



Remarks against Mahatma: Raipur police arrest religious leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, DECEMBER 30



Kalicharan Maharaj

Chhattisgarh Police arrested

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



BUMRAH KEY IN WIN

Jasprit Bumrah appeals successfully for an lbw decision against South Africa captain Dean Elgar at Centurion, Thursday. It was a key wicket in India's 113-run win in the first Test of the three-match series. Reuters REPORT, PAGE 19

Corbett tiger safari: No sanction as state pushes work, cost up six times

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

THE UTTARAKHAND government started work on a tiger safari facility in Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) months before it received forest clearance in September from the Union Ministry of Environment and

Forests, and strikingly much beyond the scope of the Rs 24.60 crore project that was approved. Documents reviewed by *The Indian Express* show the state embarked on a construction spree worth at least Rs 157 crore — six times the approved project cost of Rs 24.60 crore — without any legal, administrative, or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

GOVT CALLS FOR VIGIL, LINKS TO GLOBAL SURGE

Covid curve climbs in six states, 9 key urban areas

Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, West Bengal, Karnataka, TN on radar

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

CALLING FOR "heightened vigilance" leading into the new year in the backdrop of a "sharp increase" in Covid cases over the last four days, the Centre Thursday said the spike being reported from several urban districts is likely part of the global rise pushed by the highly transmissible Omicron variant.

The Union Health Ministry has red-flagged nine urban districts and six "emerging states of concern", including Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, West Bengal, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, on the basis of an increasing trajectory in weekly case counts and positivity rates.

Summing up the data, Dr VK Paul, who heads the national Covid task force, said "there is a changing scenario in the pandemic situation".

INSIDE



1,313 NEW CASES IN DELHI; 54% CASES SHOW OMICRON

IN WEST BENGAL, CASES DOUBLE IN 24 HOURS
PAGES 3, 9

"We were nationwide having around 7,000 cases, and today we are seeing an uptick — 13,000 cases have been reported yesterday. Clearly, we are seeing an increase in cases. Several states are

R-value over 1 in big cities, likely start of third wave

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, DECEMBER 30

ALTHOUGH THE government has not described it as such, there are now unmistakable signs that India has entered the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. The surge in cases that has started is unlikely to subside or change course over the next few days.

But it is too early to say anything about the magnitude or the quality of this surge. It need not be similar to the first two waves that the country has witnessed so far, or follow the trajectories seen in some of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Minister, MPs attend Tibet event, China diplomat writes to them: Don't support

SHUBHAJIT ROY, MANOJ CG & LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

A WEEK after a group of Parliamentarians, including Union MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar, attended a dinner reception hosted by the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile, the Chinese Embassy in Delhi has expressed "concern" over their participation and asked them to "refrain from providing support to the Tibetan independence forces".

Under the All-Party Indian Parliamentary Forum for Tibet, at least six MPs cutting across party lines had attended an event on December 22 at a hotel in Delhi. They included Union MoS for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics & Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar, BJP's Maneka Gandhi and K C Ramamurthy, Congress MPs Jai Ram Ramesh and Manish Tewari, and BJD's Sujet Kumar. The Speaker of Tibetan Parliament-in-exile,



Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Jai Ram Ramesh

GOVT & POLITICS

CHINA RAISES HEAT ON ARUNACHAL, NAMES 15 MORE SITES PAGE 6

Khenpo Sonam Tenphel, was also present.

China's unusually worded letter, sent Thursday by the Political Counsellor at its Embassy, is being seen as an undiplomatic move by Delhi, as foreign diplomats writing to MPs in India in this manner has not happened in the recent past.

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WORLD



'HOW DO WE EXIT THIS COUNTRY?'

No passports, no money, 62 Indians are stranded in Sudan

ENTERTAINMENT



MALAYALAM CINEMA'S BEST OF 2021

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Looking back at 2021: Indian politics and economy

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Indian Express's Manoj CG and Udit Misra join host Snigdha Sharma to discuss the highs and lows of Indian politics and economy in the year gone by.

FROM PAGE ONE

R-value

other countries in Europe or in the United States. South Africa is following a very different trajectory, and so, it seems as of now, is Germany. In both these countries, cases seem to be stabilising, though it is not over yet, and part of the puzzle could also be related to inconsistent reporting of data during Christmas break.

Not surprisingly, the sharpest increases in cases are being seen in the major cities – Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, Kolkata, Chennai and others. This is not just because of their large, and concentrated, populations, but also due to the fact that these get the maximum number of incoming foreign travellers. The Omicron variant, which is the reason for the current surge, would first begin circulating in these populations before moving to the interior. These are also the places with better, and more prompt, testing infrastructure.

The reproduction number or R, an indicator of how quickly a disease is spreading in the population, has crossed 1 in all these megacities, according to the latest analysis by a group of researchers, led by Sitabhra Sinha, at the Chennai-based Institute of Mathematical Sciences. An R-value of 1, which signifies that every infected person is passing on the infection to at least one person on an average, is a key threshold after which cases begin to rise rapidly. Both Delhi and Mumbai have R-values over 2 right now, according to Sinha's analysis, indicating that in both these cities, one person is transmitting to more than two people on an average. This is a forecast for a very quick rise in cases in both these cities.

A major reason for the unprecedented surge in Europe and the US is the fact that it came during the annual festival season when large gatherings are the norm. And while many governments have announced some restrictions to control the

surge, they have largely been reluctant to spoil the Christmas or New Year celebrations or gatherings. There is no such compulsion in India right now, and if people do follow Covid-appropriate behaviour in a responsible manner, it is possible for the country to negotiate this wave with minimal economic disruption.

Corbett safari

financial sanction. The project was initially envisaged as an animal rescue facility with open-to-air enclosures and an interpretation centre for tourists. But the state went ahead with unapproved works such as construction of 18 buildings with at least 60 rooms with attached bath at four locations around the tiger safari, creation of a water body requiring felling of trees to attract wildlife for tourists, and reinforcement of a forest road with provisions to widen it as a highway.

Following a writ petition in Delhi High Court and two field inspections by Central agencies, the illegal work was finally put on hold in November and Uttarakhand transferred as many as 30 forest officials, including the state's Head of Forest Force (HoFF) and Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), to ensure a "transparent vigilance" probe. It has been over a month since, but Kishan Chand, the forest officer entrusted with the extensive construction work is yet to relinquish charge as Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Kalagarh, the western division of CTR. On Thursday, the Corbett staff "locked down" all office premises of this division to protest the "dual command" as Kishan Chand's replacement took "one-sided charge" on December 11.

When contacted, CTR Director Rahul said the safari work did commence without the final FC. "We had Stage-1 FC, other approvals and began constructing the interpretation centre this February. The work with no approval started in July and I asked the DFO to stop it," he said. DFO (Kalagarh) Kishan Chand did not respond to multiple phone calls and messages.

Vinod Kumar, who took charge as HoFF after the reshuffle, said the "question of work done without sanction" would be answered only after the completion of a vigilance probe ordered in November. "The police team has collected all the documents," he said.

Uttarakhand Forest Minister Harak Singh Rawat is optimistic the tiger safari will now be ready for tourists in January. "The interpretation centre and one of the three tiger enclosures are almost ready. There is no irregularity. Uttarakhand has so much forest and wildlife thanks to its people who must also benefit from tourism activities," he said. Asked why approvals were not taken for additional construction inside the CTR, Rawat

Govt flags Covid spike in six states, calls for vigil

showing a trend, which is going up. The reproduction number is 1.22 from the available data. The cases are now enlarging, not shrinking. So far, deaths are stable -- they are in the range of 260, below 300, typically. That remains stable and is reassuring, as of now," Paul said.

Paul also cautioned that any data on lesser severity of Omicron cannot be taken for granted, at this moment.

"As the scenario emerges, we believe what we are witnessing could be part of the global rise in cases, pushed by the Omicron virus...this variant is highly transmissible and that perhaps explains the speed with which it is rising in the world. The severity issues are still unsettled; the WHO statement says severity is, hopefully, mild. But it cannot be taken for granted because it is still a work in progress," he said. The Health Ministry, meanwhile, listed the six states of concern, based on a comparison of weekly cases and positivity rate of the last seven days (December 24-30)

with data from the preceding seven (December 17-23):

- Maharashtra reported 13,200 cases, a 117% increase, with positivity jumping from 0.92% to 2.59%.
- Delhi reported 2,587 cases, a 290% increase, with positivity rising from 0.2% to 1%.
- Gujarat reported 1,711 cases, a 245% increase, as positivity rose from 0.19% to 0.54%.

According to the Ministry, West Bengal reported 4,442 cases (18.49% increase in cases), Karnataka 2,533 cases (26%) and Tamil Nadu 4,383 cases (2.35%).

The nine districts flagged by the Centre, based on a comparison of case counts of seven days (December 22-28) with data from the preceding seven (December 15-21), are: Mumbai City with a 232% rise in that period, from 2,044 cases to 6,787 cases; Pune from 1,554 to 2,076; Thane from 913 to 2,033; Bengaluru Urban from 1,445 to 1,902; Chennai from 1,039 to 1,720; Mumbai Suburban from 521 to 1,670;

Gurgaon from 194 to 738; Ahmedabad from 207 to 635; and Nashik from 333 cases to 383 cases.

Paul said the emphasis should be on responsible Covid-appropriate behaviour, not panic. "It is a reality check today and...there is no need to panic. Because as a nation we are prepared, we have experience, we have the massive shield of very high coverage of vaccination. But there is a need to be responsible and to be disciplined. We must follow the restrictions and rules. All variants enter through the same route, and that route can be blocked by wearing a mask. So mask, mask, mask, has become even more important today," he said.

Asked if India is witnessing a third wave, Paul said: "This is an emerging situation. Where this will take us and where this should be stopped, is all in our hands. We have put all efforts to stop it. We have to suppress (the transmission) right now and at this level. It is in our hands, by vaccination, by precaution, and

other public health measures," he said.

The task force chief warned that "this surge could be significant" and asked everyone to "be prepared" since "it may not necessarily be mild". "Be prepared, the health systems are ready for the maximum possible level," Paul said.

ICMR chief Balram Bhargava said the Centre will soon come out with guidelines on whether the third "precaution" dose, to be rolled out on January 10, should be of a different vaccine platform.

"We are deciding what is the population that will require this vaccine, including healthcare workers, frontline workers and 60-plus with comorbidities; what are the new vaccines available; which vaccines can be given after which vaccine in terms of safety and efficacy. We are analysing all the data... Whether it is going to be the same one or different one, before January 10, we will have clear-cut recommendations," he said.

Kalicharan had in his speech at the Dharam Sansad, besides speaking out against Mahatma Gandhi, claimed that since 1947, Muslims have been attempting to gain power through politics. He also said people should be prepared for a "Hindu Rashtra".

Meanwhile, an official in the Chhattisgarh Food and Civil Supplies Department was arrested in Raipur for allegedly making derogatory comments against Mahatma Gandhi in a Facebook post. Sanjay Dubey, an assistant food officer, was suspended and later arrested based on an FIR filed on December 27.

INPUTS FROM ENS, MUMBAI, BHOPAL

China envoy

Reacting sharply to the letter, BJD's Kumar said: "Who is the Political Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy to write to a Member of Parliament of India, the largest democracy? How dare you send letters to Indian MPs? If anything, you can raise your protest through official channels. I think the MEA (Ministry of External Affairs) should take a stand."

The letter comes almost four years after the Government had asked "senior leaders" and "government functionaries" to not attend the events organised by Tibetans in India, citing bilateral ties. In the letter, Political Counsellor Zhou Yongsheng wrote: "I have noticed that you have attended an activity held by the so-called 'All-Party Indian Parliamentary Forum for Tibet' and interacted with some members of so called 'Tibetan Parliament in Exile'. I would like to express our concern on that."

The Counsellor wrote: "As is known to all, the so-called 'Tibetan Government in exile' is an out-and-out separatist political group and an illegal organization completely in violation of China's Constitution and laws. It is not recognized by any country in the world. Tibet has been an inseparable part of China since ancient times, and Tibet related affairs are purely China's internal affairs that allow no foreign interference."

The letter stated that in a series of political documents, the Indian Government has recognised that the Tibet Autonomous Region is part of the territory of the People's Republic of China and reiterated that it does not allow Tibetans to carry out anti-China political activities. "China firmly opposes any anti-China separatist activities conducted by 'Tibetan independence' forces in any capacity or name in any country and opposes any forms of contact by officials of any country with them," the letter said.

Addressing the MPs, Zhou wrote: "You are senior politicians who know the China-India relations well. It is hoped that you could understand the sensitivity of the issue and refrain from providing support to the 'Tibetan independence' forces, and make contributions to China-India bilateral relations." When contacted, Chandrasekhar told The Indian Express: "I was a member of the Indo-Tibetan Parliamentary

forum under the chairmanship of (BJP veteran) Shanta Kumari and I was invited in the capacity. I attended the dinner."

BJD's Kumar, who is also convenor of the forum, said: "Personally speaking, I don't consider Tibet to be a part of China. That is separate because the Government of India's official policy is different. But this Parliamentary forum on Tibet is to support the cause of Tibetan cultural and religious beliefs, and is between the people of India and the Tibetan government-in-exile. One should not read too much politics into it."

Kumar said: "The stated goals of the Parliamentary forum is not to advocate for the independence of Tibet or anything controversial. It is largely to build a relationship between the government-in-exile and the people of India because of the shared history, shared civilization and linkages, because of Buddhism, because of trade between Tibet and India in the past. The idea is to build on those linkages. I think I have already received four or five letters from the Embassy. I give them befitting replies, too," he said.

When contacted, Congress' Jairam Ramesh confirmed that he has received a letter from the Political Counsellor. "When I was asked to speak (at the event), I said I never go to any evening functions but I have made an exception because of my profound admiration for the Buddha, deep respect for the Dalai Lama and in gratitude for the role Tibetan sources have played in the rediscovery of India's Buddhist heritage." India has had a consistently supportive policy towards the exiled leaders of Tibet. In a careful balancing act on its pledged support to Tibetans while seeking a peaceful relationship with China, India's position has been to recognise Tibet as an autonomous region of the People's Republic of China. It "continues to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the vexed boundary issue" with China.

Sixty years ago, around 80,000 Tibetans, along with their spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, left Lhasa after a failed uprising against the Communist rule and arrived in India.

The Tibetan exile administration, called CTA, is based in Dharamshala where the spiritual leader also lives. Around 140,000 Tibetans now live in exile, over 100,000 of them in different parts of India. Over six million Tibetans live in Tibet. In 2018, the Centre had advised senior ministers and bureaucrats to stay away from 'Thank You India' events organised by Tibetan leaders.

The Indian Express had reported on an official note dated February 22, 2018, advising "senior leaders" and "government functionaries" of the Centre and states to stay away from events organised by Tibetan leaders, citing "very sensitive times" in bilateral relations on India and China.

The note was sent by then Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale to Cabinet Secretary at the time, P K Sinha, who issued a directive two days later.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Shri Rajiv Kumar Mahajan S/o Late Sh. Shiv Ram Mahajan and Smt. Upasana Mahajan W/o Late Sh. Rajiv Kumar Mahajan, both R/o B-3, Indrapuri, New Delhi-110012 were allotted plot/property No. 6/2 area 300 sqft. (approx.) in proposed Township project "Vatika India Next" situated at Sector 82/A, Gurgaon (Haryana); that after the demise of Sh. Rajiv Kumar Mahajan, his legal heirs requested the company to transfer their share in favor of their mother; Smt. Upasana Mahajan. Any person having any objection on this may please contact the company officer within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Transfer of ownership in respect of SCO No. 16, Sector-14, Gurugram in respect of the intestate death of Sh. Shikhar Chand Jain.

Late Shikhar Chand Jain who was the Co-owner of the subject cited property bearing No. SCO No. 16, Sector-14, Gurugram passed away on 03.04.2020, has left a will in favour of Late Sh. Dinesh Jain his son, during the life time Late Sh. Dinesh Jain applied for User Id and Password in his favour through incidentally, Sh. Dinesh Jain also expired on 17.09.2020 before the issue of User Id and Password. Late Sh. Dinesh Jain has not left any registered or un-registered will in favour of any person.

Now Priti Jain, W/o Late Sh. Dinesh Jain S/o Late Sh. Shikhar Chand Jain, Khushi Jain and Muskan Jain (Minor) D/o Late Sh. Dinesh Jain, S/o Late Sh. Shikhar Chand R/o K-106, Hauz Khas Endave, New Delhi-110016 intends to apply for the transfer of the said property in their favour being the legal heirs. If any person is having any objection against the transfer of the said property, he/she can submit objections in writing to the Estate Officer, HSPV, Gurugram alongwith supporting documents within 30 days from the publication of this notice. Otherwise, the Estate Officer may sanctioned mutation of the property in the favour of applicant as per HSPV policy and may not entertain subsequent claim, if any.

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Raipur police

the religious leader from neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, triggering a war of words between leaders of both states.

An FIR was lodged on Sunday

place in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday evening, they said.

Two jawans and a police official were also injured during the Anantnag operation, they said.

The encounters took place after the forces launched cordon and search operations in Nowgam Shahabad area in Anantnag district, and Mirhama area of Kulgam – both in south Kashmir – after specific inputs about the presence of militants Wednesday evening.

"In the last about five days, security forces have carried out

multiple operations across the Valley, resulting in 11 hardcore terrorists being neutralised, killed. On Wednesday night, in two separate operations, six terrorists, including two Pakistani terrorists, of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) cadre were neutralised in Kulgam and Anantnag," General officer Commanding (GoC) of the Army's 15 Corps, Lt Gen D P Pandey said.

He was addressing a joint press conference along with Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar at Qazigund in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

The GoC said during the operation, Sepoy Jasbir Singh lost his life.

"As the operation was being conducted in very heavily built up area, while evacuating civilians from harm's way, we had two Army personnel and one JKP personnel suffering gunshot wounds. They are all stable as of now," he said.

The IGP Kashmir said two of the ultras killed in the Anantnag encounter were involved in the December 13 attack on a police bus in Zewan area on the outskirts of the city here in which three policemen were killed.

"After the Zewan attack, I had shared with you that JeM carried out the attack. Security personnel will be happy to know that this is the same group which carried out the attack in which three policemen were martyred," he said.

Kumar identified the militants behind the attack as Altaf Ahmad Shah alias Mufti Altaf, a resident of Nathipora Dooru, and a Pakistani national Sultan alias Mavia alias Rayees.

The duo had carried out the attack along with another militant Suhail Ahmad Rather, a resident of Zaffran Colony.

1,313 CASES ON THURSDAY

Omicron in community, 54% cases show variant, says Jain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

THE NEW omicron variant is circulating in the community in Delhi and is possibly the reason behind the recent increase in Covid cases, said Health Minister Satyendar Jain Thursday.

"Covid cases have increased rapidly over the last few days. As per the genome sequencing data, 54% of these are omicron variant, including people who have travel history as well as those who do not. This means omicron is now in Delhi," said Jain in an online briefing about increasing cases.

Delhi reported 1,313 Covid cases Thursday, up from 923 on Wednesday. Positivity rate also increased from 1.29% to 1.73%.

The total number of Covid patients admitted to hospitals on Thursday was 150. This includes patients from the airport. Of the 150, 83 are asymptomatic or have only mild symptoms; 66 have moderate symptoms and are on oxygen support. Only one



Delhi's active Covid case count has jumped from 557 to 3,081 in a week's time. Amit Mehra

person has severe symptoms and is on ventilator support. Out of the 150 patients in hospitals, 118 are from Delhi. An additional 111 people who either have Covid or are suspected to have the disease are lodged in Covid Care Centres.

Delhi's active Covid case count has jumped from 557 to 3,081 in a week's time.

The Indian Express reported that the Delhi Disaster Management Authority in its meeting Wednesday accepted the possibility of community spread after no history of inter-

national travel or contact with an international traveller was found after the investigation in nearly 60 cases reported over Monday and Tuesday. Furthermore, 64 of the 73 new cases reported on Wednesday also did not have any history of travel or contact.

Keeping the rise in Covid cases and that of the omicron variant in mind, the Delhi government has ordered four centres to create step-down isolation or quarantine centres for those who might have the omicron variant.

Director General of Health

Services Nutan Mundeja passed an order Thursday allowing institutional isolation of Covid positive international passengers or their contacts arriving at the airport, at paid as well as free Covid Care Centres.

There will be 100 beds in Terapanth Bhawan that will be linked to Ambedkar Nagar hospital, 100 beds at Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre linked to Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya Hospital, 100 beds at IBIS hotel linked to Indira Gandhi hospital-Dwarka, and another 50 at CWG village linked to Lal Bahadur Shastri hospital. The centre at CWG village will be scaled up to 500 beds, according to an order issued by the special secretary (health) S M Ali. The linked hospitals will provide manpower, consumables, and arrange logistics for the centres as per the order. Currently, all those who have or are suspected to have omicron variant infection are admitted to the government's Lok Nayak hospital or four private hospitals — Sir Ganga Ram, Max hospital-Saket, Fortis Hospital-Vasant Kunj, and Batra Hospital.

OPD services, admissions curtailed at AIIMS

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

WITH THE number of Covid cases on the rise in Delhi, AIIMS will curtail patients visiting outpatient clinics as well as the number of routine admissions, as per the contingency plan that will come into effect on New Year's Eve.

Both old and new patients with existing appointments will receive consultations and only the numbers will be restricted, as per recommendations of the heads of the departments, according to the plan.

"No service will be stopped,

however, keeping in mind the increasing number of Covid cases in the city, the number of other patients will be restricted," said a senior official from the hospital, on condition of anonymity.

Covid-19 admissions in the hospital have increased five times over the course of the week — from two-three admissions a day earlier to 14 on Thursday, according to the official.

"The increase seems like a lot as the number of cases have been low in the city for several months now. But, in comparison to the second wave, this is not too much. The number of cases have gone up, but most are mild

and do not need hospitalisation. We are expecting the number of hospitalisations to increase in the coming days but it is unlikely to be as much as the second wave," the official said.

Plan for possible surge

The hospital will convert three floors, including the ICU, of its newly created burns and plastic block into a Covid-19 centre.

Two floors at its National Cancer Institute in Jhajjar will also be converted for treatment of Covid-19 patients. Rooms in the private ward are also being prepared for Covid cases.

