variant, its immediate predecessor initially known as the double mutant, had been first detected last year. But unlike Delta, Omicron was identified and flagged quickly thanks to improved genetic surveillance.

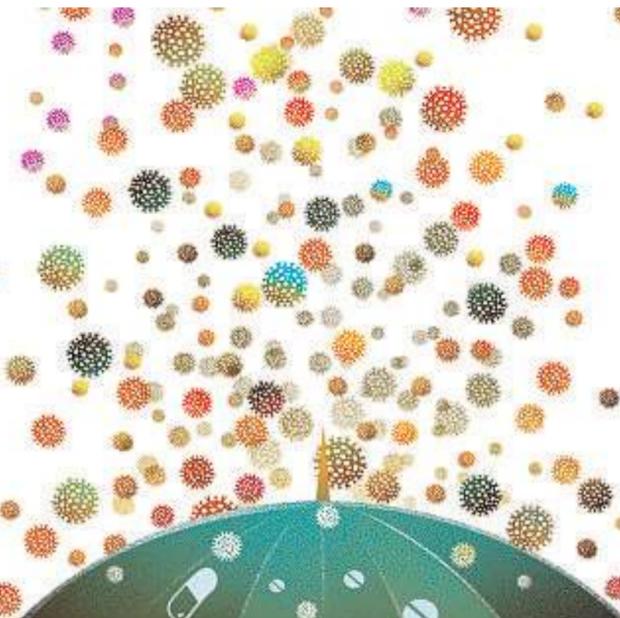
For India at least, the threat from Omicron is very different compared to that from Delta. The Delta variant had emerged in India and kept circulating in the population for over two months before being flagged. By that time, it had already infected many people, and when the surge came, with unexpected ferocity, India was caught totally unprepared.

With Omicron, India has had sufficient advance warning. And even though the actual number of Omicron infections would, in all likelihood, already be several times the 600-odd cases that have been confirmed till now, it is unlikely that this fast-spreading variant would have as free a run as Delta had.

The biggest relief is that Omicron appears to cause a milder form of disease compared to Delta. All studies so far have indicated this, and not one has produced any counter-evidence.

That does not mean India will remain unaffected by Omicron. Several states have already started to see an uptick in new cases. Omicron spreads very fast because of its ability to evade the immune response and infect even those who have had a prior infection or been fully vaccinated. If the situation currently playing out in Europe and the US is anything to go by, a big surge in cases by mid-January cannot be ruled out. Whether this would be comparable to the second wave, or even the first, is not something anyone can predict.

The hope, based on current evidence, is that it will not be as deadly as the second wave. The fairly widespread coverage of vaccines, the beginning of booster doses, and relatively early response in the form of restrictions could keep the surge at manageable levels. The most crucial factor, as usual, would be people's compliance with Covid-appropriate behaviour.



Vaccination

The impact of vaccination is now evident around the world. It is true that after it was initially argued that the vaccines would protect people against infection, which has not turned out to be the case. Even when Delta was the most dominant variant, a large number of breakthrough infections were taking place. With Omicron, this has only increased. In fact, there is hardly any difference between the vaccinated and the unvaccinated as far as infection with Omicron is concerned. Breakthrough infections happen because most current vaccines were developed on the virus strain that was prevalent in the early phase of the pandemic. The virus has undergone several mutations since, including at sites that are used by the immune system to prevent its entry into the human body. Omicron is the most mutated variant known so far, with over 50 significant mutations, including crucial ones that enhance its ability to escape the immune response.

Vaccines have made a very significant difference in reducing severe diseases and mortality, however. This was evident even at the time Delta was prevalent. As vaccinations increased, hospitalisations and death rates came down. This is holding true with Omicron as well. Countries such as the UK are currently detecting three to four times more cases compared to their previous peak, mainly infected with Omicron. The death rate has gone up only marginally, and most of the deaths are happening amongst the unvaccinated. The UK has reported about 40 deaths amongst Omicron-infected people, but it is still not clear whether Omicron was the cause of these, or just incidental.

Also, new vaccines now emerging are likely to be better and more effective, possibly providing longer periods of immunity. India has just now authorised two more vaccines, the one developed by Novavax and produced in India by Serum Institute, and the other developed by Hyderabad-based Biological E in association with the Baylor College of Medicine.

Therapeutics

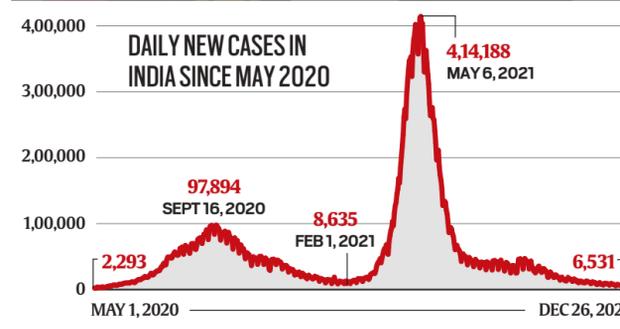
Along with the vaccines, there is the possibility of treatments for Covid-19 becoming mainstream in 2022. On Tuesday, India cleared molnupiravir, an antiviral drug manufactured by Merck and Ridgeback, for emergency use. The drug is supposed to prevent the development of severe conditions in people infected with mild or no symptoms. Several other similar candidates are also available and more are in the process of development. If these prove effective, they could potentially bring an end to the fear, and the disruptions, associated with a surge of cases.

Variants

Some scientists believe that the spread of Omicron could be the beginning of the end of the pandemic. It is an optimistic scenario no doubt, but not without any basis in science. There is no clarity about what the "end" of the pandemic means though — whether the disease would disappear completely, or whether it would keep emerging off and on but would no longer remain a threat because of the availability of effective vaccines or treatments.

In the first year of the pandemic, several variants — Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Lambda, Kappa, Lambda, Mu, and more — had developed. Different variants became dominant in different population groups. Delta was the first globally dominant variant, and till date, the most deadly in all geographies. The emergence of the next significant variant, Omicron, took one full year. The fact that Omicron, despite being much more transmissible than Delta, has turned out to be milder according to the evidence so far, is offering hope against the emergence of stronger variants in the future. But the possibility of such a thing happening can never be ruled out.

TOMORROW: STRATEGIC AFFAIRS



TWO NEW VACCINES, AN ORAL PILL AGAINST COVID-19, AND HOW THEY WORK

India has cleared the pill molnupiravir for treating Covid-19 patients, and the vaccines Corbevax and Covovax. KAUNAIN SHERIFF M looks at the science behind these, and their performance

CORBEVAX: PROTEIN SUBUNIT VACCINE

THE VACCINE: Corbevax, manufactured by Hyderabad-based Biological E, is a protein subunit vaccine, which means that instead of the whole virus, it uses fragments of it to trigger an immune response. In this case, the subunit vaccine contains a harmless S protein. Once the immune system recognises the protein, it produced antibodies to fight a real infection when it happens.

The antigenic parts of the virus have been developed by Texas Children's Hospital Centre for Vaccine Development and in-licensed from BCM (Baylor College of Medicine) Ventures. Biological E plans to begin production at 75 million doses per month, and anticipates reaching 100+ million doses per month from February.

EFFICACY: Biological E has completed Phase

III trials on more than 3,000 subjects at 33 study sites across India. It says neutralising antibody titres against Delta strain "indicates a vaccine effectiveness of >80 percent for the prevention of symptomatic infections based on published studies".

It has also conducted Phase III active comparator clinical trials to evaluate if this vaccine is superior to Covishield. "In the pivotal Phase III study conducted with an endpoint of immunogenic superiority, CORBEVAX demonstrated superior immune response in comparison with COVISHIELD vaccine when assessed for Neutralizing Antibody (nAb) Geometric Mean Titers (GMT) against the Ancestral-Wuhan strain and the globally dominant Delta variant," the company said.

MOLNUPIRAVIR: ORAL ANTIVIRAL DRUG

THE DRUG: Molnupiravir, developed in collaboration by US firms Ridgeback Biotherapeutics and Merck, initially to treat influenza, is a repurposed oral antiviral candidate to treat Covid patients. It has been cleared for the treatment of adult patients with Covid-19 "who have a high risk of progression of the disease". It works by introducing errors into the virus's genetic code, which prevents replication. Molnupiravir comes in 200 mg pills; the recommendation in India is for 800 mg twice daily for 5 days.

It will be manufactured by 13 Indian drug makers: Dr Reddy's, Natco, MSN, Hetero, Optimus, Aurobindo, Mylan, Cipla, Sun Pharma, Torrent, BDR, Stride, and Pune-

based Emcure. Sun Pharma has announced it is likely to be available in a week's time.

EFFICACY: The drug regulator of the UK cleared molnupiravir on December 4 as it has been found "safe and effective". The US (clearance on December 23) did not authorise it for use for longer than five consecutive days, or in patients younger than 18 as it may affect bone and cartilage growth.

In India, the recommendation is for treatment of adult Covid patients with oxygen level over 93%, and who have a high risk of progression of the disease, and that the drug be sold by retail only under prescription.

COVAVAX: RECOMBINANT NANOPARTICLE VACCINE

THE VACCINE: Covavax, manufactured by Serum Institute of India (SII), is also a protein subunit vaccine, but uses recombinant nanoparticle technology. It has been developed by US-based Novavax. Harmless copies of the spike protein are grown in insect cells; the protein is then extracted and assembled into virus-like nanoparticles. Novavax has used an immune-boosting compound (adjuvant). The same technology is used in HPV and the Hepatitis B vaccine.

On November 17, the Philippines FDA granted SII a licence to market the vaccine in the country. On December 20, the WHO issued Emergency Use Listing to the vaccine. **EFFICACY:** SII has said the vaccine has been evaluated in two Phase 3 trials: a trial in the UK that demonstrated an efficacy of 96.4%

against the original virus strain, 86.3% against Alpha and 89.7% efficacy overall; and the PREVENT-19 trial in the US and Mexico that demonstrated 100% protection against moderate and severe disease and 90.4% efficacy overall.

On December 2, Novavax announced that patients who got a third (6-month booster) dose of this vaccine produced "robust anti-Spike IgG responses" following a booster dose at Day 189. "Neutralization titers increased 4.3-fold overall compared to the peak response seen after the primary vaccination series," it said. The company said it would begin testing whether antibodies from previously vaccinated individuals can neutralise the Omicron variant, with lab-based data expected in the coming weeks.

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

CHINA WATCH

CHINA DAILY 中国日报



Winter sports enthusiasts enjoy themselves in Zhangshanying town in Yanqing district of Beijing. The ice and snow tourism season in the town opened on Dec 10.
ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

Final details tended to before Beijing Olympics

By SUN XIAOCHEN

With hotels booked, menus finalised and flights reserved, Beijing 2022 organisers are pushing forward meticulously with their final preparations to offer both athletes and officials a pleasant and safe experience at the Winter Olympics.

With a little over a month before the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics opening ceremony on Feb 4, organisers, supported by the country's border control, transport and health authorities, are preparing for large groups of international athletes, officials and media as early as January, with services catering to arrivals and departures, accommodation and transport at the ready.