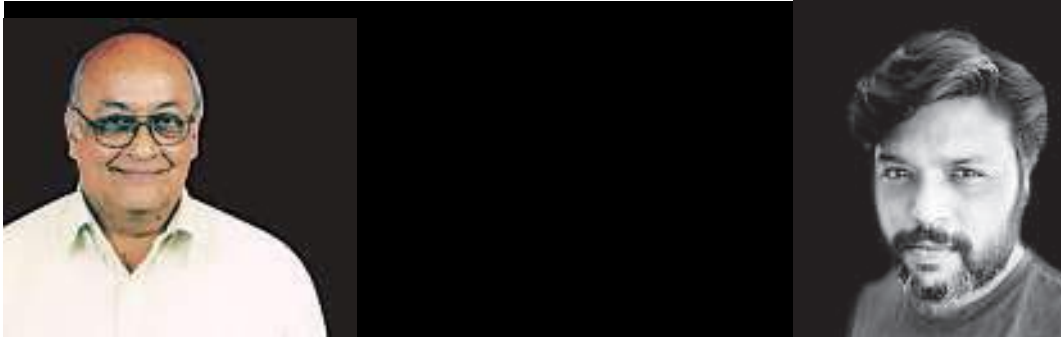
Other than that, one addi-

tional floor at the Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre will also be converted into a Covid treatment facility, in lieu of which a ward at the main AIIMS building will be freed up for trauma patients. Two floors at the centre already cater to Covid cases. The standalone trauma centre had completely been converted to a Covid-19 hospital since March last year and trauma services were slowly restarted when cases waned after the second wave of the pandemic in the city.

All doctors, nurses, and other staff at the hospital will also be re-deployed as per need, according to the plan.

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वृद्धों की मदद को बढ़ाया हाथ दी दोगुनी पेंशन की सौगात



प्रदेश के लगभग 56 लाख
वृद्धजन की पेंशन हुई दोगुनी

सोच ईमानदार, काम दमदार

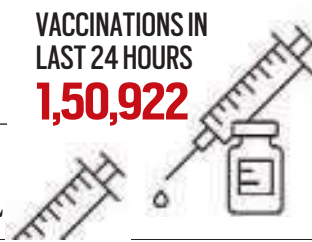


4 THE CITY



CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITAL

VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS
1,50,922



		Total		Vacant
TOTAL CASES		14,46,415		13,252
		HOSPITAL BEDS		2,770
		ICU BEDS		2,727
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Dec 29	923	344	0	71,696
Dec 30	1,313	423	0	75,953
Total	3081*	14,18,227	25,107	3,26,51,345

Total active cases

Caught in delays, NEET-PG aspirants stare at uncertain future

**ANONNA DUTT
& ABHINAV RAJPUT**
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

WITH RESIDENT doctors from major medical college-associated government hospitals across the country continuing to protest against repeated delays in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for Postgraduate Courses (NEET-PG) counselling and admission, services in these hospitals have remained affected for 14 days now. The protesting doctors will hold a meeting today where they are expected to take a call on whether or not to end the strike.

The *Indian Express* spoke to the following aspirants who despite clearing NEET-PG held in September have not got admission in PG courses so far, with the crisis putting them under acute financial and social distress.

Dr Shruti Pansare, Pune

The delay has left Pune-based Dr Pansare uncertain not only about her finances but also her future.

"One whole year has been

wasted because of the delays in conducting the NEET-PG exam and now counselling. I am already 28 years old. For the next three years I will be studying and working full time for my post-graduation. So, I will be 31 by the time I can even think of marriage — without counselling there is no certainty of where I will end up for the next three years. By the time I try to have children, I will be 32. We tell our patients that if they want to have children, they should have it by the time they are 30. But I will not have that opportunity," she said.

"It is not just the financial pressure — I haven't worked in over a year — there are also social pressures that we need to think about," Dr Pansare said.

After completing MBBS in 2017 and a one-year internship in 2018, she took NEET-PG for the first time in 2020, but with her rank above 21,000 she could not get the PG course of her choice. So, she moved to Delhi and started working as a "non-academic" junior resident doctor at Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

She quit her job in September 2020 to prepare for NEET-PG that was originally slated for



Manish Rundla Choudhary; Sarang Bombatkar; Shruti Pansare; Risabh Kohli; Manish Singla

January 2021 but was deferred first to April and then to September.

Dr Pansare, who secured a rank above 9,000 in her second attempt, is now anxiously waiting for her PG admission.

"Due to the uncertainty about the NEET-PG dates, I have not been able to join work again. Also, it would have broken the flow of my studies. Now, hospitals are unwilling to hire us because they know that we will quit the job soon (after PG admission)," she said.

Dr Preya Joshi, Bhuj

After completing her MBBS and internship, Dr Preya Joshi,

based in Gujarat's Bhuj, started preparing for NEET-PG six months before the original exam date, January 6, 2021. However, in November 2020, she learned that the exam will be postponed. The exam dates were then scheduled for April.

"We even received our admit cards, but just two days before the exam it was pushed further. We were told that the exam will not happen for another four months, so I joined the Covid duty. All this uncertainty adds to mental stress, it has resulted in people getting worse ranks," she said.

With her rank being above 15,000, Dr Joshi is uncertain

whether she can get admission in her preferred course — anaesthesia or gynaecology.

"I want to appear for NEET-PG again and its dates have been announced for March 12, 2022, but can it happen if this year's counselling is not completed yet? I don't know what to do," she said.

Like Dr Pansare, Dr Joshi is finding it difficult to land a job in a hospital as it would know that she is bidding time for her PG counselling and admission.

Dr Sarang Bombatkar, Buldhana

Amid continued delays in the NEET-PG counselling and admis-

sion process, Dr Sarang Bombatkar, based in Maharashtra's Buldhana, said he has been sitting at home for more than a year now.

"We are wasting so much time. I am not studying, not working. All hospitals say they will hire us only for four or six months, they do not want us because we will quit when the (PG) admissions happen," he said.

Dr Bombatkar also said that with the change in the NEET-PG admission quotas this year, he is not sure if he would be able to get the courses of his choice such as anaesthesia, ENT, or community medicine. "The pattern has changed this year and I cannot figure out what I might get. All this uncertainty is adding to my stress," he added.

Dr Manish Rundla Choudhary, Kota

What is worrying Kota-based Dr Manish Rundla Choudhary is that while he has been at home for the last one year because of uncertainty over the NEET-PG counselling, his resident doctor friends have been exhausted after working round the clock.

"First the NEET-PG dates, and now even the counselling dates are uncertain. I was not able to plan my studies. And this is the reason I cannot join a job too — either I have to let go of my PG seat or two-month salary (at a hospital) for not serving notice period (after taking admission in a PG course)," he said.

Dr Choudhary said his friends who got through NEET-PG in 2020 have worked tirelessly through the two Covid waves. "The third-year resident doctors (in final year PG) will soon be relieved to be able to study for their final exams and only one batch of PG students (in second-year) will remain in the colleges (and hospitals)," he said, referring to the fact that fresh PG admissions have remained frozen.

Dr Risabh Kohli, Delhi

The 28-year-old resident of Delhi's C R Park underlines the point that he lost one year due to the NEET-PG episode. Dr Kohli, who had finished his graduation from Armenia's Yerevan State Medical University, cleared NEET-PG this year.

Echoing the anguish of other

young PG aspirants, Dr Kohli says it is disturbing that despite clearing the exam, they can neither take admission in PG courses, nor can they join a job.

There have been delays and uncertainty about everything related to NEET-PG, he said, bemoaning that "the third Covid wave is at your door and this is the time when things should have been expedited instead of getting delayed".

Dr Manish Singla, Faridabad

Dr Singla (28), who lives in Faridabad, graduated from Karnataka's Basaveshwara Medical College. After preparing for two years, he qualified for NEET-PG this year — and continues to wait for admission now. "Almost a year has been wasted. The January NEET exam was delayed and pushed to September. The new reservation policy further delayed things," he said.

The situation, Dr Singla said, is grimmer for those PG aspirants who did not get good ranks. He also maintained that the aspirants were caught in uncertainty of whether they should wait for counselling or land a job.

BRIEFLY

MBBS student found hanging

New Delhi: A 19-year-old MBBS student from Maulana Azad Medical College allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself inside the college hostel Thursday. DCP (Central) Shweta Chauhan said, "The girl was taken to the hospital but she died." An inquiry was conducted at the college which revealed that she did not perform well in her exams. She allegedly wrote a suicide note on her notebook that has been recovered, said police.

Three held for kidnapping 2-yr-old boy

New Delhi: Days after a two-year-old boy was kidnapped outside his house in Rajouri Garden, police have arrested three persons and apprehended a juvenile. Police said the incident took place on December 22. The boy was playing when two of the accused picked him up and fled. The accused were trying to sell the child to a couple when police caught them.

Traffic rules around CP to kick in on New Year's Eve

New Delhi: Traffic Police Thursday said it has made elaborate arrangements to ensure smooth traffic on New Year's Eve, particularly in and around commercial hubs such as Connaught Place. "Restrictions will be imposed from 8 pm on December 31 around Connaught Place until celebrations end," said JCP (traffic) Vivek Kishore. **ENS**



WAITING TO BOARD

Commuters wait outside Rajiv Chowk Metro station, Thursday. New rules that came into effect on Wednesday allow Metro trains to operate at 50% seating capacity. *Tashi Tobgyal*

Nuh: Months after 11-year-old went missing, 1 held for murder

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, DECEMBER 30

FOUR MONTHS after an 11-year-old boy went missing from his house in Nuh, police Wednesday arrested a man for allegedly kidnapping and murdering the boy and for stealing Rs 3.62 lakh cash from him. Police said probe found that the boy was strangled to death in September near Sariska in Alwar. A police team has gone to Sariska to collect DNA samples.

Police said on August 24, the boy, a class VI student, had gone missing from his house. His father had initially lodged a missing person's complaint.

DSP Punhana Shamsher Singh said recently, the family filed another complaint alleging that the boy had taken a bag, which had over Rs 3.62 lakh cash, and had been kidnapped. "One person, Arif (20) has

been arrested. He has also named another accused. Both are from the same neighbourhood. The victim was known to the duo and they took him to Gurgaon, Bahadurgarh, Hansi, Hisar and Haridwar. As per questioning, the accused said they strangled the boy to death in Sariska about 8-10 days after he went missing. Their intention was to steal the money that the victim had brought. After killing him, they went to Mumbai to spend money. In the past few months, they kept returning to the village to evade suspicion," said DSP Singh.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* on Thursday, the boy's father, a farmer, said for four months, the family had been living in uncertainty. "Every day we feared someone would kill him since he was carrying so much cash. People kill for much less. Our fear came true. All we want is justice..." he said.

He said a week before his son was allegedly kidnapped, he had sold a plot for over Rs 5 lakh: "I took Rs 32,000 to deposit in the bank... and kept Rs 3.62 lakh in my almirah. Word had spread in the neighbourhood that I had sold the plot. The accused hatched a conspiracy to lure my son and kidnapped him to steal the cash."

Alleging laxity by police, the father said he shared all leads with them: "Had they acted sooner, my son would be alive."

Police denied the allegations. DSP Singh said, "Initially the family said they didn't suspect anyone. A few days after the incident, the boy called his cousin and said he was in Mathura and was safe. He also told them he had given Rs 50,000 to his cousin and taken the rest of the cash. We brought the cousin in for questioning too. The accused were trying to mislead the family at the time." Police are looking for the second accused.

Upset by seating cap, commuters damage DTC buses; 6 arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

A GROUP of commuters who were unable to board DTC buses due to the 50% seating cap allegedly vandalised 4-5 buses and blocked MB Road around 8 am on Thursday. Police said they arrested four men, two women and apprehended a juvenile for destruction of public property and violating Covid guidelines.

Videos showing people protesting and damaging bus windows went viral on social media. In one of the videos, a large gathering, in front of buses on the road, clash with police. Windshields of buses are damaged and policemen are seen pushing people with lathis.

Additional DCP (South) M Harsha Vardhan said, "The inci-

dent took place due to non-availability of seats in buses in view of Covid-related restrictions."

Benita Mary Jaiker, DCP (South), said, "We received several calls regarding a traffic snarl near Jamia Hamdard. We reached the spot and found that a group of commuters were protesting and instigating others to sit on the road as bus drivers and marshalls weren't letting them in. The driver could only allow 17 passengers inside as per the government's latest guidelines."

Police staff tried talking to the people to allow traffic to pass to no avail. "The group started damaging buses. We deployed women police staff to help. Staff neither used force nor lathi-charged anyone. We were neutralising the situation. One policeman sustained injuries in the process," said DCP Jaiker.

Multiplex body meets Sisodia, seeks reopening of theatres in city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 30

FOLLOWING THE Delhi government's decision to close theatres in the wake of a spike in Covid cases, representatives of the Multiplex Association of India (MAI) met Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Thursday seeking reopening of cinemas with pre-emptive measures. Other cinemas and industry bodies have supported this appeal.

The delegation, led by Ajay Bijli, chairman of PVR Limited, highlighted the adverse economic impacts faced by the entertainment industry due to multiple lockdowns and restrictions since March 2020. In its appeal to Sisodia, he was informed that the decision to shut down cinemas has caused uncertainty.

Expressing his concerns, Bijli said: "We fully understand the challenges faced by the government in these tough times. However, instead of closing cinemas, we urge them to consider introducing a 'double vaccination requirement' for gaining entry into cinemas, as is the case in some states. Alternatively, a 50% seating cap can be reintroduced."

The association fears that

several films, scheduled to release in January such as RRR, Radhe Shyam and Prithviraj, will probably change their release dates. Shahid Kapoor-starrer film Jersey, which was supposed to release on December 31, has cancelled its theatrical exhibition. According to the MIA letter, Jersey is now being considered for "a direct OTT release".

"Instead of releasing their films at cinemas or waiting for relaxation, producers are finding it more lucrative to release on streaming platforms leaving cinemas with no new films. As a result, the industry has run into an extremely adverse situation and is in need of urgent help from the government," the letter stated.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Nitin Tej Ahuja, CEO of the Producers Guild of India, extended his support to the MIA's plea and said, "Theatrical release is the primary source of revenue for filmmakers. The producers of the movie '83' held it over for almost two years. Even though it was finally released on December 24, people in Delhi can't watch it now."

The multiplex body argued that cinemas are equipped to manage crowds with a hygienic environment while maintaining social distancing norms.



Theatres are shut under yellow alert restrictions. *Archive*

'TO ENCOURAGE GIRLS TO CHOOSE SCIENCE AS A CAREER'

IIT-D kicks off STEM mentorship program for Class XI girls, 10 shortlisted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

THE INDIAN Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi Thursday launched the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Mentorship Program for Class XI girls from government schools to encourage them to choose science as their career.

"The primary objectives of the program, designed for Class XI girl students, are to train young students to think creatively about science and innovation, to provide them novel

hands-on experience in solving research problems, and to help them form a stronger knowledge foundation," the institute said in a statement.

For the program, 10 girls from various Kendriya Vidyalayas in the city have been shortlisted for now, who will be mentored by professors from IIT-D in their chosen topics of interest. They will also get access to research scholars under these professors.

During the mentorship period, they will be exposed to "foundational concepts in STEM disciplines, and also learn the experimental methods and tech-

niques used in science labs".

Speaking about the program, IIT-D Director V Ramgopal Rao said, "STEM needs to have more women participation. Through the mentorship program initiated by IIT-Delhi, schoolgirls will get exposure to some of the world-class labs and research work going on here. I am hopeful this mentorship at IIT-Delhi will prove to be a turning point in their lives and they would be motivated to enter the world of science and technology and help society with their research work."

Among those shortlisted is Disha Rathor from KV JNU, who



The girls will be mentored by professors from IIT-D. *Archive*

is working with her mentor on cryptography and secure com-

puter science. "I think I could learn from the experience, and from the experienced faculty. I think this will be good for my career," she said.

Sanmita Paul from KV R K Puram said she was very enthusiastic about the different phases of the program. "I'm especially looking forward to the research activities and lectures by IIT professors... I would like to thank IIT-Delhi for giving us girls this opportunity to learn and explore more than just reading textbooks in our school," she said.

The program will have three levels. "A two-week winter proj-

ect, starting from the end of December 2021 and ending in early January 2022, an online lecture series, consisting of modules in Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Mathematics and some Engineering branches. These lectures will be delivered by IIT-Delhi professors between February and April 2022. During this period, students will also be interacting constantly with their mentors on their specific projects. Summer project (3-4 weeks in May-June 2022), where students will get hands-on experience in labs, and finalise their project reports with their mentors," the institute said.

The project areas will cover different disciplines such as computer science, chemistry, mechanical engineering, physics, and biological sciences.

"In the future, there are plans to have participation from students from other regions in the country and turn the program into a residential one. The STEM Mentorship Program for schoolgirls is the second academic outreach initiative by IIT-Delhi for school students. In September 2021, the Institute had launched SciTech Spins lecture series for students from class IX-XII. Under this initiative, IIT-Delhi professors

engaged in cutting-edge research in science, technology and allied fields deliver online lectures and conduct laboratory demonstrations every month," IIT-D said.

"The program will give girls some required traction for getting into the fields of science and technology in the future. We believe students should be exposed to scientific concepts at an early age, to be able to appreciate the rigour of academic research, and to build up confidence to take up academics as a career when they grow up," said Pritha Chandra, Associate Dean, Academic Outreach and New Initiatives.

MEET TODAY'S BUSINESS BLASTERS

RULE BREAKERS

As kids, members of this tech start-up would often place their palms against their ears to pretend to make phone calls. They thought what if they are actually able to make calls using just their hands. This prompted them to develop a bluetooth ring that can make and receive calls while making their childhood fantasy come true!



NEXT INNOVATION

Whenever Sujun visited his village, he faced electricity shortage resulting in phones not getting charged. Due to this he was unable to take online classes during lockdown. His friends shared similar experiences from their hometowns. To address this problem, this start-up came up with the idea of creating solar power banks!



THE CRAFT HOUSE

Every Durga Puja, Hemant wanted to buy decorative items which his parents refused on account of budget constraints. Hemant then spoke with his friends and together they decided to make affordable festival decorations for people of all income groups. They have now expanded their product lines to include different types of lamps too!



Tune in this evening at 7 pm

NEW YEAR SPECIAL

31 December, 1 & 2 January at 7 pm

www.thebusinessblasters.in

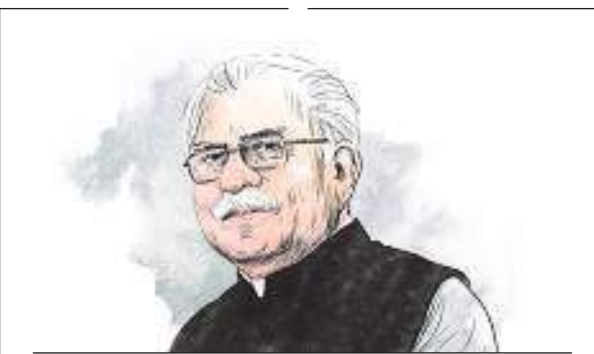
Directorate of Education, Government of N.C.T. of Delhi



6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



LANGUAGE SKILLS

DURING A media interaction on Thursday, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar surprised many with this language skills. After declaring that he can take questions in English, Hindi and Punjabi, he went on to interact with a reporter in Tamil, revealing that he has passed his school certificate course in the language. Besides, the Chief Minister said he is learning Japanese these days to interact with the large expat population in his state. If you have to build heart-to-heart relations with someone, you have to speak in their language, Khattar said.

EXIT DOOR

THREE CONGRESS MLAs from Punjab – Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi, Fateh Jung Singh Bajwa and Balwinder Singh Laddi – have joined the BJP in the past 10 days, delivering a jolt to the grand old party ahead of the Assembly elections. But the buzz in the party is that there could be more exits coinciding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab on January 5. The names of many leaders, including a couple of ministers, are being talked about in this connection. Asked about the speculation, one senior leader merely said, "Let's see who all remain after January 5." The Congress's central leaders are now said to be keeping their fingers crossed.

FRESH TASK

CONSUMER AFFAIRS Secretary Leena Nandan will bid adieu to the Department of Consumer Affairs on Friday to take up her next assignment as Environment Secretary. On Thursday, her colleagues at Krishi Bhawan organised a farewell that was attended by Food Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Food Ashwini Choubey. Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey was also present on the occasion. A 1987-batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, Leena Nandan will hand over charge of the department to her successor Rohit Kumar Singh on Friday.

Moga rally put off as Rahul goes abroad, disquiet in state Cong

KANCHAN VASDEV & MANOJ CG
CHANDIGARH, NEW DELHI,
DECEMBER 30

DAYS AFTER Congress announced that Rahul Gandhi will kick off the party's campaign for the forthcoming elections in Punjab by addressing a rally in Moga on January 3, the party postponed the event after it emerged that the senior party leader had flown abroad on a personal visit.

Sources said Rahul left India on Wednesday, a day after attending the party's 137th foundation day event at the AICC headquarters in Delhi. Sources said he is set to ring in the new year in Italy, where he will spend time with his aging maternal grandmother, like last year.

"Rahul Gandhi is on a brief personal visit. The BJP and its media friends should not spread rumours unnecessarily," Congress communication department head Randeep Surjewala said, confirming that the former Congress president was abroad.

Party sources said Rahul, who spent nearly three weeks at an undisclosed foreign location in November as well, is expected to address the rallies in Punjab and Goa on January 15 and 16.

Rahul's trip abroad has led to disquiet in the Punjab unit of Congress as it comes at a time when the party is struggling with factionalism and desertions in the



Left India on Wednesday on a 'brief personal visit'

run-up to the Assembly elections. The Moga rally was expected to be a show of unity, said a party leader who did not want to be named.

The party had started making arrangements, and the venue had been finalised, said state party leaders. "We did not even know he has gone abroad. We learnt about it only after the Opposition raised the issue and Surjewala defended the visit," said a leader.

"The rally has been postponed now. We were hoping that Rahul will be able to bring Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, PPCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu and other leaders on the same stage and the different voices, which are harming the party interests, would be silenced. Also, his (Rahul) absence delays the process of ticket distribution," he said.

While Sidhu has been seeking declaration of Chief Minister candidate ahead of the polls, asserting that he would not be just a showpiece for the elections, a section of party leaders said they were watching him closely. A party leader said, "We were hoping that the top leadership would intervene and control Sidhu. But it seems to be free for all now."

AAP wave after Chandigarh win: Kejriwal

HINA ROHTAKI
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 30

DELHI CHIEF Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo, Arvind Kejriwal, on Thursday, arrived in Chandigarh to hold a victory march to commemorate his party's splendid performance during the recently concluded Chandigarh civic body polls and said that the win in Chandigarh "has sent a strong message across Punjab and started an AAP wave across the state."

Kejriwal on Thursday joined a victory march with his party's victorious councillors and made them take an oath that "they will never take any bribe and will



Supporters greet Kejriwal in Chandigarh. Jasbir Malhi

also not let anyone do anything wrong." He said that now that they have won, "they [the new

All parties in UP want polls on time, will issue guidelines: EC

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 30

DAYS AFTER a judge of the Allahabad High Court urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "take strong steps" and consider "stopping and postponing" rallies, meetings and elections in view of the rising cases and a possible third wave, the Election Commission said Thursday that all parties in Uttar Pradesh want the Assembly elections to be held as per schedule.

"All the political parties, without any difference of opinion, said that elections should be conducted on time while following Covid protocol," said Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra, speaking to reporters on the conclusion of a three-day visit to the state to assess poll preparedness.

Asked about the High Court remark, the CEC replied: "Cognizance of that will be taken."

Chandra said some parties, during their meeting with the EC delegation, expressed concern over flouting of Covid rules at election rallies, and also sought curbs on the number of rallies.



Amit Shah with CM Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow. PTI

No 'bahubalis' in Yogi rule, just Bajrang Bali, says Shah

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 30

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Thursday hit out at Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati, claiming she feared defeat in the upcoming assembly polls and urging her to step out for campaigning.

He also invoked Lord Hanuman to praise the Yogi Adityanath government, saying just "Bajrang Bali" was visible in his regime, not "bahubalis" (musclemen).

Addressing a public meeting in Moradabad, Shah said: "The SP (Samajwadi Party) and BSP cannot develop UP. Behenji ki to abhi thand hi nahi udi hai. Yeh bhaiheet hain. Behanji chunav aa gaya thoda bahar nikaliye. Baad me yeh na kehna ki maine prachar nahi kiya (Behenji is yet to get relief from cold weather. She is fearing (defeat). Behenji, step out as elections have come. Don't say later that you had not campaigned)," he said.

The Union minister said even if "bua, babua and behen (referring to Mayawati, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and Congress's Priyanka Gandhi Vadra)" came together, they cannot win against BJP workers.

Targeting Akhilesh for mentioning Muhammad Ali Jinnah in an earlier speech, Shah said, "He does know name of ganna (sugarcane) and keep repeating (Jinnah, Jinnah, Jinnah... Jinnah is of no use here."



CEC Sushil Chandra (left) and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey in Lucknow on Thursday. Vishal Srivastav

Asked whether the EC would consider postponing the elections, the CEC said: "EC will execute the responsibility assigned to it as per the Constitution. While executing that responsibility, whatever will be required to consider – either rising Covid numbers or managing the increasing rallies – elections will be announced after considering all that."

Asked about ongoing political rallies with huge gatherings, he said the EC's responsibility begins after the Model Code of Conduct comes into effect. Before that, it is the state administration's job, he said.

He said the EC has discussed

the issue with the Union Health Secretary, State Health Secretary, Chief Secretary, and all district election officers. "Whenever elections will be announced, this point will be definitely considered that how the big rallies are to be managed. Whether digital communication will have to be increased... We will issue a guideline in this regard... It's a dynamic situation. Considering all that, guidelines will be issued," he said.

"I have been told that 86 per cent of people in the state have got the first dose and 49 per cent the second dose of Covid vaccine. We have been assured that in 15-20 days, all eligible people

will get their first dose. We have asked for increasing vaccination," he said.

The CEC said some parties complained about the "biased" attitude of some police and administration officials. He said the complaints will be probed, and action will be taken. He said over 5,000 police personnel have been transferred in recent days.

Newly appointed UP Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra, who took charge on Thursday, said that in his meeting with the Election Commissioners, they expressed concerns over the Covid situation. "I assured them that I will sit with my officers and prepare a strategy to vaccinate everyone," Mishra said.

Meanwhile, the Congress said EC should take an independent decision on holding the polls.

"EC must remember that the countrywide data of Covid-19 infection, its spread... the doubling time, the results of genome sequencing and the impact of the vaccines on Omicron (variant) is with the government, and not with the political parties," Congress leader Randeep Surjewala said in New Delhi.

WITH ENDS, DELHI

Previous Uttarakhand govts looted with both hands: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, DECEMBER 30

TARGETING PREVIOUS state governments in Uttarakhand ahead of the Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said they "looted Uttarakhand with both hands" and tried to save their governments even at the cost of the state.

He was addressing a rally after inaugurating and laying the foundation of projects worth over Rs 17,500 crore in Haldwani.

This included the inauguration of projects worth Rs 3,420 crore and foundation-laying of projects worth Rs 14,127 crore.

The inaugurated projects include three stretches of the Char Dham all-weather road which have been widened, the Nagina-Kashipur National Highway, the Suring Gad hydel project and sewage work under the Namami Gange programme at Nainital.

"We all know how many rivers start from Uttarakhand, but since independence people here have witnessed two more streams. One is keeping the mountains away from development, and the other is working day and night for the development of the mountains. People of



PM Narendra Modi in Haldwani, Uttarakhand on Thursday.

the first stream always want to keep you away from development. They kept running from the hard work required to bring roads, electricity and water to the mountains. Several generations here left Uttarakhand in the absence of good roads and facilities. Today I feel satisfied that people of Uttarakhand and the country are exposing those involved in this destruction," he said.

Accusing previous governments of "looting Uttarakhand with both hands" since the state's formation 20 years ago, PM Modi said that hindering developmental projects was their trademark.

KARNATAKA URBAN LOCAL BODY POLLS

Cong defeats BJP, wins most wards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 30

AHEAD OF the 2023 Assembly elections, the Congress in Karnataka Thursday outperformed the BJP in the polls held for 58 urban local bodies (ULBs) in 20 districts.

Congress emerged as the single largest party, winning 501 of 1,184 wards that went to the polls on December 27. BJP won 433 wards and the JD(S) won 45. A total of 195 Independents also won in the elections. AAP and Janata Party have won one seat each, while AIMIM and SDPI

won two and six, respectively. Congress secured a majority in 20 urban local bodies. BJP, meanwhile, won 15. The JD(S) won one ULB. The rest of the ULBs have thrown up mixed results with no party being able to secure a majority.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said his party had performed well when the overall results were considered. But he also blamed losses on areas with a high population of minorities.

"We have performed better than the last time though we should have performed better in this election," he said. "If you ob-

serve, as these places have concentration of minority community voters, we have not been getting good results, but this time due to efforts, in places like Gadag and others, we have got success."

The BJP also lost in Bommai's constituency. On this, he said: "We had never won there (in Bankapur), minority voters are 65 per cent, it won't be right for me to say more. Same is the case with Guttal... we will continue with our development work there also."

Karnataka Congress party chief DK Shivakumar said, "Election results in recent times have indicated a Congress wave in the state..."

PTI INPUTS

China now raises heat on Arunachal, names 15 more sites

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

A DAY after China announced its own standardised names for 15 more places in Arunachal Pradesh, which it claims as "South Tibet", Delhi reacted sharply and said the state is an integral part of India and "assigning invented names to places... does not alter this fact".

China's Ministry of Civil Affairs announced Wednesday that it had standardised in Chinese characters, and the Tibetan and Roman alphabet, the names of 15 places in Zangnan, the Chinese name for Arunachal Pradesh, the state-run Global Times reported.

This is in accordance with regulations on geographical names issued by the State Council, China's Cabinet, the report said.

Among the official names of the 15 places, with longitude and latitude, eight are residential areas, four are mountains, two are rivers and one is a mountain pass, the report said.

This is the second batch of standardised names of places in Arunachal given by China, after six other places in 2017.

Responding to China's latest move, Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said: "We have seen such reports. This is not the first time China has attempted such a renaming of places in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. China had also sought to assign such names in April 2017. Arunachal Pradesh has always been, and will always be, an integral part of India. Assigning invented names to places in

EXPLAINED
Beijing aggressive approach

CHINA ASSIGNING names of places in Arunachal Pradesh is part of its strategy to reiterate territorial claims with India. In the past, Beijing has always objected to visits by Indian leaders – Presidents, Prime Ministers and senior ministers – to the north-eastern state. In recent months, there are reports of China establishing villages along the Line of Actual Control. The naming is part of the country's aggressive expansionist approach.

Arunachal Pradesh does not alter this fact."

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488 km long LAC, and Beijing regularly protests visits of top Indian leaders and officials to Arunachal Pradesh to reaffirm its claim.

The eight residential areas in China's second batch of names are Sengkeozong and Daglungzong in Cona County of Shannan Prefecture; Mani'gang, Duding and Migpain in Medog County of Nyingchi; Goling and Damba in Zayu County of Nyingchi; and, Mejag in Lunzhe County of Shannan Prefecture, the Global Times reported. The four mountains are Wamo Ri, Deu Ri, Lhünzhub Ri and Kunmingxingzê Feng, it said. The two rivers are Xenyogmo He and Dulain He, and the mountain pass is named Se La, the report said.

STATEMENT ON PM OFFER

BJP: Pawar speaking half-truth according to his convenience

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, DECEMBER 30

A DAY after NCP chief Sharad Pawar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made an offer for an alliance with his party after the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly elections, the state BJP unit on Thursday said Pawar "was speaking only the half-truth... according to his convenience".

"What Pawar said was only the half-truth... And he is speaking as per his convenience," state BJP spokesperson Keshav Upadhye told *The Indian Express* Thursday.

Upadhye said party leader and former chief minister Devendra Fadnis had already spoken about what transpired during those days. "We do not wish to speak about the episode again," he said.

At a book launch in Pune Wednesday, Pawar, during a conversation with *Loksatta* Editor Girish Kuber, said that PM Modi had made an offer to him for an alliance with his party after the 2019 Assembly election results. Pawar said he had rejected the offer.

Responding to Upadhye's comments, Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut said, "Since Sharad Pawar is saying it, then it has to be true. During that time,

BJP had become desperate to form the government in Maharashtra. They were trying to establish contact with different people, including Ajit Pawar and our people (Sena leaders). I was aware that Pawar had received the offer (from BJP) and he had also spoken to us about this. At that time, we were not hiding anything from one another. There was nothing secret about... who was meeting and holding discussions, we knew everything. There was transparency among us and BJP was probably not aware of this. Because of this transparency, they could not form the government."

Along with Pawar, Raut is considered one of the architects of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, which came into being after the Shiv Sena approached the Congress and NCP about forming an alliance. The Sena had earlier ended its decades-long alliance with the BJP in the state after the two parties fell out over who would get the chief minister's post.

Praveen Darekar, opposition leader in the state Legislative Council, said: "Whatever happened between the two leaders, only they know of it. Let's not dig out the past. The MVA government is now in place. Alliances happen in politics, there is nothing new about it."

Rajput factor back in Rajasthan spotlight

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 30

THE INAUGURAL light-and-sound show at Chittorgarh Fort, opened virtually by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Monday evening, was forced to stop midway after local BJP MP CP Joshi and some members of the Rajput community objected to a section in its script involving the 13th century Delhi sultan Alauddin Khilji and Mewar queen Rani Padmini.

The show could resume on Tuesday after the Chittorgarh district administration removed the disputed portion of the script. The BJP leaders were quick to tar-

get the Gehlot-led Congress government in the matter.

The Rajasthan elections may be two years away, but the row arising out of objections from a section of the Rajput community and the Opposition leaders' bid to train their guns on the ruling party has put the spotlight back on the Rajput factor and its salience in state politics.

Going after the Gehlot dispensation, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, a Rajput leader, charged that the Congress government was not concerned about the "asmita" (pride) of Rajasthan.

Shekhawat is known to have a strained equation with the state's top BJP leader and former

CM Vasundhara Raje and is considered to be positioning himself as one of the principal challengers to her supremacy.

Shekhawat claimed that the controversy surrounding the light-and-sound show was "not a simple matter". He alleged that the show's contentious depiction of Alauddin Khilji and Padmini was done as part of "appeasement" politics, and that "second class treatment is being meted out to Hindus ever since the Congress came to power in the state".

The Rajput leaders claim that their community constitutes 11-12 per cent of Rajasthan's population, spread throughout the state, with sizeable presence in many constituencies. Rajputs

have been traditional vote base of the BJP in the state.

However, the political equations had changed ahead of the December 2018 elections to the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly, when several things had turned the Rajput community against the then Vasundhara-led BJP government. The significance of the Rajput factor in Rajasthan politics could be gauged from the presence of leaders from across the political spectrum at the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Shree Kshatriya Yuvak Sangh, a social organisation of Rajputs, that was held at Jaipur earlier this month.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Trials in Muzaffarnagar cases and gold-smuggling trail winners in Investigative Reporting category

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

FROM INVESTIGATING the aftermath of a riot to following the trail of gold smugglers along the Indo-Nepal border, they dug deep to uncover the truth.

Kaunain Sheriff M of *The Indian Express* is the winner in the Investigative Reporting category for print, and S Mahesh Kumar of Manorama News is the winner of the award for broadcast media.

Sheriff's investigation -- which resulted in a three-part series called 'The Muzaffarnagar Whitewash' -- revealed that in the six years following the Muzaffarnagar riots in 2013, all the 158 men accused of murder, gangrape and arson had walked free. Sheriff scrutinised court



records, testimonies of complainants and witnesses and in-



Kaunain Sheriff M

terviewed officials to discover that 53 men accused of murder had been let off.

"The first challenge was to access the documents. Rape cases are in-house proceedings so you cannot enter the court to witness the trials. It took days, sometimes even weeks, to get these documents. The delay in the trials was another challenge. The



S Mahesh Kumar

court would set a date for the hearing and the defence kept asking for another date. I had to travel from Delhi to Muzaffarnagar every time the court fixed a date and around 85 per cent of the time, I returned without anything when the trial was deferred. The third challenge was language. All the documents and court recordings

were in Hindi which wasn't easy to translate. So it took time to identify the glaring loopholes in the investigation," says Sheriff.

The miscarriage of justice was grave. "It showed the prejudice in the system as the state government did not appeal against any of the acquittals, especially the rape cases, in the High Court. We also found how victim protection during the trials was totally compromised," adds Sheriff.

Kumar's investigative series, Operation Nepal Gold, exposed the gold smuggling racket along the porous Indo-Nepal border where operators took advantage of lenient check posts.

"We travelled along the dangerous routes through which gold is smuggled into the country by evading all kinds of taxes. We started our investigation by going to Kathmandu. We trav-

elled from Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu to different places along with the gold carrier to collect information and film secret visuals of the illegal trade. We also gathered information by meeting some carriers in Nepal jails. In the jail and at the checkpoints, we used spy cameras to avoid being caught," says Kumar.

"After we exposed the names of Kerala-based smuggling mafia kingpins and details of the smuggling dens in Dubai, we again faced several threats from the mafia. The gold carriers who helped us unearth the smuggling routes and activities now get constant threats to lives," adds Kumar.

After the expose, the Customs and DRI launched special probes to check the gold flow, leading to a 25-kg gold haul from Thiruvananthapuram airport.

Centre notifies new rules for consumer panels

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

THE CENTRE on Thursday notified monetary jurisdiction of consumer commissions, with the district commissions having jurisdiction to entertain complaints where value of goods or services paid as consideration does not exceed Rs 50 lakh. The state commissions will have jurisdiction to similar complaints with value of goods or services between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 2 crore, and the National Commission over Rs 2 crore.

The jurisdiction of the commissions has been notified by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

The Act provides a "three-tier quasi-judicial mechanism" for redress of consumer disputes: district commissions, state commissions, and the national commission. The law also provides pecuniary jurisdiction of each tier of consumer commission.

As per existing provisions, district commissions have jurisdiction to entertain complaints where value of goods or services paid as consideration does not exceed Rs 1 crore, state commissions Rs 1 crore to Rs 10 crore, and national commission above Rs 10 crore.

Giving reasons for fixing a lower limit for district and state

commissions, the ministry said in a statement, "After the Act came into force, it was observed that existing provisions relating to pecuniary jurisdiction of consumer commissions were leading to cases which could earlier be filed in National Commission to be filed in State Commissions and cases which could earlier be filed in State Commissions to be filed in District Commissions. This caused a significant increase in workload of District Commissions, leading to rise in pendency and delay in disposal of cases, defeating the very object of securing speedy redressal to consumers as envisaged under the Act."

It stated, "With regard to revision of pecuniary jurisdiction, Central Government held consultation with States/UTs, consumer organizations, law chairs etc. and examined the issues that had created long pendency of cases in detail," the statement said.

According to the statement, under the law, every complaint is to be disposed of "as expeditiously as possible", and attempt is to be made to decide the complaint within a period of three months from the date of receipt of notice by the "opposite party", where the complaint does not require analysis or testing of commodities and within 5 months if it requires analysis or testing of commodities.

Centre approves Rs 3,000 cr more aid to states for natural disasters

New Delhi: The Union government has approved additional assistance of more than Rs 3,000 crore to six states this year to cover damages caused by natural disasters, a Home Ministry statement said Thursday.

Gujarat was granted Rs 1,133.35 crore for Cyclone Tauktae and West Bengal received Rs 586.59 crore for Cyclone 'Yaas'.

Similarly, for disasters such as floods and landslides during the monsoon, Assam was granted Rs 51.53 crore, Karnataka was given Rs 504.06 crore, Madhya Pradesh got Rs 600.50 crore and Uttarakhand Rs 187.18 crore.

This assistance is over and above the funds released by the Centre to states in the State Disaster Response Fund. **ENS**

HYDERPORA ENCOUNTER

Return son's body: Father of killed Ramban youth files petition in HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 30

THE FATHER of Amir Magray, one of the four people killed in an encounter in Hyderpora area of Srinagar on November 15, on Thursday filed a writ petition in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, seeking the return of his son's body, saying he was innocent and citing his family's long contribution in the fight against terrorism.

Police, who have so far returned the bodies of two local Kashmir residents to their families, have not handed over Amir's body to his family yet, saying he was an associate of the Pakistani militant who was also killed in the encounter.

Mohammad Latief filed his petition through counsel

Deepika Singh Rajawat and Mohammad Arshad Chowdhary two days after a Special Investigation Team of J&K Police, which probed the encounter, said that Amir, the youth from Ramban district in Jammu Division, was a militant.

In his petition, Latief said, "...That being close to Amir, the petitioner knew everything good and bad about him, thus can state on oath that his son was never involved into any anti-national activities or was associated with any such outfit that conspires to bring harm to the nation."

Invoking Article 21 of the Constitution, which extends the right to have decent burial as per religious ceremonies and rules, for his son, the petitioner said he has been instrumental in fighting and curbing militancy in Gool Singaldan area by working as a

civilian volunteer with the Army.

Referring to an incident of August 6, 2005, when he along with his wife and other family members killed a Lashkar-e-Toiba militant who had barged into his house and opened fire on the inmates, the petitioner said he was conferred the state bravery award in 2012 by the J&K government.

"That apart...", the petitioner has been well appreciated by the Indian Army for his service towards the nation in eliminating militancy in his area -- Gool Sangaldan, Ramban," the petition said.

In view of the family's support to the Army, the petitioner said he has remained vulnerable to attacks, owing to which security was provided to him and his family, which is still in place outside their house.

(WITH INPUTS FROM PTI)

Banaras Locomotive Works seeks to expand earnings through exports

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VARANASI, DECEMBER 30

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE Works (BLW), a production unit of Indian Railways, is planning to expand on its earnings through manufacturing locomotives for export.

In 2021, it had completed an order of six 3,000 HP Cape Gauge locomotives to Mozambique.

After the agreement for the order was made with Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) in November 2020, the locomotives were handed over from March to August this year, and it received an order for a seventh locomotive in September.

"The Mozambique order is significant because the entire thing was completed during Covid times. We got the order in

November 2020... In such little time, it is difficult to complete an international order, that too when over 1,000 of our staff were down with Covid in April and May. Another thing it did was that it gave supply opportunities to the private sector and public sector. So many firms partnered with us, and a new market opened up for them," said BLW general manager Anjali Goyal.

**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**



PRESS COMMUNIQUE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE INVITES SUGGESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT 'STRENGTHENING CREDIT FLOWS TO THE MSME SECTOR'.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance is in the process of examining the subject 'Strengthening credit flows to the MSME sector' for report thereon to the Parliament. Considering the wider implications of the subject on the economy of the country, the **Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Jayant Sinha, MP** have decided to invite memoranda containing views/suggestions from the public in general and Experts/Stakeholders/Organisations, in particular.

2. Those desirous of submitting written memoranda/suggestions to the Committee may send two copies thereof either in English or in Hindi to **DIRECTOR (E,F&Estt.), LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT, ROOM NO. 513, PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE EXTENSION (BLOCK B), NEW DELHI- 110001, TEL. Nos. 23035759/ 23035758, FAX NUMBER: 23010756** and email the same to **comfinance@sansad.nic.in** within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.)

3. The memoranda/suggestions submitted to the Committee would form part of the records of the Committee and would be treated as 'confidential' and enjoy privileges of the Committee.

4. Those who are desirous of appearing before the Committee, besides submitting written memoranda, are requested to specifically indicate so. However, the Committee's decision in this regard shall be final.

New Delhi;
Dated: 29 December, 2021

davp 1201/11/0003/21-22

Department of Women An Child Development
Govt. Of NCT of Delhi
5th Floor, ISBT Building, Kashmere Gate, New Delhi- 110006.

MISSING CHILDREN

Sr. No.	Description	Photograph
1	Sumit (name given by agency) male child aged about 1 day, wheatish complexion, child was found abandoned in the Cradle placed at the gates of an out Institution (DCCW/PALNA) on 07.10.21. He was produced before the Child Welfare Committee-V, Dilshad Garden and was kept in Delhi Council for Child Welfare (PALNA) via order of CWC-V. FIR was filed at P.S. Civil Lines	
2	Sameer , (name given by agency), male child, aged about 8-9 days, Wheatish complexion, child was found abandoned in the Cradle placed at the gates of an our Institution on 05.11.21. He was produced before the Child Welfare Committee-V, Dilshad Garden and was kept in Delhi Council for Child Welfare (PALNA) via order of CWC-V. FIR was filed at P.S. Civil Lines	
3	Pratham , (name given by agency), Male child, aged about new born child, Wheatish complexion, child was found abandoned in the cradle placed at the gates of an our Institution on (DCCW/PALNA) on 17.11.2021. He was produced before Child Welfare Committee-V, Dilshad Garden and was kept in Delhi Council for Child Welfare (PALNA). FIR was filed at P.S. Civil Lines	
4	Mannat , (name given by agency), Male child, aged about 2 days, Wheatish Complexion, child was found abandoned in the cradle placed at the gates of an our Institution on (DCCW/PALNA) on 19.11.2021. He was produced before Child Welfare Committee-V, Dilshad Garden and was kept in Delhi Council for Child Welfare (PALNA). FIR was filed at P.S. Civil Lines	

Note: Parents/Guardians/Relatives of Sl.No. 1 & 2 in case of above mentioned children may contact at address/phone numbers given at Sl. No. 1 & 2 given below:-

- Incharge: Delhi Council for Child Welfare (PALNA), Qudsia Bagh, Yamuna Marg, Civil Lines, Delhi-54
Contact No. 011-23944655/ 011-23968907
- District Child Protection Unit-II, Sanskar Ashram Complex, Dilshad Garden, Delhi,
Contact No. 011-22125035

Sd/-
Director
Women & Child Development

DIP/Shabdarth/0534/21-22

Please give information to CHILD LINE 1098 about children who need care & protection

INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
(An Autonomous Body of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248 006 (Uttarakhand), India

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

A Walk-in-interview is scheduled at Media & Extension Division, ICFRE HQ Building, ICFRE, FRI Campus, Dehradun on **17 January 2022 at 11.00 A.M.** for recruitment of one JPF in component "Operationalisation of Forestry Extension Strategy and Action Plan for ICFRE"

Position	Educational requirement/ Experience	Consolidated Fellowship Stipend per month (in Rs.)	Duration
Junior Project Fellow (JPF)	M.Sc in biological science/wood science/ forestry/agriculture extension/ extension & communication Desirable: Knowledge of MS Office, Report writing, Media reporting, working knowledge of social media	Rs. 20,000/- (Twenty Thousand) only + HRA	02 Years

Terms and Conditions:

- Only Indian Nationals are eligible.
- Age limit as on 01-06-2022 is 28 (relaxation in age limit of the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/Women and Divyangjan upto 5 years).
- The interest candidates shall submit a scanned copy of their resume along with self attested copies of testimonials and recent passport size 01 photograph with their signed application on or before **14.01.2022 positively through email at adg_mx@icfre.org** for further needful at this end.
- The position is purely temporary and co-terminus with the component.
- The position can also be terminated at any time by the DDG (Extension), ICFRE without assigning any reason depending on the performance of the candidate.
- Recruitment for the above temporary position is governed by the rules and regulation of the Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) and does not guarantee subsequent employment in the Council.
- The interested candidate may appear before the selection committee with their original certificates, mark sheets with a self-attested photocopy of each and a recent passport size photograph along with the bio-data.
- No TA/DA will be paid for attending the Walk-in-Interview.
- Candidates without Provisional Certificate/Degree Certificate/original mark sheet awarded by the University will not be permitted to attend the Interview.
- Order of engagement of the selected candidate will be issued subject to availability of fund and approval of the Competent Authority. Tenure mentioned in the advertisement is tentative and liable to be curtailed/extended as per the decision of the Competent Authority.
- If it is found at any stage of the process or thereafter that the candidates do not fulfill the eligibility criteria, their candidature shall be cancelled without assigning any reason. Further, the decision of the ICFRE in this regard to the selection process will be final and binding. No correspondence in this regard will be entertained by the Council.
- Canvassing in any form will disqualify the candidate.