Accredited Games participants from abroad have to travel to China via chartered or temporary flights because of the limited number of commercial flights amid the pandemic, with Beijing Capital International Airport as the only available port of entry and departure, according to the Beijing 2022 organising committee.

In addition to chartered flights arranged by delegations on their own, Games organisers and China's civil aviation regulator have permitted temporary flights, provided by 17 airlines, connecting Beijing with 15 overseas destinations, including Paris, Singapore and Tokyo, before and during the Games, organisers said on Dec 10.

All international participants have to submit negative results of nucleic acid tests twice within 96 hours before departure for Beijing, and are required to be fully



Artificial snow-making starts on Dec 12 at the ski jumping platform Shougang Big Air in Beijing's Shijingshan district. DONG YIMING / FOR CHINA DAILY

vaccinated against COVID-19, or will have to undergo a 21-day hard quarantine after arriving in Beijing. "We've been trying our utmost to arrange as many choices and make international travel plans as convenient as possible to Beijing for all the Games participants," said Zhang Liang, Beijing 2022's director of arrivals and departures. "Yet strict COVID-19 countermeasures will be followed throughout the process to ensure that safety for everyone is a top priority."

Once arriving in Beijing healthy and safe, accredited participants will have to enter a biosecure bubble, described as a "closed loop" in the official COVID-19 playbook, where they can only travel between their training, competition and work venues and their accommodation facilities via official transport services, which will be operated between Jan 21 and March 16.

Games organisers have readied 4,090 vehicles, mostly powered by electricity and hydrogen fuel, to operate in exclusive Olympic and Paralympic traffic lanes of more than 270 kilometres.

Authorities have established 16 transport hubs across three hosting areas — Beijing downtown, its northwest Yanqing district and co-host Zhangjiakou, Hebei province — to make sure that the official shuttle service runs smoothly and on schedule within the bubble.

The Olympic lanes, which cover all the main roads and expressways between the airport and Games venues, are being marked out with Beijing 2022 logos and will not be accessible to non-Olympic public and private vehicles starting two weeks before the Games.

As part of pandemic containment measures, screens will be set up between drivers and passengers

in designated vehicles, and each shuttle bus for athletes and media will be allowed to carry up to half of full capacity, Beijing 2022's transport department said.

"We are confident that the measures and policies adopted will enable official transport to run highly efficiently during the Games," said Zhao Tong'an, deputy director of the transport department.

Such measures regarding arrivals, COVID-19 containment and closed-loop transport have been tested during a series of international trial events since early October. A total of 71 inbound and 57 outbound flights carrying more than 2,000 passengers for the test events proceeded efficiently, organisers said.

To offer international participants a cosy and warm home, Beijing 2022's accommodation team has been optimising services and facilities at all three Olympic Villages across three zones and 82 designated hotels based on feedback from athletes and officials who had taken part in test events.

An official menu for athletes and officials that includes more than 600 dishes will also be revised with the addition of festival specials, such as sweet dumpling soup and fried spring rolls. It is expected to offer participants a taste of Chinese culinary delights during the Lunar New Year.

The menu, which has been approved by the International Olympic Committee, was designed to meet the different dietary needs of athletes, while also taking religious diversity into account with vegetarian, halal and kosher meals available.

Economic stability will stay in focus

Policy fine-tuning likely in energy sector to maintain production and growth. **Li Xiang** and **Zhou Lanxu** report

Economic stability will be the top priority of China's policymakers in 2022, as they are expected to adopt measures ahead of schedule to shore up growth against strong headwinds and are likely to set 5 per cent as the bottom line for GDP growth, experts said.

Policymakers will increase fiscal spending to boost domestic demand and increase infrastructure investment, and are likely to fine-tune regulatory measures in the energy sector to stabilise production and growth, they said.

China's top leadership acknowledged that the country is facing pressure from contraction of demand, supply shocks and weaker expectations, and pledged to safeguard economic stability amid rising domestic and external challenges at the tone-setting annual Central Economic Work Conference, which ended on Dec 10.

Top policymakers at the meeting decided that policies should be implemented ahead of schedule, and all regions and departments should adopt policies conducive to economic stability, said a statement issued after the meeting.

Experts said that the emphasis on economic stability signals that China will pursue a more pro-growth policy to avoid deep economic slowdown, as the world's second-largest economy is likely to face strong downward pressure in the first half of 2022 before rebounding in the second half.

Most economists agreed that setting a reasonable growth target for 2022 is important for the government to better anchor weakened market expectations. Policy support needs to be further intensified, because the economy may continue to be threatened by weaker growth of consumption and investment, disruptions of the supply chain, resurgence of the pandemic and the negative spillover effect of developed economies exiting their ultra-loose policies, they said.

Zhang Lianqi, a member of the Standing Committee of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, China's top political

advisory body, said China may set GDP growth target for 2022 at about 5.5 per cent year-on-year, with 5 per cent growth expected to be the bottom line.

"Stability will be the top focus of economic policies," Zhang said.

The key economic meeting also stressed the importance of strengthening policy co-ordination, sticking with a systemic approach and improving policy effectiveness, which were seen as signs that policymakers will work to avoid any negative effect of regulatory policies that could weigh on economic growth, experts said.

Han Wenxiu, a senior official with the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs, said the government should be cautious about unveiling policies that could trigger economic contraction. The government should also avoid adopting policies that are reasonable separately but could have negative effects as a whole, he said.

Wu Chaoming, chief economist at Chasing Securities, said the country is expected to fine-tune regulations in areas such as the property market and capital expansion in certain sectors to foster well-regulated and healthy development, instead of adopting stern regulatory measures that could trigger contractions in economic activity.

It is necessary to prevent industrial regulations from diluting macro policy support and aggravating economic downside risks, Wu said.

A more proactive fiscal policy can be expected as the government introduces additional tax and fee cuts to alleviate financial burden on smaller companies and ensure stable employment.

Public spending and the issuance of local government bonds will also be accelerated to boost infrastructure investment, said Wen Bin, chief researcher at China Minsheng Bank.

China's monetary policy will remain flexible to ensure ample liquidity, and additional reduction of banks' reserve requirement ratio and interest rate cuts remain viable options for the Chinese central bank if the economy further decelerates in the first half of the year, Wen said.

Words to the heart tore down language barrier

Editors' note: Eight young people from China and India, four from each, took part in a recent episode of a China Daily internet programme called Youth Power. One of them was Chen Anlan, a postgraduate at Tsinghua University in Beijing, who gave the following address.



Chen Anlan

Four years ago when I told anyone I had started learning Hindi there was a common reaction: "Hindi? Why on earth are you learning Hindi?" To be honest, the question stumped me. I did not know how to answer it for a long time. It took a one-week visit to India for me to eventually come up with a good answer.

It was as part of a programme in 2018 organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, during which we were scheduled to have a meeting with former foreign minister Mrs Sushma Swaraj. What she said was inspiring: "The

India-China relationship is now at its best. As far as I'm concerned, official contact between Indian and Chinese governments is not enough. There needs to be a mechanism that allows young people in both countries to meet each other and communicate freely and frequently."

That was not only a great message, but it was spoken in the most elegant Hindi I had ever heard, so even there was an interpreter I didn't listen to the interpretation but directly to the words of Mrs Swaraj. Her words in Hindi went straight to my heart, and somehow the language barrier that had stood between me and Indians came tumbling down.

During the trip I visited Indian universities. Wandering in the campus, I was surrounded by curious Indian students keen to know all kinds of things about China. Their curiosity about the country was obvious, and it confirmed Swaraj's message about a lack of communication between China and India. My ability to communicate in Hindi

and thus become a facilitator of cross-cultural communication was now clearer to me than ever, but I also sensed an increasing urgency to put this into practice.

As a matter of fact, China-India cultural communications go back to the Han Dynasty more than 2,000 years ago. The two countries established trade ties that quickly extended to cultural exchanges. For example, in the seventh century the monk Xuan Zang travelled to India and stayed there for 17 years, studying Buddhism with the masters. After returning to China he dedicated himself to translating the Buddhist scripture into Chinese, which had a huge impact on Chinese Buddhism.

The great Indian poet Tagore is another example of China-India cultural communication. He believed in the mutually beneficial relationship between the two great civilisations. His international university, Visvabharati, played a pioneering role in the development of Chinese studies in India. He himself visited China twice, in 1924 and 1928, and took upon

himself the Chinese name Zhu Zhendan. Apart from religion and literature, over the years there have been exchanges in fields such as art, philosophy and technology. One could even say that without cultural communication, the cultural development of both countries would not be as prosperous as it is today.

China and India not only share geographical boundary, but also share common cultural ground. Chinese and Indian cultures are the most ancient living cultures in the world and both being much more family-oriented than Western cultures. People in both countries tend to place domestic bliss above personal ambition. China and India are also similar in regards to education, giving high priority to elementary education and higher education. Attitudes toward teachers, education and raising children are also similar.

In short, when people say they can see similarities between China and India they are not just imagining it; it's a stark reality. The two civilisations have thrived



The fifth episode of the China Daily series Youth Power broadcast online on Oct 30 brought together eight guests, four each from India and China.
PROVIDED BY YOUTH POWER

continuously for more than 5,000 years, and today China and India are major world economies.

Though we are used to our countries largely seeing eye to eye, the relationship has soured recently following border conflict. As a Hindi learner who has been to India as well, I firmly believe that there is no reason why 2,000 years of largely peaceful coexistence cannot be succeeded by 2,000 more years of the same, but for that to become a reality people of goodwill in both countries need

to work to make the relationship flourish.

I hope that all of those here today can have a role, no matter how small or large, to play in making that happen.



Scan it to watch the Youth Power episode

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Birds rejoice as wetlands thrive again

Wildlife benefit from vastly improved environment.

Zhao Ruixue and Ma Jingna report

Deep into autumn, flocks of migratory birds arrive in quick succession to the Yellow River Delta in Dongying, Shandong province.

In late November, many birds were seen resting on ponds beside a road more than 10 kilometres from the Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve, which has been an "international airport for avian species".

At the reserve, flocks of birds flew across the sky, whooper swans glided slowly over the surface of lakes, while other birds chirped in the woods.

Zhao Yajie, who has monitored birds' conditions for the reserve's management committee for seven years, said the Yellow River Delta, one of the largest in China, has a temperate, semi-humid continental monsoon climate. It is a place for millions of birds to breed and also a winter stopover for them.

"About 6 million birds stopped over at the reserve in 2020, including rare species such as the red-crowned crane and the Saunders's Gull," Zhao said, adding that Flamingos and white pelicans were observed there for the first time in 2020.

In Gansu province, Wang Jiayang, who works for a management and protection centre station at the Yellow River First Curve National Nature Reserve in Maqu county, Gannan Tibetan autonomous prefecture, said that in November 2020 about 30,000 birds stopped over at the reserve's wetlands. It was the first time that so many birds had been seen at the venue,



An oriental stork flies to its nest on a pole at the Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve in Dongying, Shandong province. YANG BIN / FOR CHINA DAILY

on the upper reaches of the waterway.