**ADG (Media & Extension),
Directorate of Extension,
ICFRE, Dehradun**

URGENT REQUIREMENT OF BUILDING ON HIRE FOR ECHS POLYCLINIC AT REWARI (HR)

- Station Commander, Military Station Alwar invites applications (offer document) from desirous house owners at Rewari to rent out their building on hire for 2/3 years to Defence Department (Ex Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme)
- The desired parameters and conditions of the building are as under:-
 - Pinth Area 4000 Sqft approximately.
 - Location within 3/5 Km to City or within the city/town via a-vis important hospitals and health facilities loc.
 - The building shall preferable Ground Floor with at least 10-12 rooms with minimum 3 toilets, electricity and water supply. If with first floor should have suitable ramp for wheel chair and stretcher.
 - One toilet shall be at entrance of the building
 - The building should be suitable for placement of medical equipment.
 - Rent reasonability certificate for approved rent from local municipality/revenue authorities, to be attached with the application.
 - Rent will be paid as per Govt. approved norms and regulations depending open pinth area facilities type/class of city.
- Note:** Desirous persons should forward their application by registered post alongwith sketch/blue print to OIC ECHS cell, Station HQs, Alwar by 07 Jan 2022 positively (Contact No.-0144-2980316, 11.00AM to 3.00PM)

Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture & Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya- 224229 (U.P.)
Advertisement

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for various posts in the University on regular basis.

Advertisement No. 7/2021- Twenty Five (25) post of Professor/Scientist.
Advertisement No. 8/2021- Fifty Two (52) post of Associate Professor/Scientist
Advertisement No. 9/2021- Eighty Five (85) post of Assistant Professor/Scientist

Details may be downloaded from the University Website- www.nduat.org. Applications on prescribed Proforma must reach to the office of the undersigned before **5.00 PM of 28 January, 2022** through Registered/ Speed post only.

Written Examination/Test for Assistant Professors is proposed to be held on 20 February 2022.

Director
Administration & Monitoring

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Applications are invited from goal oriented highly motivated and eligible candidates for 01 position of Manager (IT Infrastructure), 02 positions Executive (Portal & Service Delivery) and 02 position of Executive (Facilities and Data Centre on purely contract basis for a period of one year which may be extended on certain terms and conditions. Other terms & conditions, age limit, remuneration, experience etc., may be downloaded from the official website Lady Hardinge Medical College & Smt. S. K. Hospital, New Delhi.

For details login to website: <http://lhmc-hosp.gov.in>

(Sunil KS Bhadoria)
Deputy Director (Admn.)
For & on behalf of Director, LHMC

davp 17148/11/0025/2122

CSIR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE
Canal Road, JAMMU- 180001 (J&K)
Web Address: <http://www.iiim.res.in>

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For advertisement details such as benefits under Council Service, other conditions, relaxations, how to apply, mode of payment of application fee, etc., please visit our Website at www.iiim.res.in

Sd/-
[ANJUM SHARMA]
Senior Controller of Administration

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Assistant Professor	B.A. LL.B. (5 Yrs.)	

- The salary will be paid as per the qualification and experience in their respective field.
- The interested candidates should send their Bio-Data along with certificates and photographs on the above address or copy to career@raisoni.net within 7 days from date of advertisement.
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- Contact No. : 9146199619.**

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EXPRESS NETWORK

Ludhiana blast probe: RDX packed in plastic container

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

A FORENSIC examination of last week's blast inside a washroom at the Ludhiana district court complex has revealed the use of around 1.5 kg of RDX packed in a plastic container along with a significant amount of shrapnel, indicating the intention to cause significant damage and loss of life.

The Indian Express had reported on December 25 that the examination had initially been hampered as a water pipe had burst in the blast, washing away vital clues. "Experts worked on the spot over the next couple of

days and managed to pick up some traces that turned out to be RDX," sources said.

"Given that it is a military grade explosive, the evidence of it having come from across the border and the incident's links with pro-Khalistan groups supported by Pakistan have become stronger," a senior officer in the security establishment said.

The new findings in the case come at a time when security agencies have flagged renewed activity of pro-Khalistan terror groups in Punjab, with regular drops of arms, ammunition, explosives and IEDs being detected from across the border using drones. In the recent past alone,



At the blast site in Ludhiana district court. *Express file*

43 drone sightings have been reported by police close to the border near Amritsar and Pathankot. According to Punjab Police, the

lone casualty in last Thursday's blast, which injured six others, was the man carrying the explosives. He has been identified as Gagandeep Singh (30), a former policeman who was sacked two years ago after being booked in a case of drug smuggling.

Gagandeep's charred body was identified based on a tattoo and a mobile phone recovered from the spot. "While the phone was completely destroyed, NSG (National Security Guard) personnel were able to recover the memory card and dongle. During forensic examination, it gave vital clues not only about the identity of the perpetrator but also his links," the senior officer said.

According to police, Gagandeep was dismissed from service after his arrest in August 2019 and spent two years in jail before being bailed out in September this year. A Punjab Police officer said the "evidence suggests he was not an expert in assembling bombs and committed some mistake, setting off the blast (on the second floor)".

On Saturday, Punjab DGP Siddharth Chattopadhyaya had said that Gagandeep came in contact with pro-Khalistan elements during his time in jail, and there were indications that the blast was linked to Khalistani and narco-terror elements operating from Pakistan.

Gujarat: 55 AAP workers granted bail, set to be released today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 30

AS MANY as 55 AAP workers who were jailed at the Sabarmati Central Prison in Ahmedabad for the past 11 days for protesting outside the BJP headquarters in Gandhinagar on December 20, will be released on Friday morning after a Gandhinagar court granted them conditional bail on Thursday.

According to the bail order, the 55 AAP men will not be allowed to enter the Gandhinagar city and their passports will be seized. The jailed workers include AAP Gujarat president Gopal Italia, Youth Wing general secretary Nikhil Savani, senior leaders Isudan Gadhi, Hasmukh Patel, Shiv Kumar and Pravin Ram, along with 10 college students aged between 18 and 22 years, who are part of AAP's student and youth wings. "All 55 leaders of the AAP have been granted bail by a sessions court in Gandhinagar on the solvency of Rs 50,000 and conditions that they cannot enter the Gandhinagar city area and cannot leave the country. The bail proceedings went on till late Thursday... They will be released from Sabarmati Central Prison on Friday around 10 am," said Pranav Thakkar, legal counsel, AAP Gujarat.

Police arrested 93 AAP workers for allegedly holding a protest outside Shri Kamalamb in Koba of Gandhinagar against the leak of question paper of Gujarat Subordinate Service Selection Board examination for recruitment of head clerks. Among the arrested were 28 members of the AAP women's wing, 10 bus drivers and conductors, and 55 male AAP leaders. While women members were given bail last week, the 10 drivers and conductors were also given bail in the past two days.

MALEGAON BLAST WITNESS CLAIM

UPA forced witness to change case angle: BJP leader named earlier

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

WITH A witness in the 2008 Malegaon blast case claiming that he was pressured by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) to name five RSS members, including Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a BJP leader who is among those named by the witness on Thursday alleged that the Congress-led UPA government had forced the witness to "change the angle of the case" as part of its appeasement strategy.

According to Sunil Deodhar, BJP national secretary and former RSS Pracharak, the pressure on the witness was part of a "larger conspiracy to coin the word Hindu terror."

"The witness has given a statement that he was under pressure and torture to name five Hindu leaders — Yogi Adityanath, Indresh Kumar, Aseemanand, Sunil Deodhar and Kakkaji. I don't know who this Kakkaji is," Deodhar told *The Indian Express*.

According to him, after the Malegaon blast there was a *'chintan baithak'* (brainstorming session) of the NCP in Alibaug, where party chief Sharad Pawar, he



BJP National Secretary Sunil Deodhar

maintained, had said that Muslims could not do such a blast on a Friday, which the community holds as a pious day. "This shows there must be a different angle to this case," Deodhar said. "At that time they (UPA) were in power. He had probably instigated a new angle... I was regularly exposing the then (Congress-led) Maharashtra government and their appeasement towards terrorist activities and protecting the terrorists."

"There was one SMS... that all Muslims are not terrorist but all terrorists are Muslims. This was because of the serial blasts across the country and those responsible were all Muslims. So, there was a conspiracy to make Hindus also part of it. There was a larger conspiracy to coin the word 'Hindu terror'."

Deodhar said the witness' statement has endorsed that the term Hindu terror was wrong and the then government had been misusing the investigative agencies against Opposition party.

Mumbai's Covid-19 positivity rate shoots up to 7.67%

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 30

AMID APPREHENSIONS of a possible third wave of Covid-19, the daily positivity rate in Mumbai skyrocketed to 7.67 per cent on Thursday. This has raised an alarm among public health experts, who are anticipating a much higher daily count than the second wave.

Out of the 46,337 tests conducted in Mumbai on Thursday, 3,555 were positive for Covid-19, recording a 7.92 per cent Test Percentage Rate (TPR), the number of positive cases detected compared to the total tests conducted. This is a rise of more than 3 percentage points in TPR over Wednesday, when 2,510 Covid-19 cases were detected out of the 51,843 tests conducted, recording a daily positivity rate of 4.84 per cent.

The surge in cases also pushed up the state's Covid-19 tally. Mumbai contributed 66 per cent of the state's total 5,368 Covid-19 cases reported on December 30.

TWO DAYS AFTER HIS DEATH, REPORT SAYS MAN HAD OMICRON

Pune: Two days after a 52-year-old man died at Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation's Yashwantrao Chavan Memorial Hospital, a report by the National Institute of Virology on Thursday said he was infected with Covid-19's Omicron variant. However, health officials said the man, who had travelled to Nigeria, died of a heart attack. **ENS**

Experts said the daily cases are expected to increase more than the second wave. "Considering that the cases are doubling within 24 hours, it is expected that the cases would increase more than the second wave. However, hospitalization would be less along with fatality. So, it is not the time to keep our guard down," said Dr Shashank Joshi, member of the Covid-19 task force.

Covid cases double in 24 hours, Bengal halts flights from UK

SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 30

THE NUMBER of new Covid-19 cases in West Bengal doubled to 2,128 in the last 24 hours with Kolkata alone reporting 1,090 new cases on Thursday. The test-positivity rate also saw a huge jump. The weekly test-positivity rate for Kolkata rose to 12.5 per cent, according to the data shared by the state Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. West Bengal's test-positivity rate has increased to 5.47 per cent.

Amid the sudden surge in Covid-19 cases in the state in the wake of the emergence of the Omicron variant of the virus, the West Bengal government on Thursday decided to suspend all direct flights from the United Kingdom from January 3.

"...in view of the rising number of Omicron cases globally as well within the country, the state government has decided

to temporarily suspend all direct flights from the United Kingdom to Kolkata with effect from January 3," read a government notification.

Flights from "at risk" countries will not be allowed to land in the state, the notification said. "Further, with effect from January 3, all passengers arriving from other 'non-at-risk' countries via international flights to West Bengal will have to undergo a mandatory Covid-19 test on arrival," it added.

"The airlines will randomly select 10 per cent of the passengers for an RT-PCR test and the remaining 90 per cent shall undergo a rapid antigen test (RAT) on arrival at the airport. Those found positive in the rapid antigen test will further have to undergo an RT-PCR test. Further, all passengers have to mandatorily pre-book the test before boarding to reduce waiting time on arrival, which the airlines must ensure before allowing boarding," said an official of the health department.

NAGALAND

Centre extends AFSPA for six more months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

EVEN AS it set up a committee to look into the demand for removal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) from Nagaland, the Centre on Thursday extended the imposition of the law in the state by six months.

In a gazette notification issued on Thursday, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said: "Whereas the central government is of the opinion that the area comprising the whole of the state of Nagaland is in such a disturbed and dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (No.28 of 1958) the central government hereby declares that whole of the state of Nagaland to be 'disturbed area' for a period of six months with effect from 30th December, 2021, for the purpose of the said Act."

The imposition of AFSPA in Nagaland was due to expire on December 31, as it was last extended in the state on June 30. AFSPA can be imposed in an area or a region for six months at a time, after which it has to be extended if the government deems it necessary.

On December 26, the Centre set up a high-level committee chaired by a Secretary-level officer to examine the possibility of withdrawing AFSPA in Nagaland. The committee is set to submit its report within 45 days.

The committee was set up following protests over the botched up operation in Mon district of Nagaland on December 4, in which six coal miners were killed. After the incident, the Nagaland Assembly passed a resolution for repeal of AFSPA.

The committee is headed by Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Vivek Joshi, and includes Additional Secretary in the Union Home Ministry Piyush Goyal, as well as the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Nagaland, and the DGP, Assam Rifles, as members.

AFSPA is imposed or lifted from a region by the Centre following due consultation with the state government, the Armed forces and the central agencies.

In March 2018, the MHA had ordered the removal of AFSPA from Meghalaya. In Arunachal Pradesh, it was removed from several police station areas in 2018-2019, and only three districts and four police station areas that border Assam are currently under AFSPA in the state.

KERALA: 19-YEAR-OLD STABBED TO DEATH AT FRIEND'S HOUSE

Family: Pre-planned murder, he got call from friend's mother

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DECEMBER 30

A DAY after a 19-year-old man was stabbed to death at his friend's house in Thiruvananthapuram, his family on Thursday alleged that he had gone to the friend's house after getting a call from her mother.

Aneesh George was stabbed to death by his friend's father Lalan Simon, 51, around 3.15 am on Wednesday. Lalan told police that he stabbed Aneesh, mistaking him for a thief.

The police later arrested Lalan on charges of murder.

On Thursday, Aneesh's mother Dolly told reporters that her son went to Lalan's house after he got a call. "When we ex-

Aneesh George was stabbed to death by his friend's father, who said he mistook the 19-year-old for a thief

amined his phone after his death, we saw a call from his friend's mother. He had gone to the friend's house after that call. My son's murder was pre-planned. We came to know about our son's death only after the police informed us early in the morning," she said.

According to her, Lalan knew of Aneesh and his daughter's friendship. "Both were members of the church choir. On Tuesday, Aneesh had gone shopping at a mall along with the friend and

her mother."

Sources in the police said Lalan's version — that he stabbed Aneesh after mistaking him for a thief — did not appear convincing. "It looked like a pre-planned attack. He knew about the friendship between his daughter and Aneesh. It appeared that Lalan was expecting Aneesh's visit. He was alert in those odd hours," said a source.

"Lalan forcibly entered his daughter's room after hearing a conversation between the friends. He might have sensed the youth's presence in his daughter's room. Hence, he waited with a knife with the intention to attack," the source said.

After the attack, Lalan called the police to inform them about the incident.

Father-son poll duel in doubt as ex-CM Rane has a rethink

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, DECEMBER 30

THE ANTICIPATED father-son electoral duel in Goa's Sattari taluka may not play out as expected. While the Congress has announced the candidature of former chief minister and 11-time MLA Pratapsingh Rane from Poriem, the Congress veteran may be giving his decision a rethink.

"I am a sitting MLA, I have completed 50 years, I am 80-plus. What more do you want? Fifty years is a long time and I have my own things to do. I have done my bit. I've done it for the people and I wish them all the best," Rane told *The Indian Express* on Thursday.

Rane's son and BJP MLA Vishwajit Rane had earlier insisted

that his father should now "retire gracefully". If not, Vishwajit said he would contest the Poriem seat from BJP and defeat his father in the upcoming Assembly polls.

At a public rally Thursday in Mayem, North Goa, BJP election in-charge Devendra Fadnavis took a dig at the Congress and said Digambar Kamat, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, was the only MLA left in the Congress. He was reminded about Rane, who was declared the Congress candidate from Poriem. Fadnavis, however, said, "No, he is not going to contest. He has already announced it."

Asked about Fadnavis's comment, Rane said it was "somewhat correct". He, however, said Vishwajit played no part in him reconsidering contesting the polls.

FORMER UGC VICE-CHAIRMAN WRITES TO CURRENT CHAIRMAN

‘Stop political interference in appointment of university leaders’

ALIFIYA KHAN
PUNE, DECEMBER 30

AT A time when the issue of political interference affecting the autonomy of academic institutions has taken centre stage in several states — from Kerala, West Bengal to Maharashtra — a letter has been sent by former University Grants Commission (UGC) vice-chairman and leading academic Dr Bhushan

Patwardhan to the chairman and secretary of UGC, asking for uniform regulations to be brought in for appointment of academic leaders in higher educational institutions. The letter also highlights the need for a National Model University Act.

"To maintain and enhance quality, it is crucial for any higher educational institution to minimise external interference, especially in appointments of key leadership positions such as



Former UGC vice-chairman Bhushan Patwardhan

Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, etc. However, currently, there are no uniform standards or regulations for this purpose. As a result, education being a concurrent

subject, different state governments have different legislations... Any external interference or influence in appointments of academic leadership positions can have a long-term detrimental impact on the whole educational eco-system... There is a need for a National Model University Act," reads the letter.

A copy of the letter is with *The Indian Express*. Patwardhan later confirmed that he had sent the letter to the UGC.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, he said, "I have already expressed my concern in public over what is happening in many states in terms of amendments to the public universities Act or key appointments like vice-chancellors. In Karnataka, where I was on a search committee for vice-chancellor recently, we even made an official recommendation for the same. In Maharashtra, where the state University Act is being

amended, some provisions are not only retrograde but detrimental... Since the UGC Act provides a mandate of promoting and coordinating university education, determining and maintaining standards and framing regulations on minimum standards, I have requested that they bring in uniform regulations immediately to the appointments of academic leaders in universities, followed by a National Model University Act."



New Delhi





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DANGEROUS DELUSION

J&K Police gives itself a clean chit, threatens critics. It needs to be urgently disabused of the notion that it is above the law

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR Police appear to be under the dangerous delusion that they are the strong arm of a police state. How else could one explain the bizarre threat by the Deputy Inspector General of Kashmir of penal action against anyone expressing a critical view on the clean chit that the police have given themselves in an encounter in the Hyderpora neighbourhood of Srinagar in which two innocent civilians were killed? The inquiry itself seemed distinctly odd — a “special investigation team” of police officers to inquire into the killing of two civilians by a posse of police, army and paramilitary personnel, setting aside the first principle of natural justice that no one should be a judge in their own cause. No surprise, then, that this so-called SIT should have absolved the security forces of any wrongdoing, laying the blame for one civilian killing on the alleged militant who was also killed in that encounter, and attributing the second to “crossfire”. Only two weapons were recovered from the site of the alleged encounter. A media conference by the police to announce these findings at a time when the government is studying the report of a magistrate’s inquiry into the same incident gives the distinct impression that the police now consider themselves above judicial scrutiny. Its edict that no member of the public or any local politician should challenge the findings of the SIT only confirms that the force views itself above questions or accountability.

Only in Bollywood films of a certain vintage are police officers seen to have such overweening powers to lay down their own rules, make up their own law. Senior police officers in J&K must also remember that the ranks and the constabulary are drawn from the local population. As a civilian force, the J&K police have played a stellar role in countering militancy right from the 1990s. They have been able to do this primarily because people identify with the police in a way that they may not with the armed forces.

If the police continue in this vein, however, they will find their duties, including dealing with a militancy that does not seem to be disappearing anytime soon, becoming even more difficult in a climate where the public loss of trust in government is the biggest challenge. It falls on the Union Home Ministry, which governs the Union Territory of J&K directly, to disabuse the police leadership of the notion that it is unaccountable. Or else it would invite the conclusion that a mid-ranking officer could not have said what he did without the support and concurrence of the Lieutenant Governor or the political bosses in Delhi.

LAB TO PEOPLE

Despite new vaccines, India relies on first generation shots. Government must enable manufacturers to ramp up production

A MID SURGE in Omicron-driven infections, India’s Drugs Controller General has granted emergency use approval to Molnupiravir, the world’s first Covid-19 pill. The regulator also gave an EUA to two vaccines, Hyderabad-based Biological E’s Corbevax and Covovax manufactured by the Serum Institute of India, under licence from the US vaccine company, Novavax. The pharmacological interventions are potential game-changers in the battle against the scourge that has tormented the world for two years now. If it can replicate the clinical trial results in an actual outbreak scenario, Molnupiravir can reduce hospitalisation amongst patients with severe Covid infection by 50 per cent. Corbevax and Covovax have demonstrated close to 90 per cent efficacy in clinical trials. Though these protein-based vaccines take longer to develop compared to the jabs that use the viral vector or mRNA platforms, they tutor the recipient’s immune system to react faster to a viral attack.

India now has at least five homegrown or indigenously manufactured vaccines. However, the country’s inoculation drive continues to rely predominantly on the two first generation vaccines, Covishield and Covaxin. In August, the drug regulator cleared the use of Zydus Cadila’s Zycov-D for children and adults. Eight months later, the DNA-based vaccine will reportedly be used in a limited manner in seven states for adult inoculation. The inoculation programme for 15-18-year-olds, that will take off from next week, will draw on Covaxin, despite its Hyderabad-based manufacturer, Bharat Biotech, pleading production constraints several times during the inoculation drive for adults. Similarly, the protein-based vaccines are not amongst the initial options for the “precautionary doses” announced recently for healthcare professionals, frontline workers, and elderly citizens. According to the government’s estimates, released in June, about 300 million shots of Corbevax were to be available between September and December. Biological E’s latest statements indicate that it is aiming at a monthly manufacturing target of 100 million shots by February. Production must be ramped up and timelines scrupulously adhered to for the vaccine to justify its potential.

India’s experience with Covid vaccination shows that the country’s scientific bodies and its vaccine manufacturers and developers are adept at generating technological knowhow — this includes institutions other than the world-renowned IIT. However, Bharat Biotech’s performance indicates that these firms struggle to produce at the scale necessary to make their presence felt in the inoculation drive. There are early and worrying indications that Biological E and Zydus Cadila could go the Covaxin manufacturer’s way. The government should ascertain if these firms are facing production-related difficulties and create an enabling milieu for them.

WHAT’S IN A NAME CHANGE?

The curious case of Urdu poet Akbar Allahabadi’s new name

RENAMING HAS A long history in India. The British once mangled native names in imperial arrogance; nativist rulers now rename cities and *kasbas*, streets and stadiums to avenge history, and inflame old wounds. For a brief while this week, it seemed that *sarkari* fiat wanted to do even more — not just rewrite history for political ends, but even give a spanking new digital ID to the dead. On the website of Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Services Commission, Urdu poet Akbar Allahabadi, whose *takhallus* paid homage to the city he lived in and worked in till his death in the 1920s, had been renamed Akbar Prayagraji.

The poet would not have been amused. Allahabadi was a sharp satirist, a nationalist despite being a servant of the British government, and he firmly believed that the destinies of Hindus and Muslims were inseparable. For him, Prayagraj and Allahabad were not on either side of a fault line. But nearly a century after his death, his city’s name, found too Mughal by the powers-that-be, was changed by official diktat. How could he be exempt? Indeed, Allahabadi is not the only one to suffer this inelegance — two other poets, who had adopted similar pen-names, had found their names changed on the website.

What’s in a name change? The bureaucratic machine is not known to be a friend of poets or poetry or the imagination; it is the literalness of paperwork that it recognises — offered in triplicate, duly attested by a gazetted officer. But was Allahabadi’s renaming only about the earnest logic of bureaucratic compliance? Was it a find/replace function error? The unthinking work of an incompetent bureaucrat? Or something more purposeful, given the current manufactured prickliness to anything Urdu or Muslim? The UP government claims that the changes were unintentional and that the website had been hacked. Allahabadi’s name has been restored. And the curious case of Akbar Prayagraji laid to rest.



HASEEB A DRABU

EVEN BEFORE THE Delimitation Commission headed by Justice Ranjana Desai was constituted, its mandate and jurisdiction with respect to J&K were severely curtailed. Two of its three key decisions were pre-empted by legislative fiat. Circumventing the Delimitation Act of 2002, the Union government increased the number of seats in the legislative assembly of J&K from 107 to 114 through the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019.

The Union government also predetermined the population base: Clause xi of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 stipulated the 2011 Census as the basis for delimitation. In all other states, including the four going in for delimitation along with J&K, the 2001 census is being used in accordance with the Delimitation Act of 2002.

By doing this, the Union government has ridden roughshod over the Delimitation Commission, which has the sole prerogative to decide on both these matters. As spelt out, clause 8(b) of the Delimitation Act of 2002, mandates and empowers the Delimitation Commission to decide on the “the total number of seats to be assigned to the Legislative Assembly of each State and determine on the basis of the census figures”.

Having been belittled and bypassed even before its constitution, the only job left to the Commission was to distribute the seven predetermined additional assembly seats. After deliberating for a year-and-a-half, the Commission has proposed allocating six additional seats to Jammu and one to Kashmir. Hence, out of the 116 assembly constituencies, 42 will belong to Jammu and 47 to Kashmir. The remaining 24 seats continue to be reserved for representatives from areas occupied by Pakistan.

In the last assembly, constituted in 2015 and dissolved in 2019, 37 legislators were elected from Jammu, 46 from Kashmir and four from Ladakh. With Ladakh now a separate unit, increasing the assembly constituencies in Jammu seeks to redress the imbalance in the political power structure within J&K. Jammu, a Hindu majority divi-

Out of line

J&K Delimitation Commission privileges ‘considerations’ over ‘criteria’, introduces imbalance in representation

sion, is widely perceived to have been discriminated against and underrepresented in the political superstructure of the Muslim majority J&K.

Facts, however, are to the contrary. Jammu, with a 43 per cent population share had a 43 per cent share in the legislative assembly. While Kashmir with a 55 per cent share in the population of the state, had a 53 per cent seat share. Ladakh, as part of the erstwhile state, had a two per cent share in population and four per cent in the assembly.

Far from seeking to end the non-existent discrimination against Jammu, the Commission has introduced an imbalance in the regional representation. The allocation proposed by the Commission gives 47 per cent of the seats to Jammu which accounts for 44 per cent of the population. The obverse of this is that 56 per cent of the population living in Kashmir will have only a 52 per cent share in the assembly. Including the 22 elected members of the legislative council — 11 were from the Jammu division as against nine for the Kashmir — gives Kashmir, with a population share of 55 per cent, only a 50 per cent share in the legislature.

Far from seeking to end the non-existent discrimination against Jammu, the Commission has introduced an imbalance in the regional representation. The allocation proposed by the Commission gives 47 per cent of the seats to Jammu which accounts for 44 per cent of the population. The obverse of this is that 56 per cent of the population living in Kashmir will have only a 52 per cent share in the assembly.

That Jammu has been underrepresented since 1951 fits more snugly with the ideological narrative of Hindus being discriminated in the Muslim majority state than with any empirical facts. In the last assembly, out of 87 MLAs, 52 were Muslims, 33 Hindus and two Buddhists. As such, while Hindus accounted for 28 per cent of the population, they had a 38 per cent representation in the assembly. As against this, Muslims, who are 67 per cent of the population, accounted for only 60 per cent of the legislative assembly. So much for discrimination of Jammu Hindus and domination by Kashmir Muslims.

The near-ideal balance of regions and religions in the J&K assembly thus far is in stark contrast to the share of minorities in the representation pie of other states. In Assam, for instance, Muslims whose share in the population is 34 per cent, constitute only 22 per cent in the state legislative Assembly. In

Kerala, the Muslim minority of 27 per cent has 21 per cent state share in the assembly. In West Bengal, a 27 per cent population share translates into a 17 per cent seat share in the Assembly.

Instead of emulating the fair minority representation in J&K in the past, the Commission has introduced a brazen bias towards Jammu. In doing so, it has shown scant respect for the only universally accepted criteria for distribution of electoral constituencies, which is population.

In all the four previous delimitation commissions, the basis for the creation of constituencies is the criteria of population. In addition to which some considerations, such as topography, geographical continuity and physical features are stipulated for drawing of the constituency boundaries. By giving primacy to “considerations” over the “criteria”, the Commission has paved the way for the gerrymandering of constituencies especially those whose land area falls under two or more districts because of the creation of eight new districts in the state in 2006.

The actual electoral cartography could very well see pockets of Muslim concentration especially in districts in Pir Panchal and Chenab belt, like Doda, Kishtwar and Rajouri, being dispersed across constituencies to dilute their numerical strength. Lest it sounds conspiratorial, this has happened earlier. A case in point is Assam where the Muslim-majority pockets of Kajidahar, Chandpur and Nagdigram in the Sonai constituency were amalgamated with the Dholai seat to subsume them numerically.

More than that, though, it is the Commission’s adventurism in playing around with the most cardinal principle of adult franchise “one person, one vote” that will have serious ramifications across the country in the future. A dangerous precedent is being set as yet another institution bites the dust.

The writer is the former finance minister of J&K

DEMOCRACY’S WORK IN PROGRESS

Pandemic has underlined that transnational challenges demand joint efforts



HSIN-HUANG MICHAEL HSIAO AND SANA HASHMI

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN-LED Summit for Democracy was held on December 9-10 in a virtual format. As one of the flourishing democracies, Taiwan was seen in attendance, represented by Audrey Tang, Taiwan’s digital minister, and Bi-khim Hsiao, Taiwan’s representative to the United States. The summit was driven by the idea that in the face of populism, authoritarianism, and other forms of non-democratic systems looming large, it is critical to keep the “democratic” flock together.

The salience of this summit lies in a deeper understanding on the part of the Biden administration that democracy is not just a form of government, it is a goal in itself, a value that must be cherished, preserved and celebrated. It is this vision of democracy as a norm that has seemingly rattled authoritarian countries. That said, unlike other political systems, democracy is also a way of life — a work in progress that needs sustained attention and careful nurturing to make it more resilient.

Ideas like these are consistently echoed in Taiwan’s policy circles. For instance, during the 2021 Open Parliament Forum held in Taiwan, President Tsai Ing-wen reiterated Taiwan’s commitment to work with liberal democracies for forging an alliance to bolster collective democratic resilience and realise open governance.

These goals were highlighted during this year’s Yushan Forum, where Vice President Lai Ching-te articulated the three principal priorities that would shape Taiwan’s external cooperation in the post-pandemic world — recovering from the pandemic, restoring the economy, and safeguarding democracy.

These goals are not only in sync with global priorities but also complement the objectives set forth in Taiwan’s New Southbound Policy (NSP), launched in 2016 to bring Asia closer to Taiwan and vice-versa. The NSP is aimed to be a pivotal tool to engage like-minded democracies in the region.

Focusing on recovery (post-pandemic), revival (economy), and safeguarding (democracy) may help find a sustainable way in establishing a development-oriented regional engagement framework. The post-pandemic world would be more invested in some of these areas — for example, health diplomacy and collaboration in the medical sector, climate change mitigation, and developing sustainable and resilient supply chains. Taiwan is already proving its efficacy as a viable platform for the semiconductor industry. The US and its friends in the region, particularly India, Japan and Australia, have been proactively exploring possibilities of creating resilient supply chain mechanisms. With its technological knowhow, and shared interests and concerns, Taiwan fits perfectly in this agenda. Greater interactions between Taiwan and EU on the technology cooperation front, stimulated by the latter’s renewed interest in the Indo-Pacific region, makes Taiwan a desired partner of fellow democracies.

Despite their apparent flaws and criticisms, democracies have fared much better than others in dealing with the pandemic. The world woke up to the perils of authoritarianism during the pandemic, which has also made the world realise the virtues of a democratic system.

However, political resilience needs to be

complemented by economic and social resilience. Greater consultations and cooperation amongst democracies are needed to restore economic stability in the post-pandemic world. Post-pandemic regional economic recovery has to be tackled collectively as success hinges on sustained corrective steps of regional nature. As an industrialised democracy, Taiwan could play an important role, especially since countries are trying to reduce dependence on China and establish supply chain resilience. One big lesson the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us is that nobody is safe until everybody is safe.

During the pandemic, Taiwan elucidated the resilient nature of its foreign policy. In the early days of the pandemic, Taiwan, with its exceptionally low number of cases, reached out to friends. As part of its health diplomacy, Taiwan donated surgical face masks, personal protective equipment (PPE) kits, oxygen cylinders and concentrators to Covid-affected countries.

Taiwan, however, cannot afford to take its eyes off the challenges posed to democracies by authoritarianism. It is important for liberal democracies to acknowledge that they are facing similar challenges and view Taiwan as an indispensable partner. Deft diplomacy is in order since transnational challenges demand joint efforts by liberal democracies.

Hsiao, chairman, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation and Adjunct Research Fellow, Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, is currently senior advisor to the President of Taiwan; Hashmi is a visiting fellow at Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation

DECEMBER 31, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

JUDGES’ CASE VERDICT

THE SUPREME COURT dismissed all writ petitions in the judges’ case and by a majority of 4-3 upheld the actions of the Union government on the three main questions involved. The transfer of Chief Justice KBN Singh of the Patna High Court, the government decision not to extend the term of the additional judge of the Delhi HCSN Kumar and the Law Minister’s circular to chief ministers to obtain the consent of transfer anywhere of those who wanted to be permanent judges, were held valid. Justices A C Gupta, V D Tulzapurkar, Justice K S Pathak, and Justice E S Venkataramiah held that the transfer of the Patna Chief Justice was valid.

However, Justice P N Bhagwati, presiding judge, Justice D A Desai and Justice Murtaza Fazal Ali, held that the transfer was in the nature of a punishment and it was in the case of Justice Singh that the Chief Justice of India filed an affidavit of his own to clarify the stages of consultation between him and Justice Singh. The Patna judge had contradicted the statements of the Chief Justice of India.

PM ON OPPOSITION

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi criticised Janata rule for reversing the process of development initiated by her government and ridiculed the opposition move for unity.

Addressing a public meeting here at the end of her visit to the state, Mrs Gandhi said she was not worried about the accusations being hurled at her government. The opposition was in the habit of running down its achievements, she said.

ASSAM ON EDGE

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE been tightened all over the Brahmaputra valley as four bomb explosions were reported from various parts of Darrang and North Lakhimpur districts with barely hours to go for the 36-hour “Path Bandh” (road blockade) campaign organised by the AASU and AGP.

THE IDEAS PAGE

The virus's endgame

History suggests that the end of respiratory pandemics is usually ambiguous. Closure is better viewed as the return of social life rather than all dashboard indicators hitting zero



RAJESH M PARIKH

WE DO NOT have a precise timeline, but past pandemics offer tantalising clues. The widespread use of dashboards has created the perception that the pandemic will end when all dashboard indicators hit zero (infections, cases and fatalities). However, history suggests this is the most unlikely outcome.

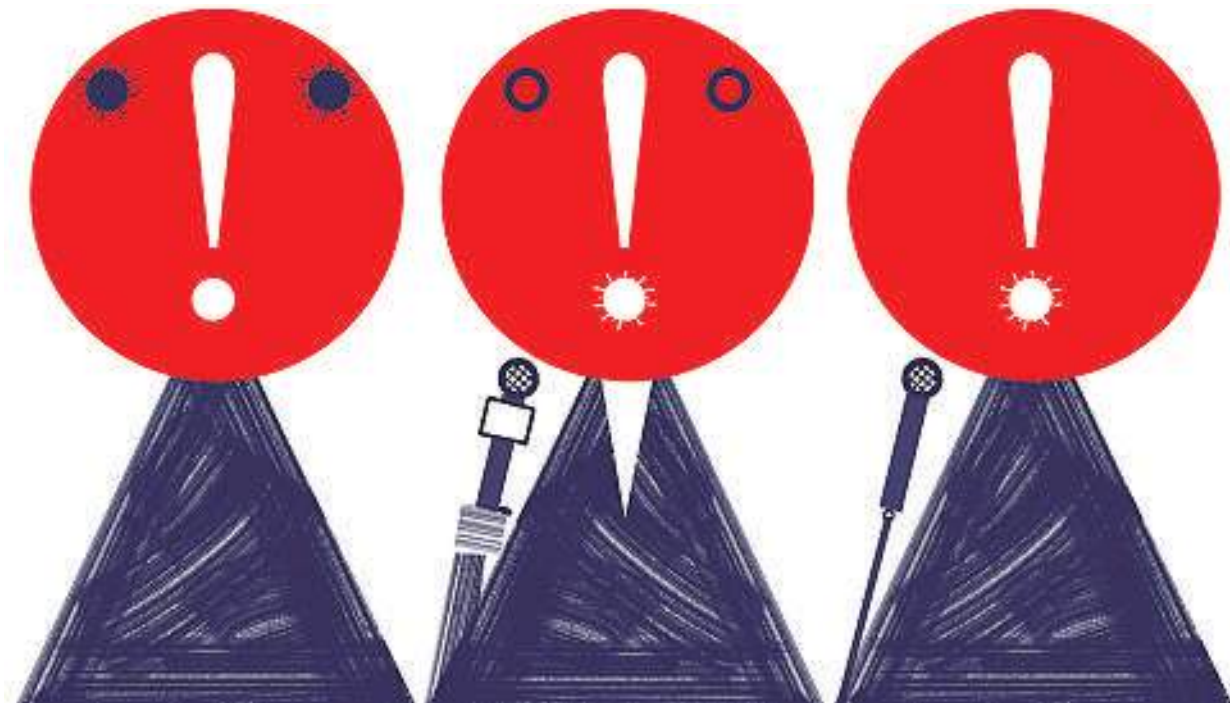
In the past 130 years, respiratory pandemics have been followed by annual seasonal waves fuelled by viral endemicity, which generally lasts until the next pandemic. What goes down, comes back up. The term “waves” to refer to patterns of disease spread during an outbreak was first used during the Russian Flu pandemic of 1889. It lasted three years, had multiple phases of spikes and valleys with the second phase being the most severe.

The Spanish Flu of 1918-20 had three distinct peaks. It began as a small wave in March 1918, which subsided during the summer. Following the initial peak in cases, a larger peak occurred in the fall of 1918. A third peak occurred during the winter and spring of 1919. This wave subsided in the summer of 1919, signalling the end of the pandemic. It is estimated that over 500 million people were infected and about 100 million died. Although the pandemic subsided, the viruses didn't go away; a descendant of the Spanish Flu virus, the contemporary H1N1, is circulating even today.

Multiple factors contribute individually or in combination to determine disease patterns. Some diseases are seasonal, and the waves follow seasonal patterns. Human behaviour and interactions also affect viral spread. In India, during the monsoons, due to crowding, a spike in vector-borne diseases (dengue and malaria) is common. Lifestyle choices, too, play a role — school closings during summer and winter have been linked to reduced social contacts, and thereby reduction in influenza cases.

A third factor that influences disease spread is the level of immunity in the community (herd immunity). As more individuals gain immunity either through infection and/or by vaccination, they indirectly offer protection to those who are not infected. The disease spread slows and eventually halts as the virus is unable to find new hosts to infect.

The epidemiology of previous deadly coronaviruses (SARS-CoV-1, and MERS-CoV) differs significantly from that of SARS-CoV-2; hence these pathogens are not helpful models for predicting the future of the Covid-19 pandemic. Influenza pandemics are our best comparative models. At least eight influenza pandemics have occurred since the early 1700s. Seven of them had an initial peak that faded away without any major intervention over the course of a few months. Following that, around six months after the initial spike, each of those seven pandemics experienced a second significant peak. After the initial wave of infections, certain pandemics displayed recurrent smaller waves of cases over the next two years. The 1968 pandemic was the only one to follow a more classic influenza-like seasonal pattern, with a late fall/winter spike followed by a second surge the following winter. The second year saw an increase in pandemic-related mortality in



CR Sasikumar

various locations, notably in Europe.

The course of these pandemics was not significantly influenced by vaccination. There were no flu vaccinations available in 1918. When the H2N2 epidemic swept the globe in 1957, flu vaccination was primarily used by the military. The United States developed approximately 22 million doses of vaccine during the 1968 pandemic of H3N2, but by the time it was available, the worst of the epidemic had gone. Yet, vaccines play a crucial role in controlling mortality and the burden on healthcare.

A combination of herd immunity and the virus mutating to become less infectious and severe led to the eventual end of past pandemics. Usually, viruses don't just go away. Following three pandemics since 1900, the influenza A strain mutated to become increasingly human-adapted and eventually displaced the dominant seasonally circulating influenza virus. Viruses descended from the 1918 virus have caused almost all instances of influenza A since, as well as all subsequent flu pandemics. Seasonal flu continues to result in the deaths of 6,50,000 people each year.

SARS-CoV-2 will most likely become endemic and continue to circulate in the human population synchronising to a seasonal pattern with less severity over time, as other less pathogenic coronaviruses, such as the OC43, 229E, NL63 and HKU1 and past pandemic influenza viruses have done.

One of the probable scenarios is that through vaccination or natural immunity the adult population will develop immunity and only contract mild illness. SARS-CoV-2 will then primarily affect young children, who will probably only have mild illnesses. The duration of immunity against SARS-CoV-2, both natural and through vaccination, is still uncertain. After six to eight months, individuals who have had Covid-19, show declining levels of neutralising antibodies. However, their bodies also produce memory B cells, which may develop antibodies in the event of a re-infection, and T cells, which can kill virus-infected cells.

SARS-CoV-2's destiny will also be determined by whether or not it spreads to wild animals. Several illnesses that have been controlled continue to exist because animal reservoirs allow infections to spread back into humans. Yellow fever, Ebola, and the chikun-

gunya virus are examples of these diseases. Many animals, including cats, rabbits and hamsters, are susceptible to SARS-CoV-2. Mink are particularly susceptible to Covid-19, and outbreaks have occurred on mink farms in Denmark and the Netherlands.

Omicron has rapidly become the prevalent variety in many countries. In their modelling study, the US-based Covid-19 Scenario Modelling Hub predicts a significant wave of Covid-19 cases that, by the first week of January 2022, will surpass those seen nationwide during the height of the Delta wave. While it is evident that the infection wave will be considerable, it is less clear what Omicron's effect will be in terms of hospitalisations and fatalities, as much is unknown about the severity of primary, secondary, and breakthrough infections with Omicron compared to Delta and preceding variants. Regardless of where Omicron's relative severity falls, the sheer number of cases expected implies that even a relatively mild Omicron variation has the potential to significantly stress, if not overwhelm, already overburdened healthcare systems. We are yet to see if Omicron is a step towards endemicity or one away from it.

In their modelling study, the US-based Covid-19 Scenario Modelling Hub predicts a significant wave of Covid-19 cases that, by the first week of January 2022, will surpass those seen nationwide during the height of the Delta wave. While it is evident that the infection wave will be considerable, it is less clear what Omicron's effect will be in terms of hospitalisations and fatalities. Regardless of where Omicron's relative severity falls, the sheer number of cases expected implies that even a relatively mild Omicron variation has the potential to significantly stress, if not overwhelm, healthcare systems.

The hope for targeting SARS-CoV-2 eradication has passed. Transitioning to a post-pandemic environment is not likely to be one with “zero-Covid”. The challenge then is to define the Covid-19 level that is acceptable for countries in a world that is fundamentally interconnected.

The epidemiological characteristics of a pandemic's end are not universally defined. Prior respiratory pandemics illustrate that ends are usually ambiguous, and that pandemic closure is better viewed as the return of social life rather than the attainment of specific epidemiological goals. Pandemics end not when disease transmission ceases, but rather when the disease ceases to be newsworthy in the eyes of the public and in the judgement of media and political leaders who mould our attention and opinions. The end of a pandemic is more of a concern of lived experience than of biology, making it a social rather than a medical event.