Gou Hongshui, director of the Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve's management committee from 2019 to May 2021, said: "Birds know whether an environment is good or not. Increasing numbers of migratory species are stopping over at the reserve. Some make it their home all year — good evidence that the delta's ecological system is constantly improving."

Rising in the Bayan Har Mountains in Qinghai province, the Yellow River, China's second-longest, flows through a plateau blanketed with fine, windblown soil. Millions of tonnes of soil are carried east by the river every year, with some of it reaching the estuary, where the waterway flows into Bohai Bay in Dongying, forming a large expanse of wetlands.

In the 1980s and '90s coastal erosion, seawater encroachment and droughts caused the wetlands to shrink.

The delta's rich wetland ecosystems were also seriously threatened by rapid urbanisation, oil

and industrial waste pollution, and land reclamation, according to the reserve's management committee.

To protect the wetlands, the reserve was established in 1992. It covers about 153,000 hectares, the wetlands comprising 70 per cent of the total.

President Xi Jinping, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, inspected the Yellow River estuary, including the reserve, on Oct 20.

He checked the river's tributaries, the wetlands' environment and learned about ecological protection and high-quality development in the Yellow River Basin.

An outline for the Basin's protection and development through 2030, published in early October by the central government, calls for the protection and restoration of wetlands on the lower reaches of the delta.

Local governments have given priority to protecting of the reserve, with such efforts strengthened in the past three years. This work followed a symposium on ecological conservation and high-

quality development in the Yellow River Basin chaired by Xi in Henan province in 2019.

Gou said, "As water is crucial to maintaining the healthy ecological system in the wetlands, we have been replenishing the water there."

Water projects have made replenishment possible. For example, local governments use the Xiaolangdi Hydroelectric Power Plant on the middle reaches of the river in Henan to regulate the waterway's flow by storing floodwater to be released when needed.

Dykes have been built in the wetlands to conserve water, helping restore surface runoff and supplement groundwater supplies.

From January to November, 160 million cubic metres of water was replenished in the delta, the Department of Natural Resources in Shandong says.

Gou said the abundance of water in the wetlands has significantly contained destruction of the ecosystem caused by seawater encroachment, and has also slowed soil salinisation, Gou said.

To advance ecological conservation and high-quality development at the mouth of the river, local governments are working on building a Yellow River estuary national park, which will cover 2,152 square kilometres of marine area and 1,371 sq km of land, the officials say.

The national park will be the first in the country to boast land and marine areas.

The outline for the Yellow River Basin's protection and development through 2030 calls for further efforts to be made to restore key wetlands on the upper reaches of the Basin, such as those in Gannan.

Wang, of the management and protection centre station, said authorities have also taken steps to better protect the wetlands in Maqu, which play a crucial role in conserving water for the Yellow River.

Maqu, located in the eastern part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau at an average altitude of 3,600 metres, is where the Yellow River makes its first curve. The wetlands are dubbed the river's "water pool".

The charm of tea has no limits

By XU FAN

Li Qiang, keeper of a 120-year-old teahouse in Chengdu, Sichuan province, treats his workplace like a home.

A bustling place filled with smoky tea pots and chatty customers, Li's teahouse is a place of heartwarming tales. With various placements of tea sets, people can skip words to convey their meaning. For instance, when the lid is tilted on the saucer, it is a request for topping up the water. If the lid is kept vertically next to the tea cup, it is a shy confession that the customer has forgotten to bring his wallet and will pay the next time.

Li's teahouse is featured in the BBC documentary *One Cup, A Thousand Stories*, which premiered on Oct 15 on Chinese streaming platform Migu Video. The six-episode documentary was filmed for three years in 13 countries across six continents, giving the audience a chance to examine tea's influence on daily life in different places, as well as showing plantations and picking techniques.



A jasmine tea maker shows his grandson the right time to pick the flowers. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

As the first story in the documentary, a local expert from the De'ang ethnic group, most members of which live in Yunnan, recounts a myth. It says that 102 tea leaves magically transformed into 51 capable men and 51 beautiful women; one couple remained Earth-bound to create humankind after the other 50 pairs flew to heaven. Locals still carry on with the centuries-old technique of making *su'an cha*, a fermented sour tea, as an offering to their ancestors.

"Tea is an unsung hero," said Matthew Springford, the documentary's executive producer. "It provides calm, refreshment, community and enjoyment for billions of people across the globe. It has an influence on history and the evolution of cultures. For many people it is part of a daily ritual. We wanted to explore this rich world of tea culture and its impact on people's lives around the world."

Tea has become more popular, with consumption increasing 25 per cent in the last decade, the documentary says, and various drinking methods are enjoyed by billions of people worldwide.

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Black-necked cranes gather at Yellow River First Curve National Nature Reserve in Maqu county, Gansu province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Rediscovering their roots

By ALEXIS HOOI, WANG LINYAN and MA ZHENHUAN

As a tea farmer, Jiang Xiaomei had worked in an enviable natural setting of misty mountains with crisp, clear air.

But cultivating the local speciality was tough. The leaves she picked from her 0.4-hectare plot helped her earn about 12,000 yuan (Rs 143,000) a year.

"It was very basic then," Jiang, 49, said. "Things have improved significantly with the changes in the village. Income can be up to 40,000 yuan a year now."

For the past two years Jiang has been perfecting her skills at a workshop for traditional plant-based tie-dyeing. She also teaches the craft, which is listed as part of the local intangible cultural heritage, to urban visitors — up to 100 a day during peak travel periods.

"I've been dyeing our local fabrics since I was a child," she said. "It's good that I can help preserve and promote our heritage and make a good living from it."

Her experience reflects the impressive developments in Pingtian village of Songyang county

in Lishui, Zhejiang province, in line with a national effort to close rural-urban gaps and improve lives with the aim of common prosperity.

In August a meeting of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs, which was chaired by President Xi Jinping, outlined steps to promote common prosperity through high-quality growth, calling for a phased approach to meet the goal.

With the drive for common prosperity expected to be comprehensive and long-term, the country is set to pursue it in a gradual and progressive manner, involving suitable areas that can offer replicable practices and models.

Zhejiang has been designated a demonstration zone to forge a new path for inclusive growth. The province aims to achieve common prosperity by 2035, with its per capita gross domestic product and the income and standard of living of urban and rural residents reaching those of developed countries.

Digitalisation is set to become a major driver of growth in the province, empowering poverty reduction, public services and



An "interaction hub" in Pingtian village encourages residents and visitors to mingle. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

grassroots governance towards economic efficiency and social progress.

In Songyang county, rural vitalisation measures include major projects that have won accolades for protecting the environment and the traditions of its villages, at the same time providing novel ways for residents to help build and retain their economic, social and cultural bonds. To that end, its tourism sector includes arts and crafts workshops like those employing Jiang, as well as accommodation, food and travel options that highlight the county's pristine setting and history.

The village of Pingtian in northeast Songyang has more than

300 residents and 20 households. Its structures date back 900 years to imperial times. The village's rural heritage and cultural attractions helped it become a major scenic spot in 2018, with tourism offerings now including at least five farmstay facilities and 145 beds.

Ye Dabao, 33, a Songyang native, was drawn to Pingtian seven years ago and decided to take a personal stake in its development. She left her city retail job to invest in the village hospitality sector.

Her investments soon grew to cover cultural tourism, ethnic arts, foods, beverages and green agriculture products, leading to the establishment of her Pingtian

Cloud Village brand. Like many young business people who return to their community, she taps the latest e-commerce trends and other digital and innovative business practices.

Her brand, which started with an investment of 10 million yuan in 2014, has been making healthy returns, reaping about 5 million yuan in 2020, she said.

Luo Deyin, a professor of architecture at Tsinghua University in Beijing, led a team of design luminaries to help turn Pingtian village homes and structures into green attractions, many managed and operated by Ye and other business people.

The sustainable development project has been a step-by-step community effort, with crucial contributions and feedback from its urban and rural participants and stakeholders, Luo said.

An "interaction hub" has been identified in the central part of the village, where visitors and villagers can meet and communicate on a slope surrounded by homes, tourist lodgings and amenities.

This epitomises the organic development behind the project's success, said Luo, who is also deputy head of a Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development panel of experts on traditional villages.

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

CHINA WATCH

CHINA DAILY 中国日报

How trade door opened ever wider

A glance at imported products on the shelves of an average-size supermarket in Beijing invariably shows that shoppers have plenty of options.

From food and beverages such as fruit, meat, baby formula and wine, to other daily necessities, including clothing, products from around the world have become commonplace for countless Chinese shoppers.

Online, they are even more readily available.

The variety of global goods flooding into China is not only testimony to the country's burgeoning domestic market, but also shows, in particular, how deeply the country has become interwoven with worldwide trade.

Gao Feng, spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce, said at an online media briefing on Dec 9: "China will unwaveringly further high-level opening-up to share market opportunities with the rest of the world."

The country would continue to reduce items on the negative list for foreign investment, and strengthen services and protection for foreign enterprises and related projects, Gao said.

With a constantly improving business environment governed by law that is up to international standards and market oriented, China hopes foreign investors will benefit from the country's growth dividends, he added.

Since joining the World Trade Organization in 2001 China has greatly increased its exports.

Analysts said the country provides global consumers with quality and inexpensive goods. At the same time, it is continuing to expand and open up its domestic market to fuel growth in imports and provide more business opportunities for foreign companies with or without a presence in China.

With China's promise to continue reforms and opening-up, it will continue to make a great contribution to global economic growth, they said, especially

as industrial and supply chains worldwide are experiencing difficulties because of the pandemic.

Tu Xinquan, dean of the China Institute for WTO Studies at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, said: "China has benefited from its accession to the WTO, but more important, by joining the multilateral trading system, it has enhanced the operational efficiency of the world economy and improved the use of global resources, making a huge contribution to international economic growth."

China's accession to the WTO enabled the country to incorporate its own resources, including labour, land and natural assets, in the global economy at a much deeper level and

on a much larger scale, accelerating the country's economic growth, Tu said. Thanks to China's joining the WTO, developed economies could reallocate and match their capital resources with labour and China's other resources to reduce product costs and enhance productivity, he said.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the WTO, said China has positioned itself at the core of numerous global value chains. These production and trade networks have not only provided a lifeline for many countries during the pandemic, they have also increased the quantity, quality and variety of goods available worldwide, she added.

Okonjo-Iweala made the remarks via video link during a high-

level session marking the 20th anniversary of China's accession to the WTO, held on the sidelines of the fourth China International Import Expo and Hongqiao International Economic Forum in Shanghai in November.

China officially joined the WTO on Dec 11, 2001, becoming the 143rd member of the trade body.

Over the past 20 years China has endeavoured to align itself with WTO rules, abide by them and open its market.