The writer is director, Medical Research and Hon. Neuropsychiatrist, Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre, Mumbai. He has co-authored The Coronavirus: What You Need To Know About The Global Pandemic

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Non-violence does not seek to undermine the rule of law, only the repeal of unjust laws. Ultimately, it's difficult to see how a just transition to net zero could be achieved by unjust means.” —DAWN

Minimum support, maximum gain

Arguments against legal guarantee for MSP are based on poor data, bad economics. Legal backing would encourage crop diversification, food security



PUSHPENDRA SINGH

FARMER UNIONS SUSPENDED their year-long agitation after the government repealed the three farm laws and later reached an agreement on other demands, including forming a committee to look into the issue of a legal guarantee for minimum support prices (MSP). This demand has become the subject of much debate since the start of the farmer agitation, centred around its economic and legal feasibility. Economists have put forth many arguments, but most are not supported by data or sound economic logic. Ashok Gulati and Shweta Saini wrote (‘How to help the farmer’, IE, December 20) that Rs 5.4 lakh crore will be required to purchase just 10 per cent of the output of 23 MSP crops, excluding sugarcane. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Let's frame what the demand actually is. It has two parts: First, MSP should be based on the comprehensive cost of production C2, as determined by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) plus 50 per cent as recommended by Swaminathan Commission. Second, the 23 crops for which MSP is currently announced by the government should be legally purchased at or above the MSP price by anyone who “willingly enters” the market. The MSP of a crop should be treated as a “reserve price”, below which no trade should be allowed legally. Farmers are not demanding that the government or a trader be “forced to buy all the market surplus” at MSP. Irrespective of the quantity of a crop they are willing to buy, they must not buy it below the declared MSP. It's also understood that the government would keep on buying quantities required under the Food Security Act and for meeting the buffer norms for foodgrains.

Now, to the economics. The total value of the output of the 23 crops at MSP prices for 2020-21 was about Rs 12 lakh crore. (This was also the estimate of Harish Damodaran, ‘What meeting MSP demand would cost govt’, IE, November 29.) The total MSP value for a crop is calculated after multiplying the government's figures for the annual production quantity by the MSP. Adding all the 23 MSP crops gives the above figure. This is government data and simple math. But all of the produce is not marketed or sold. The population of farmers, including their family members, is about 50 per cent of the country. They retain a big part of their produce for self-consumption, animal feed, and seeds. Some of it is also exchanged within the village and a part is also eaten by rodents or perishes during harvesting, transportation and storage. About Rs 4 lakh crore worth of the 23 MSP crops is consumed in this manner. Only about Rs 8 lakh crore worth of MSP crops is actually marketed. If we look at the data for the government purchase of these 23 crops at MSP, including sugarcane, the amount comes to about Rs 4 lakh crore. So, only about Rs 4 lakh crore worth of MSP crops are being

bought by the private sector. Farmers are seeking the legal enforcement of MSP on this portion as well.

Private sector purchases may be below, at par or above the MSP, depending on market demand. If we take the aggregate for all the 23 MSP crops, the total price paid by the private sector is on an average 25 per cent below the MSP value. So, currently, the private sector is purchasing the Rs 4 lakh crore worth of MSP crops for about Rs 3 lakh crore. If there was legal status for MSP, the private sector would have paid a maximum of Rs one lakh crore more to the farmers for the same quantities in 2020-21. The government would not be under any greater financial burden. If MSP is enforced, the private sector may purchase the same or lesser quantity, depending on the demand.

By giving legal status to MSP, this extra Rs 1 lakh crore would flow from the private sector to the farmers, who will spend it and create more demand in the economy. This will lead to an increase in employment, investment and eventually, government taxes. Ensuring all the 23 crops are legally sold at MSP will also lead to crop diversification as there would be no incentive to grow only those crops where MSP is now available — mostly paddy, wheat and sugarcane. So, the country would also come out from under surplus paddy, wheat and sugarcane production situation, which will have multiple economic and ecological benefits.

A legal backing for MSP is a great instrument to control the production quantities of various crops to match demand. The country could also become self-sufficient in edible oils and pulses if we ensure remunerative MSPs for these crops. This has been proven in the case of pulses where production has increased substantially, reducing import dependence over the last four years. If the government and private prices are the same, farmers won't seek out the government to purchase their crop. So the government will not be under pressure to buy more than it requires.

The 23 MSP crops consist of staple cereals, pulses, oilseeds and a few cash crops. Our country still ranks poorly on the global hunger index, so these crops are always in demand. Some economists argue that if the MSP is legally enforced, the private sector won't purchase the crops and all the quantities would have to be purchased by the government. Sugarcane prices are prescribed by the government but private mills have not stopped their procurement. And have industries closed due to the Minimum Wages Act? Is nobody purchasing petrol, diesel because the government is charging exorbitant taxes?

Ensuring remunerative prices for our farmers is also essential for food security. Food security is tied to national security and sovereignty. Farmers know that there is no cogent economic or fiscal argument to deny them this right. Legal MSP is the right of our farmers and they won't stop until they get it. Otherwise, it won't be long before we fall back to the “ship-to-mouth” import-dependent foodgrain situation of the 1960s.

The writer is president, Kisan Shakti Sangh and an alumnus of the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A STEADY HAND

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Risk and flow’ (IE, December 30). It appears from the RBI report that the banking sector has battled the Covid problem effectively, but a closer reading shows that this conclusion could be misleading. Asset quality improvement has resulted from write-offs and the moratorium on asset classification, not so much from recoveries. Further, potential bad loans, as seen in rising SMAs and stress in MSME sector, are high. Added to this are the challenges of locus standi that PSU banks face due to mergers and amalgamations, which dilute focused attention to operational matters. The road ahead for banks is rocky and they will need a steady hand at the helm.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

NUMBERS SPEAK

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The welfare mandate’ (IE, December 30). The author and biographer's eulogy for Yogi Adityanath government deftly skirted the problems related to health and poverty in UP. The critics can be blamed for being biased. But what about the government's own agency, NITI Aayog. The report, “The Healthy States, Progressive India” prepared by it along with the Union Health Ministry and the World Bank surveyed 19 large states on indicators such as neonatal mortality rate, under-five mortality rate, sex ratio at birth, maternal mortality ratio, modern contraception prevalence rate, full

immunisation coverage, antenatal care, identification and cure of TB. Analysis of these indicators found Kerala remained the best-performing state whereas UP was at the bottom. Similarly, NITI Aayog has used another set of 12 indicators to calculate the first ever Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), that belies PM Modi and CM Yogi's claims of “unprecedented development” in the past few years, with 37.79 per cent population of the state being identified as “multidimensionally poor”.

L.R Murmu, Delhi

FRIENDLY NEIGHBOUR

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The Moving Triangle’ (IE, December 30). To its small island neighbour tackling multiple challenges, India can offer solutions that can help achieve two diplomatic. First, considering China's increasing footprint in the Indian Ocean, it is important for New Delhi to keep a close watch on Chinese activities in the region. It may happen that small countries could be “trapped” in different Chinese initiatives. Finalisation of the Trincomalee oil tank farm project is therefore a step in the right direction. Second, India's “Neighbourhood First” policy can benefit from this project. Timely implementation of projects outside India has been New Delhi's Achilles' heel. By fulfilling its commitments, India can keep China at bay.

Dewang Ganesh Thosar, Raigad



AVIJIT PATHAK

“Fear of losing control in the classroom often leads individual professors to fall into a conventional teaching pattern wherein power is used destructively.” — bell hooks

AS A TEACHER, I have always felt that our academic culture needs a thinker/ educationist/ emancipator like bell hooks. Even though we can no longer see, feel and experience her embodied existence, it is important for us to invoke her time and again, allow ourselves to be touched by her passion and conviction, and redefine the meaning of teaching and scholarship. Yes, we have already read a series of obituaries; and enough has been said and written about this Black American feminist thinker, her sharp critique of racism and patriarchy, her expanded horizon that enabled her to continually write on gender, racism, sexuality, culture, pedagogy, love and even children's literature, and above all, the immense politico-intellectual strength that characterised her life's trajectory — from being born in a working-class family, growing up in a ghettoised/segmented Black locality, and eventually emerging as a charismatic professor nurturing and inspiring generations of students.

However, I wish to stress three principles that bell hooks internalised as a scholar/teacher; and these principles, I would argue, have immense relevance if we wish to humanise the prevalent academic culture. To

Teaching to transgress

Lessons from bell hooks on how to humanise academic culture

begin with, let it be stated clearly that bell hooks was refreshingly different from a typical “value-neutral” academic — devoid of emotion and passion, and burdened with heavily technical and jargonised publications. And this sickness, every insider knows, is tempting; it has affected many Marxist, poststructuralist, postmodernist and even feminist thinkers and writers. Ironically, scholarship has been equated with incomprehensibility. But then, bell hooks was endowed with immense courage; she defied the style of this sort of prose; instead, her books and articles flow like a river, her words touch the soul of the reader. In a way, theory, for her, was like poetry. Yes, many scholars of the leading American universities where she taught were not very happy with her style and mode of writing. Yet, she inspired us, and gave us the confidence to realise that writing, instead of being reduced to a purely narcissistic exercise of demonstrating one's “intellect”, can be therapeutic.

Second, she altered the character of the classroom. In a way, she took Paulo Freire pretty seriously. For her, emancipatory education ought to be dialogic and experiential. And a teacher ought to cultivate the art of non-judgmental/compassionate listening. Quite often, in our classrooms, no engaged dialogue takes place. A “scholarly” lecture by a professor, absence of lived reality and experience (even poetry or popular culture is taught like

differential calculus), with a lengthy reading list, and repeated production of jargonised seminar papers: Most of our students experience this routine, or coldness of academia. But then, bell hooks transformed her classrooms, altered the meaning of the relationship between teacher and student, and encouraged young minds — particularly, Black women in a White male-dominated space — to articulate their voices, and their pain and trauma. Through this dialogue, reflexivity and inner churning, she continually interrogated patriarchy, racism, and other forms of domination in her classroom. Of course, most of us seek to avoid this sort of engagement with our students because it can also be emotionally taxing. Hence, quite often, our engagement with students remains limited to a bureaucratically-defined task — “covering” the syllabus, grading the students, and then forgetting them. Anyone who wants to join the vocation of teaching, I feel, must read bell hooks — particularly, *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*.

Third, bell hooks taught us another important lesson: Love is the essence of revolution. Quite often, in a dry intellectual milieu, we experience the absence of warmth. And it is impossible not to witness the growing culture of cynicism and despair. But bell hooks, despite the violence she saw in the world, didn't lose her spirited religiosity — the religiosity of love

and hope. We live amid a culture that normalises violence, be it structural, psychic or cultural. We live amid spectacular consumerism with the violence of what Erich Fromm would have regarded as a “having mode of existence”. It is a hyper-competitive social Darwinism that, as Thich Nhat Hanh would have said, negates the art of living “here and now” with mindfulness and meditative calmness, and the hyper-masculine aggression of militarism, religious fundamentalism and toxic nationalism. It is easy to accept this pattern, and “adjust” oneself to this pathology. However, bell hooks reminded us of the “redemptive” power of love, compassion, empathy and forgiveness. In moments of pain and despair, I read her amazing book, *All About Love*, and echo with her: “No matter what has happened in our past, when we open our hearts to love we can live as if born again, not forgetting the past but seeing it in a new way, letting it live inside us in a new way. We go forward with the fresh insight that the past can no longer hurt us.”

Without love, there cannot be any pedagogy of hope. Possibly, for those who celebrate the enchanting power of engaged pedagogy, and still dream of a compassionate, inclusive and egalitarian world, bell hooks would remain alive, and continue to sing her songs.

The writer is professor of Sociology at JNU



New Delhi



Namita Gokhale, Tamil writer Ambai win Sahitya Akademi Award

ADITYA VADDEPALLI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

TAMIL FEMINIST writer Ambai, Kannada biographer DS Nagabhushan, Telugu poet Goreti Venkanna, and English author Namita Gokhale, among others, are this year's winners of the Sahitya Akademi Award. The award was announced for literary works in 20 languages on Thursday. This year, seven books of po-



Ambai (left); and Gokhale

etry, two novels, five short stories, two plays, one biography and autobiography, a book on criticism, and a poem were chosen for the award. Awards in Gujarati, Maithili, Manipuri, and Urdu lan-

guages will be announced at a later date. The awardees will receive a cash prize of Rs 1,00,000. The other winners are Mwdai Gahai (Bodo), Sanjiv Venenkar (Konkani), Hrushikes Mallick (Odia), Meethesh Nirmohi (Rajasthani), Vindeshwariprasad Nishr (Sanskrit), Arjun Chawla (Sindhi), Raj Rahi (Dogri), Kiran Gurav (Marathi), Khalid Hussain (Punjabi), Niranjan Hansda (Santali), Anuradha Sarma Pujari (Assamese), George Onakkoor

(Malayalam), Bratya Basu (Bengali), Daya Prakash Sinha (Hindi), Wali Muhammad Aseer Kishitwari (Kashmiri), Chhabilal Upadhyaya (Nepali). Talking about winning the prestigious award for her book Things to Leave Behind, Gokhale says, "To be a Sahitya Akademi awardee as an English writer, amidst those books in 22 languages, is a privilege. I believe in the concept of many languages, one literature." Gokhale's book is set during

1840-1912 in the Kumaon region. "It looks at the new fragile modernity that was emerging at that time. It looks at colonial history from the point of view of both the colonisers and of Kumaon — my home state. It has many themes but the basic story is about three generations of stubborn Kumaon women. There's a peculiar obstinacy that characterises the mountain women," she told *The Indian Express*. A lot of the material for the book came from Gokhale's previ-

ous work Mountain Echoes: Reminiscences of Kumaoni Women, where the author explores the oral history of the Kumaon region through the memories of her grandmother and three great aunts. "It gave me an idea of how people lived, especially the women of the household. My great grandfather, BD Pandey, had written the first history of Kumaon, which was a credible source. Another source was The Himalayan Gazetteer, written by ET Atkinson," she says.

Gurgaon to get commercial hub on lines of 'Dubai model'

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 30

HARYANA DEPUTY Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala Thursday said the government has planned to launch a Global City project in Gurgaon, spread over 1,000 acres, "on the model of Dubai's Business Bay" in 2022. Chautala told *The Indian Express* that they have plans to initiate the tendering process for the project within a month. "The map has been prepared for the Global City and we plan to launch it by the first quarter of 2022. The Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (HSIIDC) will develop the infrastructure and auction the big plots. We plan to develop the area in a phased manner; initially, we intend to develop a chunk of 50 or 100 acres of land only. On the model of Dubai's Business Bay, it will have shopping malls, commercial and residential buildings. For construction purposes, 3.5 FAR (floor area ratio) will be permitted."

According to Chautala, the Global City will have walking, cycling and service lanes: "It will have non-stop lanes too where vehicle crossing will take place via underground lanes only. There will be space for civic amenities at underground spaces like in Delhi's Connaught Place."

He further said the Global City will have the biggest heli-hub, which will be spread over 25 acres. "It will be much bigger than a helipad," he added.

Officials say the site of the Global City is part of Gurgaon's Sector-36-37 and is located at the junction of Pataudi road and Dwarka Expressway. A source

Business in focus

DUBAI'S BUSINESS Bay is a hotspot of residential and hospitality highrises, with several recognisable landmarks. The project in Gurgaon, planned across 1,000 acres, will similarly have shopping malls and commercial buildings as well as residential complexes. Initially, 50-100 acres will be developed. The Global City is coming up at the junction of Pataudi road and Dwarka Expressway.

said: "The site has been chosen for high-end development. Mainly, only green industries will be permitted here like manufacturing of items related to electronics, bio-technology, and information technology. Chautala has instructed officials to initiate the tendering process early so that the project takes off soon."

Officials said the 1,000 acres of land is part of 1,383 acres which Reliance had returned to the Haryana government in 2014. Earlier, there were plans to set up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) here but that did not take off.

Chautala said the government has 130 acres available to develop a commercial city near the Global City. "The commercial city will have four dedicated towers. For example, one may be for gifts only, another for furniture items, and third may be for residential utilisation items. The idea is simple: residents get everything from one building."

Yet to determine tax liabilities of raided perfume trader: DGGI

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

CLARIFYING THAT tax liabilities from the recent cash seizure from searches conducted at the residential and business premises of Uttar Pradesh-based businessman Peeyush Jain are yet to be determined, GST authorities on Thursday said no deposit of tax dues has been made so far.

"The total amount of cash in the ongoing case from residential and factory premises of M/s Peeyush Jain has been kept as case property in the safe custody of the State Bank of India pending further investigations. No deposit of tax dues has been made by M/s Odochem Industries from the seized money to discharge their tax liabilities and their tax liabilities are yet to be determined," the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) said in a statement.

Citing some reports which stated that the department is treating the Rs 197.49-crore cash recovered from Jain as business turnover and a fourth of it being allowed to be deposited as tax, DGGI called such reports "purely speculative". Voluntary submissions by the accused are under investigation, which will decide the exact nature of the liability, it stated.

The DGGI stated, "Voluntary submissions made by Shri Peeyush Jain are a subject matter of ongoing investigations and any view on the source of cash



Gold and cash recovered in a raid on Peeyush Jain's residence in Kannauj on Wednesday. PTI

seized by the department and the exact tax liabilities of M/s Odochem Industries or other parties involved in the investigation shall be taken on the basis of appraisal of evidences collected from various premises during the searches and the outcome of further investigations."

A total Rs 197.49 crore cash, 23 kg gold and some offending goods of high value have been recovered so far in searches carried out in UP's Kannauj at Odochem Industries — a manufacturer of perfumery compounds — and its proprietor Peeyush Jain, the statement said. The department denied it had treated the recoveries as turnover and the accused has been allowed to deposit Rs 52

crore as tax dues. Such reports are without any basis and seek to "undermine the integrity of the ongoing investigations which are being carried out in a most professional manner based on specific intelligence", it said.

The DGGI said that "based on voluntary admission of guilt and evidence available on record," Jain was arrested on December 26 and produced before the competent court the next day, which sent him to 14 days of judicial custody. Jain has been charged under Section 132 of the Central Goods and Services Act, 2017, which deals with offences of supplying any goods or services without an invoice, the issue of any invoice or bill without supply of goods or services, or evading tax.

Cardinal Oswald Gracias, one of the seven special advisers to Pope Francis, at Raj Bhavan. Express

Pope visit likely next year, says adviser

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
PANAJI, DECEMBER 30

DAYS AFTER Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of his visit to the Vatican City on Goa's 60th liberation day on December 19, Cardinal Oswald Gracias, one of the seven special advisers to Pope Francis, visited the Raj Bhavan here on Thursday.

Cardinal Gracias said preparations for Pope Francis's visit to India are being made for 2022-end, or towards the beginning of 2023.

"We have to prepare the people spiritually also. With the Prime Minister's Office, we have already begun (discussions) on where he could go, where he could stay, etc. I hope Goa is one of those important stops," Cardinal Gracias told Prudent Media news channel here.

In his address on December 19 in Taleigaon, the Prime

Minister had spoken of his visit to the Vatican City in October and mentioned that he had extended an invitation to Pope Francis to visit India. "I invited him (the Pope) to India... Pope Francis said, 'This is the greatest gift you have given me'. This is his affection towards India's diversity and our vibrant democracy," Modi had said.

On his meeting with Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai, Cardinal Gracias, president of Catholic Bishop's Conference of India, who was on a three-day visit to Goa, said, "We had a heart-to-heart talk and exchange about the good of the nation, good of Goa and how we can take the country forward..." Cardinal Gracias also visited his ancestral home in Goa's Orlim.

"We are all worried about the pandemic. We are hoping the pandemic tapers off and goes off," he said.

NOTICE BOARD CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



MoU - SECI

In order to realize green energy objectives and the GOI's efforts towards carbon neutral economy, a MoU was recently signed between BPCL and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) in New Delhi.



AWARD - WAPCOS

Dr. MN Pandey, Union Minister of Heavy Industries, presented the 'Industry Excellence Award-2021' to RK Agrawal, CMD, WAPCOS, in the presence of P Kapoor, Dir (Finance) & A Mishra, Director (Comml. & HRD), WAPCOS.



INAUGURATION - LIC

The LIC of India "LIC Digi Zone" to enhance the Digital Operations of LIC was inaugurated by LIC Chairperson M.R. Kumar, in the presence of MD's - Raj Kumar, Siddhartha Mohanty, BC Patnaik and C. Vikas Rao, ZM, Western Zone.



AGREEMENT - REC

REC has entered into an agreement with KfW Development Bank for availing ODA term loan of USD 169.5 million under Indo-German Bilateral Partnership in accordance with the approval granted by Dept. of Economic Affairs.



CSR - OIL

As part of OIL's CSR intervention, the company recently launched brand Harbest (Best of Harvest) under CSR project OIL Jeevika at Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati.



CSR - REC

REC has committed financial assistance of about Rs.1.27 crore under its CSR initiative to PRS department of NIMHANS in Bengaluru. The facilities will benefit more than 1000 people with mental illness each year.



MoU - NCL

NCL inked an MoU with CSIR IICT, Hyderabad for Clean Coal Technologies & Gainful Utilisation of Overburden in the virtual presence of CMD PK Sinha & others, from NCL & Dr. VM Tiwari, Director, & others from CSIR IICT, Hyderabad.



MoU - NBCC

NBCC signed a MoU with MDI, Murshidabad for construction of its campus in next 5 years. Prof. (Dr) Atmanand, Director, MDI and AK Pathak, GM (Engg.), NBCC along with senior faculty and staff were present during the ceremony.



AGREEMENT - PNB

PNB entered into tie-up arrangement with Lendingkart Finance Ltd for Co-lending Business, in presence of Surendra Kumar Dixit, CGM PNB and Arun Sharma, GM (Agriculture), PNB, Ashok Kumar Gupta, GM (MSME) PNB.



HONOUR - NBCC

In the 36th Indian Engineering Congress organized by IEI in New Delhi, PK Gupta, CMD, NBCC delivered the 34th Dr. Ajudhia Nath Khosla Memorial Lecture on the topic - "Infrastructure Sector Consultancy-Challenges & Solutions."



PASSING OUT PARADE - CRPF

117 Directly Appointed Gazetted Officers of CRPF passed out from the CRPF Academy in a ceremony marked with impeccable parade, fanfare, and roar of oath to serve the nation. N Rai, MoS for Home Affairs, was the Chief Guest.



PARTICIPATION - AUTOMETERS ALLIANCE LTD

Autometers Alliance Ltd participated as one of the sponsors in the 14th edition of International Railway Equipment Exhibition, 2021. R. Sharda, CEO, among others can be seen in the picture.



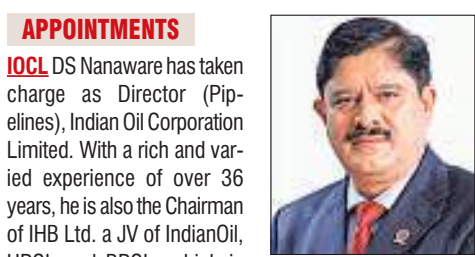
AWARD - PFC

Dr. MN Pandey, Union Minister of Heavy Industries, Gol, presented the 'IEI Industry Excellence Award 2021' to R. Rahman, Executive Director (PR & CSR) and PK Sinha, Executive Director (Projects), from PFC.



AGREEMENT - PNB

PNB entered into a tie-up arrangement with Paisalo Digital Ltd. & Vedika Credit Capital Ltd. for co-lending business, in the presence of SK Dixit, CGM & A Sharma, GM (Agriculture), PNB.