It cut its overall tariff rate from 15.3 per cent to 7.4 per cent during this period; its accession commitment was 9.8 per cent. The current tariff level is lower than those of all developing members of the WTO and close to those of developed members

of the organisation, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

China, the world's sixth-largest economy when it joined the WTO, has risen to become the second-largest. It is also a major trade partner for more than 120 countries and regions, with total trade in goods soaring to \$4.65 trillion (Rs 354.6 billion) in 2020, up from \$509.8 billion in 2001, official customs data show.

The country has opened some 120 subsectors in the services industry, compared with its accession promise to open 100, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Yi Xiaozhun, the WTO's former deputy director-general, praised China's contribution to the global economy by expanding imports.

Over the past 20 years, China has risen from sixth place in the world to first for its trade in goods, and from 11th place to second for its trade in services. It has also become the world's largest exporter and second-largest importer.

Yi, who is also a former vice-minister of commerce in China, said: "Imports of merchandise to China leaped to \$2.06 trillion in 2020, up from \$244 billion in 2001. This is a significant contribution to the world economy, and one that is too often overlooked."

"China is one of the very few major developing countries that has committed to granting duty-free treatment for up to 97 per cent of products made by least developed countries."

Li Xingqian, director-general of the Department of Foreign Trade at China's Ministry of Commerce, said: "China was the world's second-largest importer for 12 successive years. China accounted for 11.5 per cent of global imports in 2020, and the figure rose to 12 per cent during the first half of 2021."

"During the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), China will further emphasise expanding imports to benefit our trading partners, and also share development opportunities with the rest of the world."

Analysts said China has resolutely expanded all-around opening-up and explored more efficient ways to connect domestic and foreign markets, and share production and resources.

Allan Gabor, president of Merck China and managing director of Merck Electronics China, said foreign businesses have profited greatly from the China's economic rise, and about 98 per cent of the top 500 companies in the world have invested in the country.

"China is a strategic market for us, both in terms of its size and growth. Merck has been growing at double-digit rates in China for a couple of years now," Gabor said.

"I think people everywhere on Earth benefited after China opened up and joined the WTO."



Global consumers have benefited and domestic market has fuelled imports growth over 20 years of WTO membership. **Liu Zhihua** reports

ARTWORK BY LU JING / CHINA DAILY

New, digital heart for healthcare industry

By ZHENG YIRAN

Digitalisation will penetrate China's healthcare industry, from inside to outside hospitals, from treatment to prevention and from top levels to the grassroots, a recent report said.

The report, by EqualOcean Intelligence, a think tank in Beijing, said that subcategories of digital healthcare, including electronic medical records, e-commerce pharmacies, health insurance and digital healthcare marketing, have reached a mature stage.

Other subcategories are still at an exploratory stage, yet have great development potential, it said.

In 2020 there were 69 significant investment deals in digital healthcare in China, 25.4 per cent more than the year before, the report said. From January to August there were 47 such investment deals.

"COVID-19 has accelerated the digitalisation of China's healthcare industry," said Gao Xuezheng, research director at EqualOcean Intelligence. "With the pandemic, telemedicine, online doctor-patient communication and online visits have become the best solutions. Both patient and doctor acceptance of visits and drug purchasing online increased, which promoted the industry's investment in digitalisation."

In 2019 digitalisation-related expenses accounted for about 23 per cent of China's total hospital costs, EqualOcean Intelligence said.



Employees from Tinavi Medical Technologies Co in Beijing discuss the company's intelligent robotic arm for orthopedic surgeries. REN CHAO / XINHUA

By March 2020 the ratio had risen to 40 per cent.

Researchers also are increasingly paying attention to digital healthcare. Popular topics include internet hospitals that provide remote consultations, electronic medical records, 3D printing, wearable devices and genetic big data.

Many internet-based platforms are eagerly developing digital healthcare.

Ping An Healthcare and Technology Co Ltd, an online medical and health service platform in China, said that its revenue in the first half of 2021 rose to 3.8 billion yuan (Rs 45.7 billion), 39 per cent more than in the first half of 2020. It had 400 million registered users, nearly 55 million more than a year earlier.

The platform, which uses artificial intelligence, offers online healthcare to consumers. Apart from online diagnoses, digital technologies help the company to streamline business functions by reducing the need for human repetitive tasks, raising doctors' efficiency and reducing costs.

While public hospitals, private medical institutions and pharmaceutical companies are all eyeing digital healthcare, their objectives differ from one another.

Electronic medical records and hospital interconnections are the

main emphasis for China's public, 3A-grade hospitals, which are the largest, highest-level facilities, EqualOcean Intelligence said.

By 2020, 172 hospitals in China had passed an assessment of electronic medical records, which evaluates the degree to which records are digitised. Among them, 145 were public 3A-grade hospitals, representing 84.3 per cent. Between 2016 and 2020 the number of hospitals that had achieved interconnection with other hospitals had risen from nine to 148, the National Health Commission said.

The medical aesthetics sector in particular, including plastic surgery, categorises clients into different groups so that precise marketing strategies can be used to "bring more income to institutions", said Gao, the research director.

China's digital healthcare industry is in a growth stage, said Meng Lilian, chief expert at the Sichuan Tianfu Health Industry Research Institute.

To promote high-quality development of the industry, "both top-level design and concrete efforts are needed", Meng said.

"In addition, effective collaboration is needed among governmental supervision, the supply of digital healthcare products and the response from digital healthcare consumers."

Battery recycling draws fresh energy

By CHENG YU

A group of Chinese companies has announced plans to build or expand facilities for battery recycling, as China, the world's largest new energy vehicle market, ramps up battery recycling capacity.

Battery maker Contemporary Amperex Technology Co Ltd said it will build a battery material recycling factory in Hubei province at a cost of up to 32 billion yuan (Rs 383.7 billion), with businesses covering electrical vehicle battery recycling.

Also, the Chinese battery materials maker Huayou Cobalt signed an agreement with the battery maker Farasis Energy to tap into various areas, including spent battery recycling.

According to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, nearly 3 million new energy vehicles were sold in China during the first 11 months of 2021.

Tianyancha, a market information provider, said that by the end of November more than 27,000 Chinese companies were engaged in electric vehicle batteries. There were more than 20,000 newly registered companies in 2020, accounting for 78.4 per cent of the total.

"Eyeing the booming sales of new-energy vehicles and the peak of retired batteries afterwards, more companies are putting an effort into battery recycling, which will help them reduce costs and strengthen competitiveness over the long term," said Roy Lu Yan, head of industrial research for the battery company Gotion High-Tech.

There were about 200,000 metric tonnes of decommissioned power batteries in China by the end of 2020, the China Automotive Technology and Research Centre said. The batteries can usually be used for about six to eight years.

By 2025 battery replacement will reach a peak, with 780,000 tonnes

200,000
metric tonnes

decommissioned power batteries in China by the end of 2020

of old power batteries expected to be replaced by then, the centre says.

A total of 171 companies had established more than 10,000 new-energy vehicle battery recycling service stations in 31 regions in China by the end of October, said You Yong, deputy head of the energy conservation and comprehensive utilisation department of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

"Recycling system for new-energy vehicles batteries has been initially established in China. The country will also explore a new business model that integrates the internet with recycling and encourages upstream and downstream companies in the industrial chain to jointly build common recycling channels."

The country has adopted policies to encourage new-energy vehicle makers to set up recycling service networks by themselves or with others.

The National Development and Reform Commission adopted a plan

in 2021 to step up the building of a traceability management system for new-energy vehicle batteries and highlighted the role of echelon utilisation of power batteries.

Echelon utilisation the remaining power of discarded batteries is used in other areas, a move to make the most of the batteries' residual power and protect the environment.

Liu Wenping, an analyst with China Merchants Securities, said that echelon utilisation is an effective way for companies to manage old batteries.

"As most of the power batteries in China are lithium-iron ones and do not contain high-value metals such as cobalt and nickel, echelon utilisation is a feasible solution."

Wang Binggang, honorary consultant of the China Society of Automotive Engineering and an academician of the International Eurasian Academy of Sciences, said: "China's electric vehicle industry has entered a new stage of rapid growth with the battery industry initially taking shape. It is strategically important for the country to have stable battery resources and a sound battery recycle system."

"Such a move also has significance, as the country is committed to its carbon emissions reaching a peak by 2030 and carbon neutrality being achieved by 2060."



Employees arrange spent batteries at a battery recycling plant in Weinan, Shaanxi province, in August. JUAN JINGZHI / FOR CHINA DAILY

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Restorers bound to past on every page

Ancient books preserved as digitisation efforts produce results. **Wang Kaihao** reports

For a decade Xie Jincheng has been immersed in his duties at the National Library of China in Beijing. Asked how old he was, the 37-year-old had to pause for a few seconds to remember.

Each working day, he sits at a desk and focuses on handling ragged yet priceless pieces of paper in front of him. As one of 17 restorers of ancient books in the library, he shakes off centuries of old dust to renew the works he deals with.

Xie does not require a large space to utilise his skills. Using glue, scissors, tweezers, brushes and several other simple implements, he deftly restores the pages in front of him.

"I can basically handle most situations when fixing books, but you always have to be prepared for new problems," he said.

It is estimated that the library holds more than 3 million ancient Chinese books. The world's biggest collection of its kind, it comprises about 10 per cent of such books in the country. In China the term ancient books is used to refer to works predating 1911, the end of the Chinese monarchy.

Xie, who studied chemistry at college, switched to cultural relics conservation at graduate school, realising that there was a shortage of restorers of ancient books in China. Despite his multidisciplinary educational background, he thought that practising a traditional craft was the best way to improve his skills.

It took him more than two years of observing his tutors and honing his talent before he was formally assigned to restore his first page.

Everyone working in this industry has to learn a saying from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) book *Zhuanghuangzhi*: "Restoration (of books) is like seeing a doctor. If the doctor is good, your illness will disappear immediately following treatment. But if not, you may die taking the medicine. So if you cannot see a good artisan you'd better keep your item as it is."

Xie's given name can be compared to the approach he adopts to his work, as *jincheng* means to be cautious and sincere.

To ensure quality he only restores a few pages a day, and if the damage is severe it sometimes takes him several days to fix a single page. It takes much longer to search for the right paper to restore books, based on their original material.

"Sometimes it's impossible to get identical paper, so we need to process this ourselves," Xie said.

Precious herbal medicines and black tea leaves are placed on the workshop floor, providing a beneficial aroma. Dyed in yellow, the paper not only takes on its former appearance, but pesky insects are kept at bay by the aroma.

"The additions I make are usually thinner and lighter in colour than the original pages, enabling my restoration work to be easily recognised," Xie said.

He often finds earlier signs of restoration, and although his predecessors may have made some mistakes, the patches they placed on pages were often kept to retain historical information.

Xie feels he is much more fortunate than restorers in ancient times. A long-term exhibition of key books restored in recent years opened in the library in 2020. Some of the titles he worked on are on display, with his name highlighted on tags.

However, most of the time Xie and his colleagues work quietly behind the scenes. Patience is required, especially as Xie is now in charge of restoring a series of documents in Tangut, an extinct language from western China that dates back 800 years.

Unlike his colleagues who sometimes read ancient books to relax during work, Xie does not understand the works he is restoring.

"This job is OK, but who wouldn't get bored after doing the same work for years?" he said.

"But this is what I'm good at. I can hardly recall anyone on our team leaving their job at this library. Once you take up this work it can mean a job for life."

Du Weisheng, 69, is testimony to such devotion, having worked as an ancient book restorer in the library since 1974.

"It's great to see younger people

joining our team and choosing to stay," Du said. "They have good educational backgrounds, a range of expertise, and thus bring a more scientific approach to restoration."

Zhang Zhiqing, deputy director of the library, said there were fewer than 100 full-time restorers of ancient books in China in 2007. To change this situation, the National Centre for Preservation and Conservation of Ancient Books was established that year, followed by a series of nationwide projects to better care for ancient pages.

"When discussing ancient books, scholars used to mainly focus on their documentation value," said Zhang, also deputy director of the national centre. "But many people do not realise that books are precious cultural relics as well, like bronzeware or porcelain. Ancient books record our lineage of civilisation, and their value is sometimes incomparable to other cultural relics."

Zhang said there are now more than 1,000 professional restorers in China, and about 3.7 million pages of ancient books have been renewed since 2007. More than 10,000 conservators have been trained for about 2,000 venues housing ancient book collections nationwide.

The National Library of China is home to some of the country's best-known literary treasures.

For example, 16,000 Dunhuang manuscripts dating to the Tang Dynasty (618-907), which were found in one of the Mogao Caves in Gansu province in 1900, are crucial witnesses to frequent cultural communication along the ancient Silk Road. And *Yongle Dadian*, which was edited following an edict from a Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) emperor in the early 15th century, was the world's largest paper-based general encyclopedia.

The work of about 300 library employees now involves ancient books, Zhang said.

"These employees are not only conservators. Collaboration between the publishing, academic studies and digitisation departments has taken ancient books to a new era."

No matter how careful the librarians are, these books are still too fragile to be widely read by the public. No titles can be taken home by readers, according to library policy, but fast-growing digitisation provides an alternative.



From top: Xie Jincheng works on a document in Tangut, an extinct language from western China that dates back 800 years; An ancient book is restored at the National Library of China in Beijing. PHOTOS BY ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY A Dunhuang manuscript is one of many being restored at the library. WANG KAIHAO / CHINA DAILY

In 2016 a national-level database for ancient Chinese books went online for public use. Thanks to the National Centre for Preservation and Conservation of Ancient Books, the online platform has expanded to 17 branch databases, based on different categories and including more than 100,000 ancient books nationwide.

The database also includes ancient Chinese books held in overseas institutions such as Harvard-Yenching Library in the United States and the National Library of France.

"The public no longer has difficulty finding these ancient books, which can be accessed at any time," Zhang said.

China's oldest Buddha images found

By **WANG KAIHAO**

What are thought to be China's oldest known bronze Buddha images have been discovered in Shaanxi province.

The two sculptures were unearthed in 2021 in a tomb from the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220) in the city of Xianyang, the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology announced.

Li Ming, the leading archaeologist on the site, said one of the relics, a standing statuette of the Gautama Buddha on a lotus-shaped foundation, is about 10-centimetres-tall. The other piece, which is flat, is about 15-cm-tall and depicts five sitting Buddhist deities.

"The discovery of the two relics is significant for studies of how Buddhism was introduced to China and got localised in our country," Li said.

Historical documents show Buddhism was first introduced to China in the first century AD. The oldest known Buddhist temple was built in AD 68 in Luoyang, Henan province, which was then the capital of the Eastern Han Dynasty.

Li said that previous archaeological findings in China indicated that standalone Buddha images with a religious purpose only appeared during the period of the Sixteen Kingdoms (304-439).

Consequently, the new findings may increase the history of Chinese Buddha images by two more centuries, he said.

The tomb in which the two Buddha images were recently found is one of six in a family plot. Though the specific time when the two relics were made is unclear, a pottery jar from a nearby and contemporaneous tomb in the complex has a clear marking of the year it was made, AD 158.

"This could be a benchmark for dating this graveyard," Li said. "Its owner should be a family of local officials or landlords with strong economic power."

In South China, Buddhist elements also appeared on relics during the Eastern Han Dynasty, but they were found to be used as decorations in architecture and other artefacts.

The newly found Buddha images feature typical styles of Gandhara Culture of South Asia, but material analysis indicated that these were made locally.

"They showed that Buddhism came to China from South Asia via the ancient Silk Road during the boom time of the cultural exchange route," said Liu Qingzhu, a senior archaeology researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Known as Chang'an, Xi'an was the capital of the Western Han (206 BC-AD 24) and Tang (618-907) dynasties, two peaks of culture and national strength in ancient China, and it remained a key metropolis in ancient China.

Consequently, numerous nobles' and high officials' tombs were excavated in Xianyang, which was on the outskirts of ancient Chang'an.



An archaeologist displays the standing statuette of the Gautama Buddha discovered in Xianyang, Shaanxi province. LI YIBO / XINHUA

Art and culture that is right up everybody's alley



From top: Niu Ruixue (fifth from left, front row) and the rest of the team from Chaoyangmen Cultural Centre in Beijing; The centre's experimental public art project *When I ... Just Like You* seeks to build a platform that brings young people and senior residents together. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

By **CHENG YUEZHU**

The oasis in central Beijing's Dongcheng district provides shelter from the hustle and bustle of the capital. Its name offers no clue to its traditional appeal but 27 Yard is actually a Beijing-style courtyard, with grey tile roofs, crimson doors, a tree that has witnessed passing generations taking shade, and cats lying lazily nearby soaking up what sunlight there is.

The courtyard has a vibrancy, a pulse of its own, with a variety of events taking place on a daily basis in its 10 main spaces that host a shop, a gallery, a reading area and a multimedia hall. Since 2016 it has been offering refreshing experiences to both nearby residents and visitors attracted by its reputation, from hobby groups and workshops to exhibitions and performances.

Niu Ruixue, founder of 27 Yard, also known as the Chaoyangmen Cultural Centre, completed her master's degree in drama directing in France, and was interested in public art projects. She and a friend, Yu Ge, hosted an art festival in 2013 and more than 60 art projects in Beijing *hutong* throughout the following year. Their experience in public art drew the attention of the Chaoyangmen subdistrict office of Dongcheng district people's government, which invited them to

work for the local community.

The cultural centre was opened to the public on Sept 10, 2016, and was soon named as the Chaoyangmen subvenue for that year's Beijing Design Week. But strangely, after a bustling first two months, the courtyard was shrouded in silence and locals hardly ever stepped inside. There was what modern market analysts would describe as a disconnect. Put simply, what was on offer did not appeal to the core audience.

The Chaoyangmen subdistrict office proposed two initiatives — the team should aim to upgrade the local public culture, and improve the sense of well-being for local residents, 60 per cent of whom are senior citizens, including advocating for young people to return to the community.

The centre then started to provide cultural activities that would cater to the interests of the locals, and answer the practical needs of the residents living in a *hutong*.

Apart from offering venues to the community's existing hobby groups, the centre also hosts innovative activities attended by both young and old people, such as retro dance parties, natural dyeing and coffee art workshops.

In 2018 the centre hosted the first edition of *When I ... Just Like You*, a project that sought to build a

platform that brings young people and senior residents together.

The project gathered a dozen senior residents aged up to 85 and a dozen young people, the youngest being 24, from all walks of life, and paired them with one another. The young people were assigned to take the elderly on a "date", that is any activity they found interesting, and the old people were told to bring to their young friends attire they wore at a younger age.

"For most people, the natural process of aging does not seem to require textbook explanations, but the indiscernible changes in our lives sometimes can be amplified and overwhelm us, and we are often flustered when dealing with issues caused by aging," a young participant wrote as she reflected on her experience.

Rui Li, an elderly local resident, has taken part in the community cultural activities, being a member of the community dance team, and took part in the *When I ... Just Like You* project. She said that she is very proud to be a resident here.

"Many of the activities they organised were not only interesting, but also brought us inspiration, knowledge and thoughts. We especially liked the art project *When I ... Just Like You*. It made me feel that I was young again and was able to relive my life."

The pandemic year locked them in quarantines but athletes around the world found resilience to call time on people-pleasing and discovered their moral voice to say NO. Gymnast Simone Biles, tennis star Naomi Osaka and Virat Kohli spoke their minds and defied convention. The year also saw athletes discover the full potential of social media - not just the big names but even the hitherto unknowns from small towns became stars in their own right. There were also some breakthrough performances that will stand the test of time. The hockey captain who reawakened a country's nostalgic pride, a Mumbai-born New Zealand cricketer returned to his roots to create history, a badminton star who finally learnt how to marry art with commerce, and the man who launched his gold-plated javelin to quench a nation's thirst.

"At the end of the day, we're human, too."

The GOAT of gymnastics. The 4'8 American with the tallest stature of them all. The question following Simone Biles into the Tokyo Olympics was if she would equal her haul of four gold medals in Rio, or would she top it?

She ended up achieving something bigger: making mental health the subject of conversations in sports and beyond.

The first reminder that Biles was human came during the warmups for the team final, where she ended up doing 1.5 twists instead of the expected 2.5, barely staying upright. The mishap repeated itself in the competition, where she finished a twist short, with a large lunge and near-fall on the landing.

Fellow competitors quickly realised a case of 'the twisties' — gymnastics speak for an athlete's loss of orientation and spatial awareness in the air which could result in missed landings. In other sports, missing by inches and centimetres means disqualifications or fouls. In Biles' case, it could mean a broken neck.

The 24-year-old thus sat out the team event, and the all-around, floor exercise, vault and uneven bars in subsequent days. USA gymnastics called it a medical issue before Biles elaborated.

"I put my mental health first because if you don't, you're not going to enjoy your sport and you're not going to succeed as much as you want to," Biles told reporters. "It's okay sometimes to even sit out big competitions to focus on yourself because it shows how strong of a competitor and person you really are."

The Games' postponement had meant putting her body through the wringer for another year. Add to that the emotional trauma of having been sexually abused by a team doctor, and reliving it in hearings and testimonies. She was also the face of the Olympics, with that dazzling smile concealing the "weight of the world on my shoulders".

"I just physically and mentally was not in the right headspace and I didn't want to jeopardise my health and my safety, because at the end of the day it's not worth it," she said after returning to action and winning the team silver and balance beam bronze.

Name-calling and criticism followed — 'what about the Olympic spirit, the champion mentality?' — but was promptly drowned by support. Biles had redefined the Olympic spirit and champion mentality: 'It's ok, to not be ok'.

"When I lose, I feel very sad. I didn't really want to cry."

After her campaign, Biles cited a fellow 24-year-old champ as the source of her courage.

"Naomi Osaka's been a huge inspiration," Biles spoke at the Games. "A couple of days ago I watched her whole docu-series on Netflix and it really shined a light on (mental health)."