APPOINTMENTS

IOCL DS Nanaware has taken charge as Director (Pipelines), Indian Oil Corporation Limited. With a rich and varied experience of over 36 years, he is also the Chairman of IHB Ltd. a JV of IndianOil, HPCL and BPCL, which is building the world's longest LPG pipeline from Kandla to Gorakhpur. Before he assumed the office of Director (Pipelines), he was ED (Projects) at the Pipelines Division HO. Earlier, as the head of Southern Region Pipelines (SRPL), he was instrumental in starting the prestigious Ennore-Tuticorin Gas Pipeline Project and successfully commissioning its Ennore-Manali and Ramanathapuram-Tuticorin sections.



SAIL Vejenla Srinivasa Chakravarthy recently took charge as Director (Commercial) of SAIL. Chakravarthy joined SAIL in 1987 in the company's Central Marketing Organization. Rising through the ranks, Chakravarthy became the ED, Marketing, in SAIL before taking over as the Director (Commercial) of the company. He is known for his commercial & marketing acumen. As ED, he has contributed to formulation and implementation of various products and price strategy.

ONGC As a part of the observance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, ONGC's Tripura Asset organized a seminar on Exploration & Production and cyclothon to usher a greener tomorrow during 3-4 December 2021. The seminar, organized on 4 December, focused on the key areas of the role of Hydrocarbon Industry in the Future Economy of Tripura State and the seminar aimed to increase collaboration among the various business partners in the E&P business in Tripura.

TP-DDL won two prominent awards - Platinum Award under the 'Best Country Award for Overall CSR Performance' category and Silver Award for 'Best Community Programme' categories at the prestigious 13th Global CSR Awards. The awards were announced during a virtual award ceremony. Company's CSR Initiatives are run under the mother brand Saathi (a companion) in order to effectively reach out to over 1 million underprivileged people, also company's consumers, residing in 220+ JJ clusters in North Delhi. Saathi focuses on 4 main pillars - Women Literacy (Unnati), Youth Empowerment (Ujjwal), Better Health (Sanjeevani), and Energy Conservation (Club Enerji).

THDCIL Gol and State Government of Arunachal Pradesh have offered 02 Mega Hydro Projects to THDCIL in Arunachal Pradesh for implementation. These Hydro Projects are viz. 1200 MW Kalai-II and Demwe(Lower) 1750 MW in Lohit Basin of Arunachal Pradesh. These projects have been offered as a part of Basin wise Indication of Projects in North Eastern Region as overall development initiative of the state. RK Vishnoi, CMD, thanked the Ministry of Power, Gol and Government of Arunachal Pradesh and said that very soon THDCIL is going to open office establishment in Arunachal Pradesh to expedite the above mandate.

REC State Governments of Meghalaya and Assam have become the frontrunners in planning their operational and financial reforms as well as the underlying works to accomplish the same under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (Nodal Agency - REC). Accordingly, their state-level Distribution Reforms Committee (DRC) and State Cabinet have approved the proposals, including Action Plan and DPR, for consideration under the scheme.

ATS Group ATS HomeKraft has received an overwhelming response for the first phase of its Pious Orchards project in Noida. The Company has achieved sales value of more than INR 350 crores in the Project in a single-day event, wherein 290 apartments were sold with an area of approx. 700,000 sq.ft. This volume of sales makes Pious Orchards launch as the most successful launch, in terms of volume in NCR market, and one of the most successful launches across India in recent times.

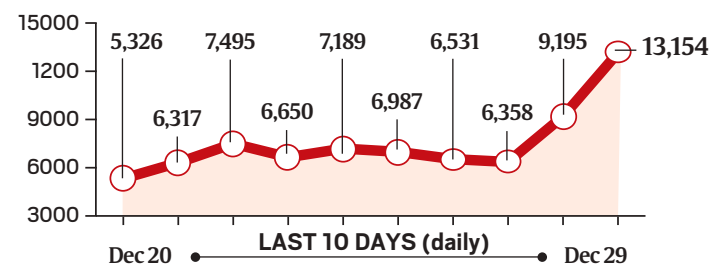


@ieExplained

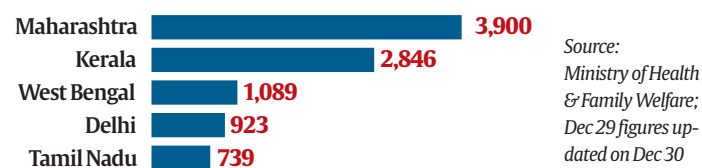
#ExpressExplained

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

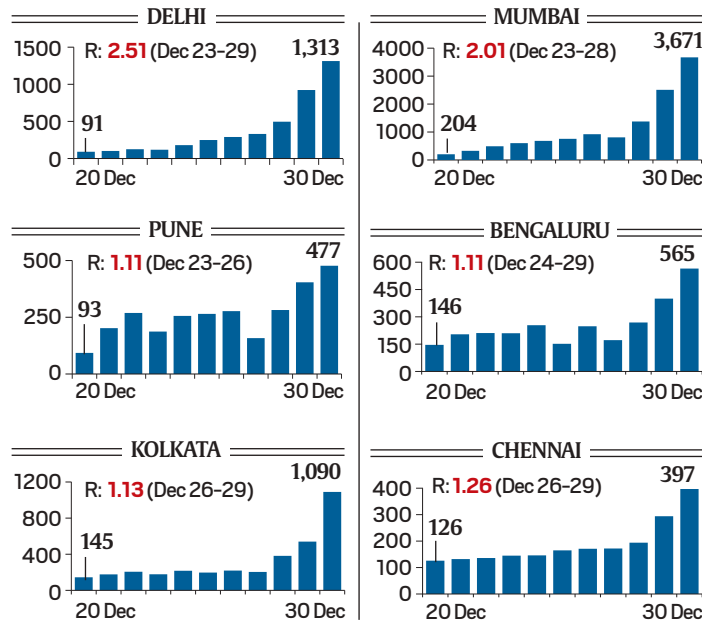
CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

INDIA NEW CASES (last 24 hours) **13,154**ACTIVE CASES, DECEMBER 29: **82,402** (Dec 28: 77,002)

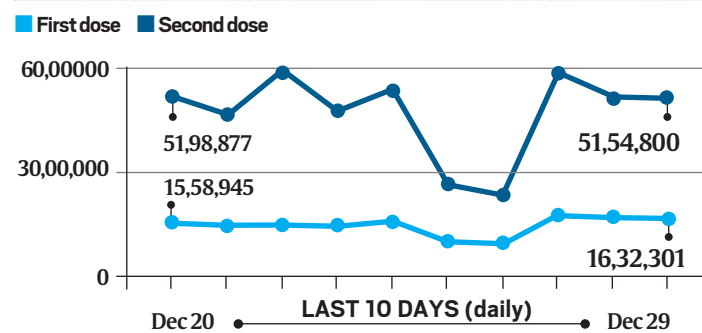
NEW CASES, TOP 5 STATES

Source:
Ministry of Health
& Family Welfare;
Dec 29 figures up-
dated on Dec 30

SURGE IN THE CITIES: LAST 10 DAYS



R: Basic reproduction number

INDIA TOTAL DOSES **143,83,22,742**
(1st DOSE: **84,16,19,301**; 2nd: **59,67,03,441**)DOSES ON DECEMBER 29 **67,87,101**DEC 28: **68,53,905** (1st DOSE: 16,32,301; 2nd: 51,54,800)

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Year when hybrid workforce can expect 5G and wait for metaverse

The metaverse is an idea whose time has come, and tools to connect to it may become more accessible. The advent of 5G connectivity will help, besides impacting sectors such as automobiles and medicines. And the software that enabled working from home will have to evolve to cater to a hybrid work model.



GettyImages

NEW IN THE NEW YEAR 2022

TECHNOLOGY

CALENDAR 2022

JAN 5-8: CES 2022

EARLY FEB: Samsung Unpacked 2022

END FEB: Mobile World Congress

APRIL: Apple Spring event

JUNE: WWDC 2022

MAY: Google I/O 2022; Microsoft Build 2022

JUNE: Computex 2022;

SEPTEMBER: iPhone event; Amazon hardware event

OCTOBER: Microsoft Surface event; Google Pixel event

NOVEMBER: Apple iPad event

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

LAST YEAR, the predictions were somewhat easy. We said technologies around working from home would get better. And they did, from more features in all the videoconferencing software most of us now call office, to better front-facing cameras in the new computers that make us all look good at work. Yes, there was better access to doctors via online platforms even as we stayed away from hospitals as far as possible. The gadgets did get better as more companies took the Apple route to get their own silicon in place. But no, 5G is still somewhere in the air as far as India is concerned.

But 2021 has also been a mixed year. Although still in the middle of the pandemic, we have ventured out of our homes after a long period of caution as the cases came down in countries like India after a brutal second wave. Travel was back, so was eating out and cinemas. But that does not mean the pandemic is over, and Omicron has reminded us of that. The last few weeks of this year have suddenly made people rewrite the outlook for the coming year. Here is how we think the tech world will be in the third year of the pandemic.

Building the metaverse

Metaverse is more than a buzzword. It is an idea whose time has come. But then, the metaverse is not really a new concept; it has been around as an idea for decades. In fact, most of us are already in the metaverse in some way or the other, especially children who spend hours building their own worlds in games like Minecraft. For them, the restrictions of the pandemic have meant that the online realm is where they communicate, ideate, build and dream.

In the new year, we will see many companies try to do the same with the metaverse. They will all start propping up pillars of what will be "a new way to experience the Internet". This is not going to be an easy task because there are no standards yet to make

these different silos interoperable. So even as you will hear the word metaverse being used for everything people are unsure of on the Internet, there will be a lot of work happening behind the screens to make this one connected virtual universe and not a collection of bubbles.

The metaverse is different from the Internet as we know it because it gives users the ability to create, transfer and possess stuff purely in its realm. And the necessity to make these transactions possible within the different meta bubbles will be what actually starts connecting the now disjointed worlds.

You could also see some of the tools to connect to the metaverse in its rich form become more accessible, like VR/AR headsets from companies such as Oculus and others. But the fact is that you really don't need all this to start being a part of the metaverse; you are already in it.

Smartphones and beyond

With a new way to experience the Internet just round the corner, it won't be surprising if we start seeing the next big smartphone disruptor in the coming year. Let's get one thing clear: The smartphone disruptor does not have to be a smartphone or something that carries forward that form factor. In fact, what could really change the way we access the Internet, communicate and work could be something without a screen we can touch.

The smartphone sector has hit saturation point with hardly any innovation happening in terms of changing the user experience drastically, and this is why any concept that offers a better way to experience the metaverse version of the Internet could well be the future of personal communication.

5G, finally?

One of the enablers of the metaverse will be access to high-speed, low-latency and zero-downtime 5G networks. India has finally announced a timeline for its rollout in cities and this could trigger a high degree of adoption for both the latest generation of connectivity as well as the new version of

Internet, a more immersive, experiential vision of the web.

While the metaverse is still more meta and less verse, where 5G technology could make significant impact will be in sectors like automobiles and medicines. For instance, 5G will enable more intelligence in connected vehicles, allowing them to make split-second decisions based on what they are seeing and sensing in real time. If 4G helped millions get remote health consultations during the pandemic, in a 5G world they may be able to get operated on by a doctor sitting in some other part of the world. Even if that does not happen, 5G will enable real-time analysis of complex health data to advise those who don't have access to the best tech or experts in the field.

A hybrid workforce

Across the world, a lot of people are back

at work with signs of the pandemic easing at one point, and also because of an acceptance that you might as well live with Covid-19 than try to stay away from it. This has posed new challenges for everyone from device manufacturers to IT administrators of companies. A hybrid workforce, shuttling between home and office, is not as easy to manage as one that is restricted to either environment. This will mean the software that helped us stay connected from home will evolve to cater to this new work model, even as new products will be spawned to solve specific problems such as keeping devices and data secure while the networks they work on change.

This is bound to make the traditional network security model obsolete and prompt companies to look at decentralised models based on access points and individuals. Companies will also have to evolve and optimise for a model that might make their present office infrastructure redundant for the near future.

More power to consumers

Over the past few years consumers of personal technology devices have been used to getting better features and lower prices. But all that might go for a toss if the present scarcity of processors continues. Already prices of everything from budget smartphones to automobiles are going up because of the chip shortage, and the situation is unlikely to improve at least in the first half of 2022 when supply is expected to again catch up with demand.

But things are not all that bad. Across product ranges, features that once used to be premium are now becoming more accessible to regular users. If in 2021 we saw technologies like noise cancellation, high-refresh rate screens and fast charging come down to more affordable price points, in the new year expect to see the foldable form factor become more mainstream because of lower price points. Similarly, adaptive refresh rates, wireless charging and 5G will be common in mid-range, and maybe even budget phones will be so by the end of the new year.

EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY

India's economy and your investments: flags to watch in 2022



SANDEEP SINGH & SUNNY VERMA

THE OMICRON-LED surge in Covid-19 cases around the world has poured cold water on the hopes of rapid economic recovery, and dampened investor sentiment. Gates of workplaces and businesses that had opened in anticipation of a return to normalcy are being slammed shut again as partial lockdowns of varying intensity begin to be re-imposed.

How the pandemic pans out in its third year will determine the pace and nature of the recovery. Investments across asset classes will depend on factors such as inflation, interest rate movements, credit growth, foreign portfolio investments, and the price of crude oil. Employment generation, and a certainty of steady income for those at the bottom of the pyramid who were hit by the economic disruptions of the

first and second waves, will be key to long-term sustainable growth for India.

Omicron concern

There is cautious optimism that the new variant, which is highly transmissible but not necessarily equally deadly, will not trigger a wave of serious illness that will overwhelm hospitals and fill crematorium grounds in the way Delta did in April-May. Some experts have argued that the emergence of Omicron in fact signals the "beginning of the end" of the pandemic, and the virus may be entering the endemic stage.

It is hoped that lockdowns will remain relatively soft and there will be limited disruption in economic activity; however, there is also concern that exponentially rising case numbers may hurt consumption and the revival of corporate earnings.

"Now that Covid is a known unknown, it may not hit economic activity, C J George, MD, Geojit Financial Services, said. "The bigger concern is over the way inflation and interest rates will move in 2022, and the impact they will have on debt and equity markets."

Interest rates

The stimulus programmes announced

by governments to support national economies in 2020 and 2021 have led to the problem of inflation. While inflation in India is still in a comfortable zone, it has touched a four-decade high in the United States. The Federal Reserve decided to increase the pace of reducing monthly asset purchases; it is also likely to hike rates twice, possibly thrice, in 2022.

Market participants say the pace of withdrawal of stimulus and hike in interest rates may disrupt equity and debt markets going forward. As the Fed started tapering, foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) have been pulling out — they have pulled out over Rs 40,000 crore from Indian equities since November 22, putting pressure on the benchmark indices.

However, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) have been buying — and have invested a net of over Rs 48,900 crore during the same period.

If equity markets are impacted by FPI outflows, a hike in interest rates in India may reduce the pace of money deployment by retail investors in domestic equities, and see some reallocation from equity to debt.

Equities outlook

Some market experts feel that while in-

terest rates may go up in 2022, inflation will not be much of a worry in India. There is expectation that equities may do well if Omicron does not cause a major disruption, and domestic retail flow into equities remains stronger than FPI outflows.

"Investors will have to moderate their expectations of returns from equities in 2022. It is a fair value market. If Omicron does not cause big disruption, domestic retail inflows remain stronger than FPI outflows, and corporate earnings remain strong, then it will outperform other asset classes," Nilesh Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra AMC, said.

George of Geojit pointed out that while interest rate hikes in developed markets will put some pressure on domestic equities as FPIs will pull out money, even domestic rate hikes will see a decline in money flows into equities from retail investors.

Debt market

Yields on government securities have started hardening, rising from the recent low of 6.1 per cent on September 22 to 6.4 per cent on Thursday. While the RBI has deviated from central banks in developed countries and argued for the need to maintain an accommodative stance, the market is pushing

interest rates higher in anticipation of the rising cost of capital. The largest state-owned lender, State Bank of India, increased the base rate by 10 basis points to 7.55 per cent per annum earlier this month — an indication that the era of low rates may be over.

Movements in yields, which depend on trends in interest rates, can result in capital gains or losses for investors. If an individual holds a bond carrying a yield of 6%, a rise in bond yields in the market will bring the price of the bond down. On the other hand, a drop in bond yield below 6% will benefit the investor as the price of the bond will rise, generating capital gains. Investors in fixed deposits can opt to keep the tenure lower in order to capture higher rates going forward.

Rising yields also have implications for home loans. Floating rates may rise, as banks try to pass on any increase in costs to customers.

Gold has corrected from the peak of around \$2,120 per ounce in August 2020 to around \$1,800. Gold is expected to stay positive going ahead, and gain momentum in case it closes above \$1,850 on expectations of rising interest rates and inflation.

Geopolitics potential

As the confrontation between China

and the West escalates, India could be a beneficiary of foreign direct investments from the US and Europe, market experts feel.

International manufacturing firms have started to look towards India as they seek to diversify production away from China, and several private equity investors and venture capital funds have increased their investments in India.

However, India will have to work hard on requirements of policy, skill development, and regulation, in order to attract these investments.

Former chief economic advisor Arvind Subramanian wrote in a recent article in *Foreign Affairs* magazine that while "India has made impressive recent progress in building the 'hardware' of economic success... the country continues to struggle to fix its 'software', the crucial economic framework under which domestic entrepreneurs and foreign firms must operate".

"Policies are changed abruptly; rules are altered to favour certain firms. As a result, domestic entrepreneurs and foreign companies have been reluctant to undertake the investments needed to exploit India's rapidly advancing hardware," Subramanian wrote.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Ganga Preethy Subramaniyan D/o Sh. Subramaniyan W/o Sh. Sudhir Viswanathan R/o 23, Bank Apartment, Plot No.22, Sector-4, Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi-110075 have changed my name to Preethy Sudhir Viswanathan for all purposes. 0040597628-3

I Bansi Verma S/o Ram Anand R/o 4785, Ahata Kidara, Pahari Dhiraj, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Bansil Lal 0040597710-1

I Babi Ram Kaur D/o Late Saran Singh R/o UC-27/A, Usha Park, Jail Road, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to Babyram Kaur for all purposes. 0040597628-2

I Arji Singh S/o Amar Singh R/o UC-27/A, Usha Park, Jail Road, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to Harjeet Singh for all purposes. 0040597628-1

I Anil Ray Resident Of Smq 92/02 Air Force Station Chandinagar ,Baghpat (UP)-250615 Have Changed My Daughter's Name From Aradhyha Ray To Aaradhya Ray Vide Affidavit No.In-UP78493996443584T DTD 23 DEC 21 Before Ghaziabad court. 0050189566-1

I Vikash Soni, S/O Mukesh Soni, R/O, 1/5126, Durga-Niwās Street-No.4, Balbir-Nagar Shakhara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to VIKAS SONI. 0040597751-5

I,Shallu Dudeja W/o Saksham Arora, R/o 11/2-A, Double-Storey, Prem-Nagar, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058, have changed my name after-marriage as Taishaa, all future Purposes. 0040597759-2

It is for general information that I, Rehana Khan, W/o-Mohd. Shoyab Khan, R/o-S-58/10, Gali.No.24,S-Block, Brahampuri, Delhi-110053, declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Rehana in my minor son Zaib Waris Khan(14years) T.C. and Schlool-Record.The actual-name of mine is Rehana Khan, which May be amended accordingly. 0040597739-10

I, hitherto known as CHIRAG, S/o-SATBIR SINGH YADAV, residing, Plot.NO.41, FORTH/F, B1 EXTENSION, SEWAK PARK, UTTAM-NAGAR, D.K.K.MOHAN-GARDEN, WEST-DELHI, DELHI-110059, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHIRAG YADAV. 0040597748-4

I, Yatin Grover, S/o Sh. Harish Kumar R/o-468/4, Ram-Nagar, Near Shiv Mandir, Gurugram, Haryana-122001. That Yatin & Yatin Grover are one and same person. 0040597751-9

I, VANDANA, W/O.BIJENDER KUMAR SINGH, FLAT.No-P096, TOWER-1, 14TH AVENUE, GAUR CITY-2 GREATER NOIDA, GAUTAMBUDH-NAGAR U.P.-201308. Changed my name to BANDANA SINGH, permanently. 0040597739-1

I, Tarannum Naz, aged 40 years, D/o-Mohd Saieed, R/o-H.No-256, DDA Quarters, New Seema Puri, hereby declares that, I am a mother of Mohammed Zidan, Student of St Lawrence Public School, Dilshad garden. 0040597729-2

I, Tamanna Abbot, W/o Sidharth Mohanty R/o-J-5/101H, Rajouri-Garden, Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Tamanna Mohanty. 0040597759-3

I, Sonal Sharma, D/o-Vidya prakash Sharma, W/o-Nitin Rastogi, R/o-D-474, S/F, Gali.No.11, Bhajanpura, Delhi-110053, Have Changed My Name To Shilpa Rastogi. Sonal Sharma And Shilpa Rastogi is One And The Same Person. 0040597739-4

I, Sandeep Kumar S/o Sanjay R/o-H.No:-F-1/218, Sangam Vihar, Delhi-110080, have changed my name from Sandeep Taank to Sandeep Kumar and father's name, from Sanjay Taank to Sanjay for all, future purposes. 0040597740-4

I, Rajjat Vijay Agarwal R/o C-37, Sector-26, Noida (U.P) have changed my daughter's name from Saanvi Agarwal to all purposes. 0040597714-1

I, Rajeev Arora, S/O Lal Mohan Arora, R/O, 1431, 1st-Floor Outram-Lines G.T.B-Nagar Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Rajeev Kumar Arora. 0040597751-2

I, Prabhneet Singh Anand, S/O Mandip Singh R/O,A-104, Second-Floor, Ganesh-Nagar Tilak-Nagar, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Prabhneet Singh. 40597751-3

I, Parmod S/o-Kaptan Singh, R/o-House, No-F-120, Gali No-4, Jaipur Ext. Part-2, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044, Have Change my, name to Pramod Chauhan and both are same person. 0040597751-8

I, Nandini Bhardwaj, D/o- Ombir Bhardwaj, H.No-1217, Sector-46, Gurgaon Haryana 122002, Changed my name to Nandiyini Bhardwaj. 0040597751-1

I, ISHWAR CHAND SHARMA, S/O JATASHANKAR JHA, R/O-Navkhari, Naokhari, Madhubani, Bihar, have changed my name to ISHWAR CHAND JHA. 0040597693-9

I, Pooja Agarwal w/o Vinay Surya R/o-36/78 West Punjabi, New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Pujā Surya, for all purposes. 0040597739-5

I, MOHAMMED AMAAN S/O MOHAMMED SULEMAN R/O P 48/1 GALI NO-5 BATLA HOUSE JAMIA NAGAR NEW DELHI 110025 IN MY PASSPORT MY NAME SPELING IS WRONGLY MENTION MOHD AMAAN BUT MY CORRECT SPELING IS MOHAMMED AMAAN. 0040597587-6