It was the year that Osaka prioritised her mental health, taking on 'Big Tennis' in the process. After her announcement that she



Athletes arise, awake

Racism, mental health, LGBTQ+ rights... GAURAV BHATT recounts the year when super-athletes burned their super-athlete robes and made their words count, took on societal and political issues, reflecting their growing empowerment

would not speak to the press at the French Open to not "subject myself to people that doubt me", the tournament organisers pushed back with a hefty fine and "possible future consequences". Osaka withdrew, and took a leave of absence from the sport.

"I wanted to skip press conferences at Roland Garros to exercise self-care and preservation of my mental health. I stand by that," Osaka wrote in a *Time* magazine essay. "Athletes are humans. Tennis is our privileged profession, and of course there are commitments off the court that coincide. But I can't imagine another profession where a consistent attendance record (I have missed one in seven years on tour) would be so harshly scrutinised."

The scrutiny wasn't dissimilar to the 'stick to sports' calls from last year, when Osaka — a Black, Asian woman — lent her support to the Black Lives Matter movement, wearing masks highlighting victims of racial injustice and police brutality en route to her US Open title.

Osaka made a comeback at her home

Olympics, with the spotlight brighter than ever. She cited the mental toll of the profession as the reason for her third-round exit in Tokyo. And after a third-round exit from the US Open, she broke down.

"I think I'm going to take a break from playing for a while," Osaka said at a tearful post-match press conference. "I feel like I'm kind of at this point where I'm trying to figure out what I want to do, and I honestly don't know when I'm going to play my next tennis match. Sorry."

The anxiety and depression, coupled with endless waves of criticism and social media hostility, may have forced her to be vulnerable and apologetic, but Osaka was brave in recounting her struggles. Cricketer Ben Stokes, Aston Villa centre-back Tyrone Mings among several others left for the sake of their mental wellbeing. And Osaka reiterated the mantra in *Time* magazine: "It's ok to not be ok, and it's ok to talk about it."

"Do I feel comfortable here? I wouldn't say I do."

"Let's all make sure Naomi knows she's not alone," Lewis Hamilton, the seven-time Formula 1 world champion, had tweeted in support of the tennis star. "Mental health is not a joke, this is real and serious. This takes a lot of courage to do."

The 36-year-old continued to lead by example, using his platform to take a stand and wearing his heart on his helmet. The last three races of the season were staged in Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates: countries where same-sex relationships are punishable offences. So Hamilton donned a rainbow-coloured 'Progress Pride' helmet in support of the LGBTQ+ community.

"Do I feel comfortable here? I wouldn't say I do," Hamilton told reporters in Jeddah, earlier this month. "But this was not my choice."

Our sport has chosen to be here and whether it's fair or not, I think that, while we're here, it's still important to do some work on raising awareness... If anyone wants to take time to read what the law is for the LGBTQ+ community, it is pretty terrifying. There are changes that need to be made."

"Women need to be respected and not censored."

In November, tennis player Peng Shuai—a two-time doubles Grand Slam winner — had posted on social media that she had been sexually assaulted by former Chinese vice premier Zhang Gaoli. After that, the player disappeared, leaving the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) and colleagues on the tour fearing for her safety.

It was then that WTA took an unprecedented stand against a sporting powerhouse, willing to relocate 10 tournaments including the year-end finals and jeopardise a 10-year deal estimated to be worth close to \$1 billion. "We are at a crossroads with our relation-

ship with China and operating our business over there," WTA chief executive Steve Simon told CNN. "We're definitely willing to pull our business and deal with all the complications that come with it because this is certainly, this is bigger than the business. Women need to be respected and not censored."

Then earlier this month, WTA decided to withdraw from all activities in China, becoming the first sporting body to take the step in the East Asian country. Shuai has since reemerged, and in an interview claimed that "there's been a lot of misunderstanding" and "I've always been very free".

WTA, however, has refused to budge, unlike other leagues like NBA and EPL when their players have irked China. "We remain steadfast in our call for a full, fair and transparent investigation, without censorship, into her allegation of sexual assault, which is the issue that gave rise to our initial concern," the body said in a statement.

"...bunch of spineless people on social media with no courage."

It was in 2020 that Azeem Rafiq, an Englishman of Pakistani origin, spoke up about the racism, harassment and bullying he faced during his time playing for Yorkshire. Reckoning came for the County club this season, as Rafiq detailed the discrimination in an emotional testimony to the UK Parliament, naming former England cricketers Gary Ballance, Alex Hales, Tim Bresnan and Michael Vaughan.

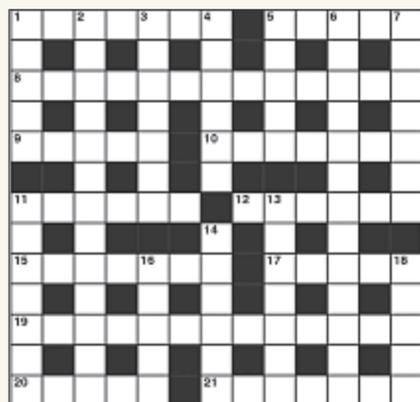
Closer home, the year began with Indian pacers Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah receiving racist abuse from the stands during the Test match at Sydney Cricket Ground. India made a formal complaint on day three, and the next day Siraj took a stand and alerted the umpires to the abuse. Stand-in India captain Ajinkya Rahane said that it was "not acceptable at all" and "it should not happen anywhere in the world."

But when bigotry reared its ugly head again, the last word was delivered by Indian captains. After Mohammad Shami suffered communal abuse following India's 10-wicket defeat to Pakistan, Virat Kohli took a stand for his teammate.

"There's a good reason why we are playing on the field and not some bunch of spineless people on social media that have no courage to actually speak to any individual in person. They hide behind their identities and go after people through social media, making fun of people and that has become a social entertainment in today's world, which is so unfortunate and so sad to see," Kohli said.

And when hockey player Vandana Kataria was subjected to casteist remarks after the Indian team's semifinal exit in Tokyo, Rani Rampal lambasted the "shameful act": "I just want to tell people to rise above casteism. Our religions are different, we come from different parts of the country but when we play, we play for the Indian flag."

CROSSWORD 4624



- ACROSS**
- Unusually verbose remark (7)
 - Took speedy steps against opposition (5)
 - Inventor's fate is to produce one thing after another (5,2,6)
 - Exercise for a bit (5)
 - Drawing level some time before nightfall (7)
 - Complete exposure of French artist's model (6)
 - Urges some simple modification (6)
 - Show respect for an old lady but insult a young one (5,2)
 - A feeling of guilt has upset me (5)
 - A word of questionable value (13)
 - Blush like an unfortunate matador (5)
 - They should be allowed to be themselves we're told (7)
- DOWN**
- Chosen from the depot (5)
 - Changing to steam trains? He should know (13)
 - Was the first to go after a row became embittered (7)
 - Feel free if inside tower (6)
 - Verbal criticism of the show (5)
 - Reason for making repairs to roads in Nice (13)
 - Some medicine appears to act on wise men (7)
 - Smart-looking and in a hurry (7)
 - Compelled to turn a nag wild on the prairie (7)
 - Self-possession of a pal going round with an unruly mob (6)
 - Challenged father about being put inside (5)
 - Seven different levels (5)

Solutions Crossword 4623: Across: 1 Mimic, 8 Huntsman, 9 Wells, 10 Hearties, 11 Plane, 12 Duo, 16 Esther, 17 Wilds, 18 Yen, 23 Ellen, 24 Reckless, 25 Toxin, 26 Stubbom, 27 Roles. Down: 2 Idealist, 3 Iolanthe, 4 Bureau, 5 Story, 6 Ambit, 7 Anise, 12 Dry, 13 Own, 14 Well-to-do, 15 Adhesive, 19 Ensure, 20 Press, 21 Scout, 22 Clubs.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The fact that Venus has been sending powerful signals to your sign has been responsible for helping you avoid some of the worst consequences of recent events. Your own efforts deserve praise as well. You might have to wait for other people to see it the same way, though.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Business affairs are requiring more attention, not least because of the efforts that partners and associates will soon be making to interest you in a new scheme designed to double your profits. It seems clear that you will soon be able to come up with the goods at work.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Professional events have definitely taken an upturn, and even domestic chores should be much less bother than in recent months. Capitalise on helpful planetary influences and make the most of your advantages, chiefly being an upsurge in your creative powers.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Throughout the ups and downs of recent weeks, one thing has remained constant, and this is that behind current developments lies a drift towards a life that can be more fulfilling, and which will give you greater scope to express your real talents.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

The fact that Mercury is today sending a series of important signals will bring relief from recent disagreements and dilemmas. Over the next two weeks, go all out to put agreements on to a firm footing, but first you may have to revise certain details.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Very soon your thoughts will be turning to those parts of your life which are fundamental to your existence. You know that there are improvements waiting to be implemented, and that only you can take the right initiatives. And don't spend too much while you're about it.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You're entering a period which will be more intellectually inquisitive. In other words you'll be reading more, writing letters, sharing ideas and even contemplating signing up for a course. In love, you'll be pursuing personal goals close to home.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Now that certain worldly difficulties have been safely dealt with, you should be able to see that the most trying circumstances in the short term, are often those from which you gain the most in the long term. Oh, and by the way, you'll be doing well in conferences, meetings and interviews provided you stick close to the facts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

In general, events should start to move in your direction, although you must be both flexible and decisive. You must stick to your guns but take other people's wishes into account, never an easy task, I know. Do yourself a favour and put more energy into social arrangements.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You're very sensitive to the needs of others, too sensitive some would say, and over the next month or so you'll be more influenced than is good for you by partners' grumbles and complaints. But then I have a feeling you'll turn every situation to the good.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

There's no doubt that you're entering a period that will be more satisfying from the social point of view. You'll be putting your ideas across much more effectively than in the past, and you'll be getting on top of a decidedly knotty, legal question.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You'll get ahead of events by paying attention to your professional and other ambitions as soon as possible. This is an ideal time to arrange interviews and push yourself forward. Good news is coming, but not just yet. Isn't that always the way?

JUMBLER WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

___ do not, in fact, break the laws of nature

-CS Lewis (8)

LMTAE



RENIN



TABLAS



MYOTIC



Answer: Miracles do not, in fact, break the laws of nature

SUDOKU 4699

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4698



Full day fast

FAST BOWLERS reigned across time zones in the Southern Hemisphere on Tuesday. First in Melbourne, and then in Centurion, the sound of balls crashing into stumps, thudding into pads and snicking bat-edges narrated the tale of how much leather dominated willow. As many as 24 wickets fell on the day – and all of them to pace.

Boland the reaper

Just how dreamy can a debut get? Winning a Boxing Day Ashes Test at the MCG for Australia with unreal figures of 4-1-7-6 was 32-year-old debutant seamer Scott Boland, as he blew England away for just 68. Boland opened up Jonny Bairstow with a beauty that angled in and nipped away to trap him in front. England captain Joe Root was sucked into a fatal

drive with a fuller one that again nipped away, but the ball of the day came from Mitchell Starc – a 145 kph thunderbolt that jagged in off the pitch from a length and clattered into Ben Stokes' middle stump. Stokes was perhaps looking to play the original line when his bat came down from just outside off stump. He ended up pinned half-forward with a yawning gap between bat and pad.



While Scott Boland picked up six wickets on his debut, Mohammed Shami reached a career milestone of 200 wickets on Tuesday.



The KG and Ng show

After a fruitless first day and a washout on the second, South Africa's spearhead Kagiso Rabada set the tone for the hosts' swift comeback early on the third morning in Centurion. He overstepped twice in his second over, banging it in short both times, suggesting he was straining extra for the bouncer. He got it on target last ball of the same over. Short, quick, angled in, ending just outside KL Rahul's left shoulder. Hurried by the pace and lift, the centurion tried swinging it fine, only to nick it behind. Three overs later, Lungi Ngidi took out the second overnight batsman. Ajinkya Rahane likes to cut and upper-cut, and he probably thought he had the width and the length. But Ngidi found some inswing, and also some extra life off the pitch. Rahane's swish only found the keeper's gloves. The rest were to crumble to this onslaught in under nine overs.

Shami returns the favour

The current version of Mohammed Shami in South Africa is like a faster Vernon Philander. In the channel all day, nipping it this way or that at awkward bounce and pace, and making survival almost impossible for batsmen. The first two of his five strikes were evidence enough. Keegan Petersen felt he had the driveable length. He was right, only the ball came in after pitching and took the inside edge on to leg stump. Aiden Markram was to suffer the other way. He shaped up to defend one angled in but this straightened past the bat and hit the top of off. It had all started when Jasprit Bumrah slanted a peach across Dean Elgar. The ball appeared to tilt in late towards the stumps, forcing an alarmed Elgar to try to defend, and then carried further across off the surface to take the edge behind. It was indeed an exhibition of fast bowling across continents.

BRIEFLY

Ganguly admitted to hospital after testing positive for COVID-19

London: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has been admitted to a city hospital after testing positive for COVID-19 but the former India captain is "stable", the medical institution, where he is undergoing treatment, said. Ganguly was rushed to Woodlands Hospital as a precautionary measure after his positive test. The 49-year-old had undergone an angioplasty this year and given the history, a panel of the doctors is keeping a watch on his status. "He received Monoclonal Antibody Cocktail therapy on the same night and is currently haemodynamically stable," Dr Rupali Basu, MD & CEO of Woodlands Hospital, said. **PTI**

East Bengal sack coach Manolo Diaz

Bambolim: SC East Bengal sacked head coach Jose Manuel Diaz midway the ongoing ISL season after the club's eight-match winless streak. Former India captain and assistant coach Renedy Singh has taken charge of the side for now. The Kolkata club, however, said Diaz and his deputy Angel Puebla Garcia "have mutually agreed to part ways" with the club due to "personal reasons". "We thank Jose and Angel for their contribution and support to the team in the ongoing season. I wish both of them all the best for their future endeavours," SC East Bengal CEO Col Shivaji Samaddar said. **PTI**

Ranchi to host Race Walking Nationals

New Delhi: The ninth edition of National Open Race Walking Championships, a qualifying event for next year's World Championships, will be held in Ranchi, Jharkhand, on February 5 and 6. The championships will have 35km and 20km race walk events for men and 20km event for women. There will also be 10km events for both U-10 men and women. The Standard Operating Procedure issued by the central and state governments will be followed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Athletics Federation of India said. **PTI**

All 18 wickets fall to fast bowlers on Day 3, as India ride Shami's spell to take big lead over SA

SANDIPG
DECEMBER 28

PURE FAST bowling is pure thrill. Bowlers howling in, the ball bursting out of their palms, bristling off the deck past the startled eyes of batsmen and smacking into the 'keeper's gloves. Batsmen gasp, spectators heave. Few spectacles in the game can instinctively set the pulse raising and the hair stand on the end as a fast bowler operating at his peak. At SuperSport Park on Tuesday, it was a common sight. The chief narrative of the series was built around the duel of two supreme fast-bowling sides, and after a batsmen-centric first day, high-class fast bowling packs on both sides took centre-stage. As many as 18 wickets fell, pacers accounting for all of them.

First, in a brilliant display of merciless, destructive seam-bowling, Lungi Ngidi and Kagiso Rabada atoned for their unusual lethargy on the first day by slicing through India, restricting them to 327 from their overnight score of 272/3. Resetting their radar, hitting a bandwidth closer to good length than back-of-length and probing a fifth-stump line, they purchased steep bounce and adequate movement to rattle India's batsmen.

But India reciprocated in kind, on a surface that has palpably quickened up as it does in these climes when the pitch gets drier and starts to sweat. Mohammed Shami produced a spell for the ages after lunch to cut down the South African line-up as easily as scything corn, and allied with lively spells from Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur reduced them to 197, giving India a lead of 130 runs, which they extended to 146 by stumps. It could have been a lot worse for South Africa had not Temba Bavuma repelled them with a stroke-laden half-century and Rabada and Marco Jansen counterpunched towards the end. They were, to an extent, fortunate that Jasprit Bumrah hobbled off after spraining his ankle and was on the treatment table for most of the day.

Making the ball talk

When Shami was pounding in, Bumrah's absence was barely felt. There might have been times in the past when Shami had laboured to find the rhythm and length in the first spell of his first innings. Not this time, though, as he settled quickly and the batsmen were unsure



Mohammed Shami produced a spell for the ages after lunch to cut down the South African line-up with a fifer. Reuters

whether to play him on the front foot or back. When they chose the latter, he harried them with wicked inward movement; when they made up their mind to stride out, he harassed them with disconcerting bounce off a length. Just at this time, he found some nibble away from right-handed batsmen, making him deadlier.

Poor Keegan Petersen, unsettled by Shami's sharp bend into the body, unwisely resorted to aggression and found himself chopping one back onto the stumps soon after lunch. Shami was only mildly amused, though the next wicket, that of Aiden Markram, had him deliriously celebrating. There was no elaborate set-up, just spontaneity. A few balls earlier, he had Markram hopping and weaving away from a good-length delivery that climbed into him, and had it been a few inches closer to his body, reprised that Sreesanth rib-cracker to Jacques Kallis. What followed were length balls that angled, rather than seamed in. Markram thought he knew what was coming. A big nip-backer. And a nip-backer it seemed as the ball hemmed inwardly in the air, before landing and seaming inch-perfectly to trim the off-ball. The bend, arc and laser-guided precision were reminiscent of that great seam-bowling artiste

Dale Steyn. Like him, Shami too is an artiste, and has the creativity of one.

His sidekick Siraj is a thruster with boundless energy that hardly goes to waste. A lot of young fast bowlers tend to get overawed and emotional, resulting in fluffing lengths. But Siraj, for all his emotional outpouring, has a calmness that guides him. There is a sharp brain that ticks along, as he strides in. Like a seasoned hunter, Siraj lays his traps. Dexterity of lengths helps too – for he kept inviting Rassie van der Dussen to a drive, and then pulled one back a bit. The latter fell for the bait and edged to Ajinkya Rahane at slips. Siraj was woefully unlucky to not have the wicket of Quinton de Kock next ball, as Rahul spilled the chance he had induced off a skiddy out-swing. South Africa teetered to 32/4.

Resistance from hosts

But when everything happens so fast, there may be a little too much urgency on the part of the bowlers. Siraj lost his radar, as he can be prone to doing, although that arguably makes him more dangerous given the unpredictability that goes with it. Shami was exhausted after a searing spell and was played comfortably when he

bowled straighter. Without Bumrah, India fell a little flat, as de Kock and Bavuma built a defiant stand of 72 runs.

That's when Shardul Thakur trundled in. He is neither a thruster nor an artiste, but could be a partnership-breaker, as he has shown on numerous occasions. He induces a false sense of security, and de Kock chopped a harmless ball onto his stumps. Later in the day, he removed Marco Jansen to end a pesky 37-run alliance with Rabada. Shami then returned to devour Rabada for his fifth wicket of the day and 200th in Tests, an incredible feat for someone from the cricketing hinterland of Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

A lead of 130 could be decisive, but it could have been worse had Ngidi and Rabada not torn India apart with a hair-raising spell of hostile bowling. Both were more purposeful and hostile. Rabada was furiously fast and skiddy but could find little of the swing that makes him the most dangerous bowler in the world; Ngidi coaxed disconcerting bounce from a good length. Occasionally, the ball seared past the bat for de Kock to take above his head. Suddenly, uncertainty displaced the assurance that had marked India's batting on the

Cricket on speed

Australia retain Ashes The aboriginal dreamtime story of Boland

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DECEMBER 28

IT WAS quite a Test debut for Australia fast bowler Scott Boland.

Player-of-the-match Boland claimed the remarkable bowling figures of six wickets for seven runs as Australia beat England by an innings and 14 runs before lunch on the third day of the third Ashes test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday.

The massive victory means Australia retains the Ashes, with a 3-0 lead in the five-match series. Resuming on Tuesday on 31-4, England was bowled out for 68. Ben Stokes, on 11, was bowled by Mitchell Starc in the fifth over of the day.

The 32-year-old Boland removed Jonny Bairstow for 5 in his first over of the day, then world No. 2-ranked batter Joe Root for 28 in his second over, before dismissing Mark Wood and Ollie Robinson without scoring in his third over. When James Anderson was bowled by Cameron Green for 2, England's resistance had lasted just 27.4 overs.

Boland, who claimed match figures of 7-55 and is only the second Indigenous player to represent Australia's men's test-cricket side, was awarded the Johnny Mullagh Medal for player of the match. The award honors Australia's Indigenous team which toured England in 1868.

Australia captain Pat Cummins said his

side had been relentless and would now aim for a 5-0 sweep of the series.

"Any Ashes series is when you try to make a mark on your test career, so a chance to start cementing our identity," Cummins said. England captain Joe Root tried to remain positive.

"We have to stay strong and look at the next two games to take something from the tour," Root said at the post-match ceremony. Play resumed as scheduled on Tuesday after players from both teams were tested for COVID-19 overnight.

"All results have come back negative," Cricket Australia said.

The start of Monday's second day of play was delayed by 30 minutes due to a COVID-19 scare involving two members of England's support staff.

Australia was bowled out for 267 on Monday as the home side grabbed a first-innings advantage of 82 runs. England could not even reach that figure to make Australia bat a second time.

The fourth test is scheduled to begin on Jan. 5 in Sydney, with the fifth from January 14 in Hobart.

BRIEF SCORES: England 185 and 68 all out (Joe Root 28, Ben Stokes 11; Scott Boland 6/7, Mitchell Starc 3/29) lost to Australia 267 (Marcus Harris 76, David Warner 38; James Anderson 4/33, Ollie Robinson 2/64) by an innings and 11 runs.

SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

PAUL STEWART'S phone rang in the stands at the MCG where 40,000 Victorians were losing their heads as debutant Scott Boland was in the midst of a dreamy spell of 6 for 7 that shot out England in the third Test. An already emotional Stewart would choke up in happiness as he recognised the call had come up from a pub in the small town of Harrow, halfway between Melbourne and Adelaide, home of Johnny Mullagh, the most popular Aboriginal player who starred in Australia's first ever tour of England in 1868.

Stewart had once taken Boland, the fourth aboriginal man to don the baggy green, to Harrow, the spiritual cricket home of aboriginal cricketers. "Laughter, tears, and joy flowed in the call," Stewart would tell *The Indian Express*. "Their Scotty, our Scotty, was doing us proud. I couldn't have visualised this day even in a dream."

Stewart is a proud Taungurung man who worked with Cricket Australia as their indigenous cricket expert when he ran into Boland a few years back. In his mid 20's, Boland discovered that his maternal grandfather was adopted and was actually an aboriginal.

"I am not sure whether his grandfather was removed from his family but it's not



Scott Boland with Ashleigh Gardner and Paul Stewart outside the MCG next to the Scar Tree, which is a sacred tree for Aboriginal people

uncommon to find out late in lives about aboriginal heritage. That's been our lot," Stewart says. "Growing up as an aboriginal in 60s was very tough time. We didn't have voting rights. Babies were taken away from aboriginal women."

Facing the past

Every country has its dark guilt and this was Australia's. From the early 19th century till 1970 Aboriginal children were forcibly removed from their families as part of the Australian government plan to assimilate them into dominant non-indige-

nous population. The establishment had ill-treated the indigenous population so much so that in 2008 the government, under the prime ministership of Kevin Rudd, issued a formal apology to the "stolen generations".

"We used to run an annual cricket tournament when I saw him first with my brother Nick," Stewart says. "To be part of that you have to be indigenous and that's when we got talking. More than just qualifying. Scott wanted to know more about the aboriginal history and culture."

In 2018, the Boland brothers made it to the Australian Aboriginal team that toured England to commemorate the first-ever tour. Each player was given a name to 'carry' on the tour, name of a player from the original 1868 tour.

Scott was given the name Gulligan from the player from the original team Yellanach aka Johnny Couzens. His brother Nick represented Gronggarrong (Mosquito).

"Mosquito and Couzens were brothers just like the Bolands. During our visit to Harrow before going on tour - Nick got to meet Aunty Fiona Clarke (Descendant of Mosquito) who designed the walkabout wickets artwork logo which was used in our touring uniforms," Stewart says. "Scott also had the opportunity to meet Aunty Vicki and Ashley Couzens (descendant of J Couzens)"

"This is a true wow factor that I will

carry into this tour and for the rest of my life," Stewart remembers an emotional Scott Boland telling him when he met with the descendants of the original team. They had a quiet personal dinner at Harrow with the descendants. "That experience was the most touching moment for him. I remember him saying, 'It's so amazing that I have the privilege of carrying their names and I got to meet their descendants'."

Boland's dreamy story is a long cry from the days of Eddie Gilbert, the Aboriginal fast bowler from the 1930's who was famous for dismissing Don Bradman for a duck. "It's alright to be a hero on the field, but a black man can be lonely when he is not accepted after the game," said Gilbert. Called a chucker, he faded away from the scene and ended his life in a mental hospital where he died in 1978.

That was back in the day. How is it now for the Aboriginals in 2021? "Our life expectancy is not where non-aboriginal people have. There are tough living conditions out there still," Stewart says. "We never got into wealth or inheritance. The Aboriginals have to make their own future. We look after each other. There are tough communities out there who are struggling with poor housing, health, and education. To see someone like him up there at MCG winning games for Australia, it's a great hopeful message for the entire community. We are all so proud."

(Day 4 of the first Test between India and South Africa is Live on Star Sports and Hotstar)

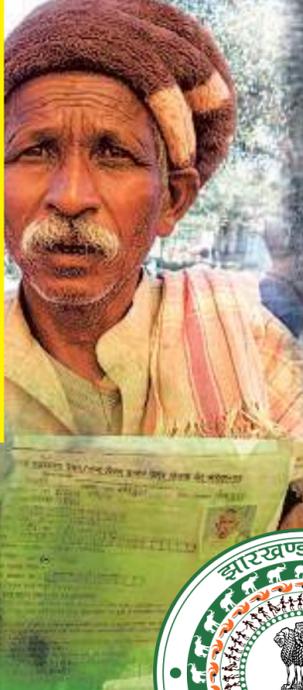


PALASH BRAND

PALASH brand has empowered **Hira Devi** and helped her achieve economic independence. There are lakhs of women who as part of self-help groups in the state are producing over 65 certified products and not only helping fuel the rural economy but also receiving international recognition through sale on online platforms.

UNIVERSAL PENSION SCHEME

Shiban Yadav was all smiles when he received his old age pension under the newly launched Universal Pension Scheme, after being denied his benefit for years. Now every eligible citizen can avail the necessary pension benefits as the compulsory norm to have BPL family cards is now being scrapped.



SONA SOBRAN DHOTI SAREE VITRAN YOJNA

Dulari Devi says that we are getting saree & dhoti for Rs 10 because the state government cares for our dignity and honor. Like Dulari Devi, lakhs of families across the state are receiving clothing from PDS outlets and leading a dignified life.



MARANG GOMKE OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Thank You from the United Kingdom! Six tribal scholars went to the UK to pursue graduate studies under the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Overseas Scholarship Scheme fulfilling their dreams and aspirations. From 2022, State Government will enable more students across several communities to compete and travel to the UK to pursue their education.



KISAN CREDIT CARD

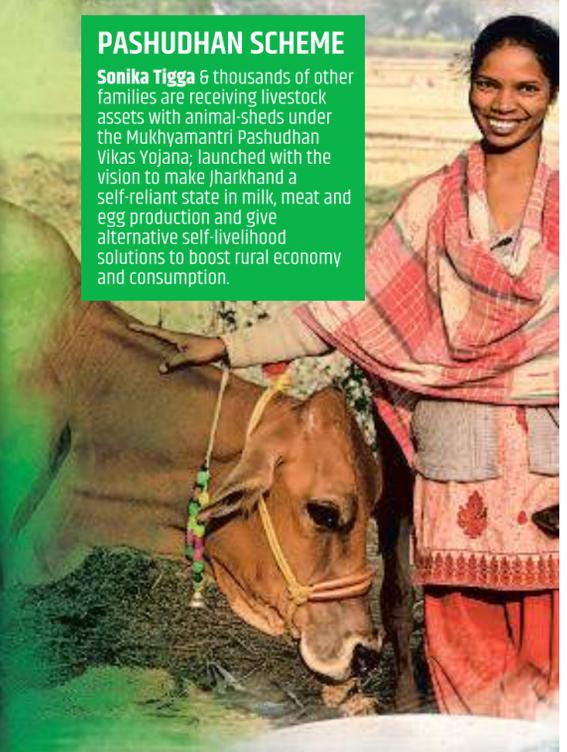
Like **Safiullah Ansari**, Kisan Credit Card (KCC) is proving to be a boon for lakhs of farmers across Jharkhand. It is now becoming easier for Safiullah and other farmers to opt for multi-crop farming for increased income. Under KCC, farmers can avail loans for dairy, fisheries, and other multi-crop cultivation works.



साल विकास के हेमन्त संग विश्वास के

PASHUDHAN SCHEME

Sonika Tigga & thousands of other families are receiving livestock assets with animal-sheds under the Mukhyamantri Pashudhan Vikas Yojana; launched with the vision to make Jharkhand a self-reliant state in milk, meat and egg production and give alternative self-livelihood solutions to boost rural economy and consumption.



PHOOLO-JHANO AASHIRWAD ABHIYAN

Sunita Devi is the proud beneficiary of Phoolo-Jhano Ashirwad Abhiyan. Through this scheme, she has opted for a respectable means of livelihood while leaving behind Hadiya-Daru. Like Sunita, more than 15 thousand women engaged in Hadiya-Daru have been linked with a respectable business. So far, an amount of Rs 14,32,00,000 has been released under this scheme. In the second phase of the campaign, 3,381 women have been identified.



'Abua Raj' is completing two successful years of being in your service. With your love, trust and blessings, Government of Jharkhand is writing a new chapter in the state's development story, while safeguarding the heritage and true identity of the people.

HEMANT SOREN
Chief Minister, Jharkhand

JOBS AND EMPLOYMENT

Monika Hembram was working in a different state due to lack of employment options. Now thousands of other youngsters like her are getting better employment avenues and income opportunities within the state.



BIRSA HARIT GRAM YOJNA

Kewal Hansda is happy as he now practices horticulture in addition to traditional farming. Birsa Harit Gram Yojna is providing sustainable green livelihood solutions for thousands of poor families across the state by creating fruit orchards, an endeavor that is aiming for the plantation of over 5 crore fruit saplings.



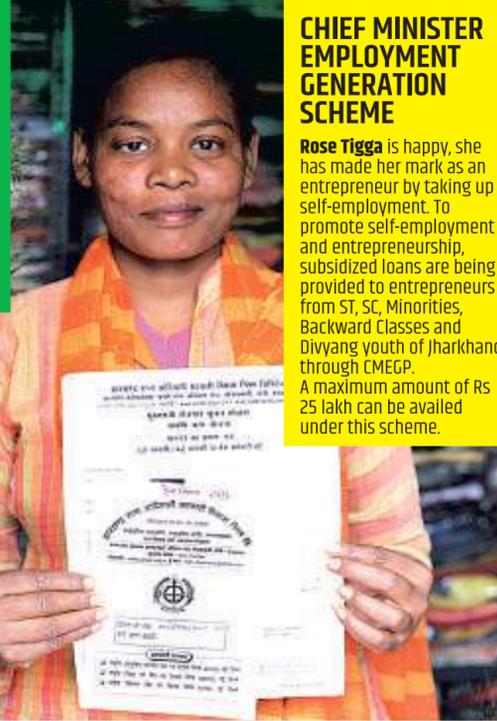
GREEN RATION CARD

Kiran Devi finally realized her Right to Food Security as a Green Ration Card holder. Under this scheme, the state government is providing 5 kg grain to all beneficiaries exempted from the National Food Security Act. This is why lakhs of citizens like Kiran Devi are smiling now.



CHIEF MINISTER EMPLOYMENT GENERATION SCHEME

Rose Tigga is happy, she has made her mark as an entrepreneur by taking up self-employment. To promote self-employment and entrepreneurship, subsidized loans are being provided to entrepreneurs from ST, SC, Minorities, Backward Classes and Divyang youth of Jharkhand through CMEGP. A maximum amount of Rs 25 lakh can be availed under this scheme.



SAHAY

More than 70,000 youth within the age group of 14-19 years, living across five Left Wing Extremism affected districts of Seraikha-Kharsawan, Khunti, Chaibasa, Simdega and Gumla will showcase their sporting talents under SAHAY. The objective of this scheme is to identify sporting talent in the youth at the grass-root level and foster holistic development through multi-tier community competitions in football, hockey, athletics, and volleyball from Panchayat to the State level.