I, NEERU KUMARI, W/O LALIT KUMAR SHUKLA, R/o-Flat-1205, Tower-C, Antriksh Golf-View-1, Sector-78, Noida, Gautam Budh-Nagar (UP) have changed my name to NEERU KUMARI SHUKLA. 0040597739-9

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

I, Neha Mishra, D/o-Sh.Vinod Kumar Mishra, R/O-D-63-B, Ishwar-Colony, Arjun Park, Najafgarh, New-Delhi-110043. I am also known as Neha and my Aadhar-Card my name is mentioned Neha Mishra. Neha and Neha Mishra is one and the same person. 0040597739-6

I, Narendara Verma, S/o Dalbir Singh Verma, R/O Flat.No.221, SFS-Flat, GH-13 Paschim-Vihar Delhi-110087, changed my minor daughter's name Priyadarshini Verma to Priyadarshini Verma. 0040597739-8

I, Manjit Singh S/o-Ajit Singh R/o:K-45, Gali.No-13, Krishna Park Extn.Tilaknagar, New Delhi-18, Have Changed My Name to Manjeet Singh. 0040597740-2

I, MOHAMMAD Shahid, S/O mohd. Yaqoob khan, R/o-1383 Gali.no.15, Gandhi-Nagar new-Mustafabad delhi-110094, have Changed my name to Mohd Shahid khan, for all purposes. 0040597751-6

I, Kapil Arora S/o Ashok Kumar Arora, R/o 11/2-A, Double-Storey, Prem-Nagar, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Kapil, for all future Purposes. 0040597759-1

I, Jugdish Kaur, W/O Surinder Singh, R/O, Village-Mallian Pakkian, Dehriwala Gurdaspur, Punjab-143518, have changed my name to Gurdish Kaur. 0040597751-4

I, Hitherto known as Mohammad Arif, S/o Mohammad Yaseen, R/o-H.N.114, Asara-1, Baghpat, U.P.-250623, Have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Arif Chaudhary. 0040597739-3

I, AGAT SINGH S/O, RAJKUMAR SINGH R/O, E-3/1201A4, 12th-Floor, Bharat City Indraprastha Yojna, Loni, Ghaziabad, UP-201102, inform that, my father name-writen in my, PAN and Aadhar as RAJKUMAR SINGH and in my, Educational-Certificate as RAJKUMAR. Both are one and, the same person. 0040597751-10

I, Gaganpreet Singh S/o- Gurcharan Pal Singh Kocher R/o- J/-200, U.G.F., LIC Colony, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-87, Have Changed My Name to Gaganpreet Singh Kocher. 0040597740-3

I, Bhim Sain alias Bhim Sen, S/o Ramashwer Dass R/O-869 Sector-37 Faridabad Haryana-121003, changed my name to Bhim Sain Mittal, permanently. 0040597739-7

I, BIJENDRA SINGH, S/O. KRISHNA DEV PRASAD SINGH, ADD-FLAT.No-P096, TOWER-1, 14TH-AVENUE, GAUR-CITY-2 GREATER NOIDA, GAUTAMBUDH-NAGAR, U.P.-201308. Changed my name to BIJENDER KUMAR SINGH. Permanently. 0040597739-2

I, Amarjit Kaur W/o-Manjeet Singh R/o:K-45, Gali.No-13, Krishna Park Extn.Tilaknagar, New Delhi-18, Have Changed My Name to Amarjeet Kaur. 0040597740-1

I, Amar Singh S/o Shri Radhey Shyam R/o-N-659, Sector-8, R.K. Puram, South-West Delhi, Delhi-110022 have changed my name to Amar Singh Meena for all purposes. 0040597676-1

I, khushboud kakwani, w/o Tarun bajaj, Add-G-18/31, 3rd floor, sec-15, Rohini, Delhi, have changed my name to Sakshi bajaj. 0040597693-5

I, Vinod Kumar S/o Shri Shishpal R/O H.No.30, Gali No.-1, Near Hanuman Mandir, Mandoli Road, Chander Lok Shakhara, Delhi-110093 have changed my name as Vinod Kumar Verma for all purposes. 0040597661-1

I, Vineet Kumar S/o Sarda Ram resident of H.NO. 174, Ali Ganj, Kotla Mubarak Pur, New Delhi-110003, have changed my name to Vineet Baisoya for all purposes. 0040597667-1

I, Tithi Agrawal, D/o Kameshwar Nath Ur Agarwal, W/o-Mr. Mohit Goyal, R/o-Tower-A5, Flat.No.604, Tulip-White, Sector-69, Badshahpur, Gurugram (Haryana)-122101, have changed my name to Tithi Agarwal. 0040597693-4

I, Sonika, D/o Naraain Singh, R/o 701-A-2, Tulip Ace Appt, Pataudi Road, Sector-89, Gurgaon, Haryana-122505, have changed my name from Sonika to Sonika Yadav. 0070767129-1

I, Simran W/O Shri Bhupinder Singh R/O H-3/106, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Simran Singh. 0040597748-11

I, Simon Kaur Kumra, D/O Satinder Pal Singh, R/O T-139, Shukkar Bazar, Uttam Nagar, New-Delhi-110059, Have Changed my Name to Simone Kaur. 0040597748-2

I, Satnam Singh Randhava, S/O Jeevan Singh Randhava, R/o.RZD-18A, Gali.No.5, Mahavir-Enclave, South-West Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Satnam Singh Randhava. 0040597693-1

I, Sameem S/o Mustafa, R/o-155, Vill.-Talhedri Buzurg, P.S. Deoband Saharanpur-247554, U.P. have changed my name to Shamim. 0040597693-8

I, Sahed Ahamed S/o Chand R/o-E-136, Welcome, Seelampur, Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Saeed Ahmed. 0040597693-7

I, Sachin, S/O-Shri Ram Niwas Goyal, R/O-143, Neelgiri Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Sachin Goyal for all future Purposes. 0040597729-1

I, SUNIL VERMA, S/O VED PRAKASH VERMA R/O-X/1808, PARK-MARG, GALI.No-12, RAJGARH-COLONY, GANDHI NAGAR, DELHI-110031, have changed my name to SUNIL KUMAR VERMA. 0040597748-3

I, Roma Saggu W/O Gagandeep Singh R/O.C-4/1, Jeewan-Jyoti- Apartment Saraswati-Vihar, PitamPura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Roma Kaur. 0040597693-3

I, Raman Deep Arora, S/o Manjit Singh, R/O A-501, Ridgeview-IFS Society, Sector-54, Gurugram (Haryana), have changed my name to Robin Arora. 0040597693-2

I, RAM PRASAD, R/O- 269A, T/F, Arjun Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi-110029, have changed my son's name from KUMAR SUDERSHAN to KUMAR SIDDHARTH SUDERSHAN, for all future purposes. 0040597751-7

I, Prakshal Jain, S/o Sanjay Kumar Jain, R/o P-24, Vardhman Green Park Colony, Ashoka Garden, Huzur, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh- 462023. Declare that Name of My Father has been wrongly written as Sanjay Jain in my School Records, 10th Class Certificate No.-S.No. SSE/2018/ 0329484/ Roll No.-1207481. The actual name of My Father is Sanjay Kumar Jain, which may be amended accordingly. 0070767128-1

I, Om Parkash Sharma, S/o Gurdial Chand Sharma, R/o-143, Hari-Nagar Ashram, Mathura-Road, Delhi-110014, have changed my name to Om Prakash Sharma. 0040597748-1

I, Nikhil Kumar Patel, S/o Jay Krishna Patel, R/O At-Badabazar, Sahab Bunglow, Samelewari Mandir, Sadar, Sambalpur, Odisha-768003, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nikhill Kumar Patel. 0070767127-1

I, Naresh Kumar S/o Raj Kumar Arora, R/o 55/11, Ground Floor, Ashok Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name Naresh Kumar to Naresh Kumar Arora for all purpose. Naresh Kumar & Naresh Kumar Arora is one and the same person. 0040597664-1

I, M. Samsad, S/o MD Israil R/o G-708, Shakupur J.J.Colony Delhi-110034, Will Be Known As Mohammad Shamse Alam For Future Purposes. 0040597748-5

I, IMRAN ULLAH Khan R/o-202, Green Vile (T8), NRI City-1, Greater Noida, G.B.Nagar-201310, have changed my minor son name, from ALI KHAAN to ALI KHAAN. 0040597693-10

I, Gautam Singh, S/o Gabar Singh, R/o WZ-513/B, Basal Darapur, Ramesh Nagar, West Delhi-110015, Declare that name of Mine and My Wife has been wrongly written as Gautam Rawat and Priyanka Rawat in my minor Son Om Rawat, aged about 2 Years, In his Birth Certificate No-MCDDOLIR-0119-007310550. The actual name of Mine and My Wife are Gautam Singh and Priyanka, which may be amended accordingly. 0070767126-1

I, Garima, W/o Rupak Kumar, R/o K-2303, Ace City, Sector-1, Greater Noida West, UP-201306, have changed my name to Garima Nalwa. I should be referred as Garima Nalwa for all future purposes. 0070767162-1

I, Damini, D/o Mahender Pal Singh, R/O B-57, Patel Garden, Kakrola, Dwarka Mor, New Delhi-110078, have changed my name to Damini Hoon. 0070767104-1

I, Anurag Paswan, S/O Ghanshyam Paswan, R/O Beilia, Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh-273303, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anurag Anant. 0070767136-1

I, Rahis Ahamad, S/O Saeed Ahmed R/O E-136, Welcome, Seelampur, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Rahis Ahmed. 0040597693-6

I, Ankita, D/o Mahender Pal Singh, R/O B-57, Patel Garden, Kakrola, Dwarka Mor, South West Delhi, New Delhi-110078, have changed my name to Ankita Hoon. 0070767102-1

I, Aisha Sachdeva w/o Deepak Sachdeva, R/o/3/88, Block-3, First Floor, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015 have changed my name to Anmol Rattan, for all purpose. 0040597666-1

I, Abhishek, S/o Anil Kumar, R/o H-No-78, Vaid Panap, Mundhela Kalan, South West Delhi-110073. Declare that Name of My Father has been wrongly written as Anil in my Educational Documents. The actual name of My Father is Anil Kumar, which may be amended accordingly. 0070767125-1

I Sri Devi Gunda W/O, Hanumantha Rao Bonala R/O D-49/29, Dilshad Colony, Delhi-110095 have changed my name to Sri Devi Bonala for all purposes. 0040597726-1

I Rinki Verma W/o Bansil Lal R/o 4785, Ahata Kidara, Pahari Dhiraj, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Rinki 0040597708-1

I Ravi Kankani S/o Goverdhan Das Kankani R/O 222-223, S/O K. Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur U.P., have changed my name to Ravi Prakash Kankani 0040597626-1

I Kanchan Kumari Alakh W/O Vinod Kumar R/O flat No.457, Metro View Apartment ,Dda Flats,Pocket-II,Phase-II, Sector-13, Dwarka, Delhi 110078. Have Changed My Name To Kanchan Ifuture For All Purposes.Vide Affidavit Dtd.27/12/2021 At Delhi 0050189568-1

I Gurmeet Kaur W/O Balraj Singh R/O Shop At Plot No.5, K-Block,Pipal Chowk, Mohan Garden,Uttam Nagar, Delhi 110059. Have Changed My Name To Santosh Kaur Ifuture For All Purposes.Vide Affidavit Dtd.27/12/2021 At Delhi 0050189570-1

I, RAM PRASAD, R/O- 269A, T/F, Arjun Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi-110029, have changed my son's name from KUMAR SUDERSHAN to KUMAR SIDDHARTH SUDERSHAN, for all future purposes. 0040597751-7

LOST & FOUND

Lost 2 Bajaj finance Reposition kit bearing numbers (GSPEC508265 & PGYEC520873). FIR is lodged in this case no-LR No:1122746/2021. 0040597729-3

Original GPA, SPA, ATS and WILL dated 10.10.2011, excuted by Jager Singh in favour of Smt. Suman Sahani, Amarjeet Kaur and Smt.Sarojini Khanna, all original documents has been lost and mutation Letter issued by concern authority in favour of Smt.kamlesh. 0040597682-1

I, Mohammad Sabir, S/o- Abdul Rehman would like to inform that all my documents, (10th to LL.M), including my LL.M marksheets and degree issued by Jamia Millia Islamia university in the year on July-2018, bearing Roll No. 16MLW003 and Enrollment No.16-3257, has been stolen on 14.07.2021. If found please contact on Mobile No. 9555725017 and Address 9/14, Dauble Storey, Vijay Nagar, Delhi-110009. 0040597748-6

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that my client Sh. Rakumar S/O Late Sh. Murali Lal R/o H.No WZ 1392, 3rd Floor, Multani Mohalla, Rani Bagh, Delhi-110034 have severed all their relations with their son Bhavay due to his bad habits. My above named client has disowned and debarred his said son from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Bhavay will do at his own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Sh.Bhavay.
Sd/- PRANAV ARORA (ADVOCATE) D-3327/2020 3279, FIF PUSA SIDE, SOUTH PATEL NAGAR DELHI-110008

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that my Clients Shri Raj Kumar Singh and his wife Smt. Chhaya Singh, R/o House No.256, KH. No. 104/24, Second Floor, Gali No. 6, Block-C, Parvatiya Aanchal, Sant Nagar, Gram Burari, Delhi-110084 have served all their relations with their son Aman Kumar Singh and his wife Ankita Singh due to their misbehaviour and harassment. Both my above named Clients have disowne and debarred their said son Aman Kumar Singh from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing or keeping any relationship with Aman Kumar Singh and his wife Ankita Singh will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that my Clients Shri Raj Kumar Singh and his wife Smt. Chhaya Singh, R/o House No.256, KH. No. 104/24, Second Floor, Gali No. 6, Block-C, Parvatiya Aanchal, Sant Nagar, Gram Burari, Delhi-110084 have served all their relations with their son Aman Kumar Singh and his wife Ankita Singh due to their misbehaviour and harassment. Both my above named Clients have disowne and debarred their said son Aman Kumar Singh from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing or keeping any relationship with Aman Kumar Singh and his wife Ankita Singh will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing.
SONIA MADAN (ADVOCATE) BCD No.-D/2409/2005 PH-07827294990

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of my client SH. SUSHIL KUMAR KASERA son of Sh. Sohan Lal Kasera, resident of C-25, Ahinsa Vihar, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi and others are negotiating with MRS. NEELAM GOEL wife of late Sh. Suresh Goel, resident of D-756, Sarashwa Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, regarding to purchase the Property No.795, in Block-D, land area measuring 191.66 sq.yds., situated at Sarashwa Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi, who claims herself to be the sole & absolute owner of the said entire Property. any person(s) All person(s) having any claim/demand/interest/right in respect of or against the above said property or any part or portion thereof in any manner or by way of any Agreement to sell or introduce or share or sale or transfer or assignment or private mortgage or gift or exchange or possession or conveyance or easement or otherwise, is hereby called upon to bring the same to the knowledge of the undersigned in writing with all documentary proof(s)/evidence(s) at the office of the undersigned within fifteen days from the date of publication thereof of the present notice, failing which the claim/demand of such person(s), if any shall be treated as null and void; and shall not have any legal and/or any other sanctity; and shall be non-binding on my client and the aforesaid proposed transaction of purchase of the said property shall be completed without any reference to any such claim(s)/demand(s).
Parveen Garg (Advocate) Enrol.No.D/71386, RU - 26, Pitampura, New Delhi - 34, Mobile No. 9810398984

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that my client MOHAN LAL GUPTA S/O LATE SH. RAMESH GUPTA R/O F-8-5033, SECTOR-8, ROHINI, DELHI-110085 is purchasing ENTIRE BUILT UP PROPERTY NO. C-2/1, MEASURING 250 SQ. YDS. SITUATED IN SHARDA PURI, RAMESH NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110015 from SH. RAJYANT SINGH S/O LATE S. GURBACHAN SINGH R/O C-18, THIRD FLOOR, RAJENDRA SHARDA PURI, RAMESH NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110015. In case of any individual/firm/company/financial institution/bank except L&F from Hare Housing Finance Ltd. claiming any right in respect of the said property, they are requested to above said property, his/her/they may write incontact to my client at above address/office No. 9717250025 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.
KAMAL SINGH (ADVOCATE) Enrl. No. D/782674

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client Vajeer Singh S/o Dosh Raj R/o H.No. 268 Prem Nursery Gopal Nagar A Block Najafgarh New Delhi-110043 has disownes his son Nitesh his wife Ranjna & their children Ansh and Gurvinder from all his moveable and immovable properties. My client shall not be responsible in any manner for any Act/Deed done by them. Any person dealing with them shall deal at his/her own risk and cost.
Advocate- Rajender Prasad C/O No-B-146A, Tishazari Court Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to public at late Shri Shobu Ram, R/o H.No.54 Kushak No.1 VIII. Gadiapur, Delhi has disownes and debarred my son Shri. Nishit Saini and his wife, namely Mini Saini do Sh. Pardeep Kumar Saini from the date of publication due to cruel and aggressive behavior from all his moveable and immovable properties/assets and all service benefits, and my client has severed all his relationship with them because of their violent, cruel, aggressive and abusive conduct towards my client, my client shall be responsible for all the acts, deeds and things done by them in future.
ATMA SAGAR VERMA ADVOCATE H-104, Shivaji Park, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026

PUBLIC NOTICE
MY Client Viregaj Saini son of late Shri Shobu Ram, R/o H.No.54 Kushak No.1 VIII. Gadiapur, Delhi has disownes and debarred my son Shri. Nishit Saini and his wife, namely Mini Saini do Sh. Pardeep Kumar Saini from the date of publication due to cruel and aggressive behavior from all his moveable and immovable properties/assets and all service benefits, and my client has severed all his relationship with them because of their violent, cruel, aggressive and abusive conduct towards my client, my client shall be responsible for all the acts, deeds and things done by them in future.
ATMA SAGAR VERMA ADVOCATE H-104, Shivaji Park, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that my client ARVIND BHARDWAJ S/o K.S.Bhardwaj R/o Khatuni Khatu No. 23, 117, Gram Sakhol, Patti Mali Khatua, Tehsil & District Namital is the legal owner of the property (Khatuni) (i) Khatu No. 123 Khet No. 912, 914, Anybody dealing in any manner with respect to the said properties (including sale-purchase), without the consent of my client will be solely responsible for the risk and consequences.
SARJEET SINGH BANWA & ASSOCIATES ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS Enrl. No. D-1006/1995 M: 9810498758 Ch.no.-869, Lawyer's Chamber Block Saket Distt. Courts, New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE
I Mukesh Goyal S/o Budil Lal Goyal R/o, A-135D near Kailash Hospital Sec-27 Noida-201301, I Lost my Omaxe Builder Buyer Agreement and Receipt No 1643732 for Rs.120671/-, & Receipt No. 1643734 for Rs.1310560/- & Receipt No.1626460 for Rs. 25000 of my Flat No.Gopala-2-H-201 in Omaxe Eternity Vrindavan. If anybody found PIs return back to Mr. Pradeep, Omaxe Ltd, 7 LSC, Kalkaji, New Delhi Mobile: 9899999949.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The public at large is hereby informed that my client Alka Gulati intended to purchase built up property bearing no -J-105, Vikas Puri, New Delhi from his owner viz Sh.Praphul Singh Ravi. If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the intended sale transaction, he/she may contact the undersigned with documentary proof sustaining his/her objections within 7 days from the date of this publication, failing which my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/ objections /disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/ objections/disputes will be entertained.
Rajan Chautani & Parul Dureja Advocates Office address: K-27 West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008

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कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, E.S.I.C. Govt. of India)
प्र क्रमांक : 21-डी/11/13/औषधालय टेण्डर/2021-सामान्य दिनांक: 29.12.2021
कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा औषधालयों तथा औषधालय सह शाखा कार्यालय (डी.सी.बी.ओ.) के लिये भवन हायर करने हेतु ऑनलाइन/ऑफलाइन निविदा
अपर आयुक्त, सह क्षेत्रीय निदेशक, कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम, पंचदीप भवन सर्वोदय नगर, कानपुर द्वारा उत्तर प्रदेश क्षेत्र के लखनऊ, कानपुर, वाराणसी, आगरा, बरेली, गाजियाबाद तथा प्रयागराज क्षेत्रों में स्थित कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा औषधालयों तथा औषधालय सह शाखा कार्यालय (डी.सी.बी.ओ.), कानपुर देहात में भवन किराये पर लेने हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। औषधालय हेतु हायर किये जाने वाले भवन का एरिया 1600 स्क्वायर फिट तथा औषधालय सह शाखा कार्यालय (डी.सी.बी.ओ.) हेतु 2100 स्क्वायर फिट, परिसर भूतल पर वांछनीय है।
कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा औषधालयों/ डी.सी.बी.ओ. के भवन हायर हेतु वांछनीय योग्यताएं/मापदण्ड, सामान्य नियम, शर्तें, अनुबंध एवं अन्य जानकारी कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम की वेबसाइट www.esic.nic.in पर प्राप्त की जा सकती है।
अपर आयुक्त सह क्षेत्रीय निदेशक

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

**HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer, Shimla, Division No. 1, HPPWD, Shimla-3, H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost.	Starting date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid	Time Allowed
1	Construction of road from Bhattakuler to IGMC Phase-II km. 0/700 to 2/400 in District Shimla (HP) (SH- F/C, C/O R/wall, B/Wall, Hume pipe Culvert, P/L GSB, G-I-G-I/G-I-II, 50mm thick BM, 30mm thick BC, C/O V-Shape drain, PCC parapets etc).	34612471/-	19-01-2022	693000/-	3-02-2022	180 days

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptender.gov.in
The executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

5942/HIP

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

PRESS NIT No. 17 (2021-22) M-5

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender	E/Money (EMD)	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)	Date of release of Tender	Latest date/ time of receipt of tender
1	Providing / Laying additional 600 mm dia NP4 RCC- HDPE lining pipe by Micro Tunneling from Majra Ka Tila to Aruna Nagar SPS under AEE(M)-20.	₹ 6,52,44,152/-	₹ 13,04,883/-	1500/-	01.29.12.2021 2021_DUB_213709_1	24.01.2022 Upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 922(2021-22)
Sd/- (P.C. Sharma)
Asst. Executive Engineer (TM)-5
"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing and Maintain Hand Hygiene"

**JAL SHAKTI, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

e-NIT No. 118 OF 2021-22 Dated: 28.12.2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmir/Jammu 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 HILLY AREAS (GRAVITY) falling in District Baramulla for Execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works costing above 3 crores up to 10 crores and above (GROUP V)", 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/Fee (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of Work (Days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for each 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. Retrofitting of electro-mechanical equipment/s at various Water Supply Schemes	Work/Scheme wise details given in Section-II of tender document	1000/-		180 Days	
	Group-V	Above 3 Crores upto 10 Crores & above		1.00		180

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:

	PUBLISH DATE	29.12.2021
I	DOCUMENT DOWNLOAD/SALE START DATE	29.12.2021
II	CLARIFICATION START DATE	29.12.2021
III	BID SUBMISSION START DATE	03.01.2022
IV	CLARIFICATION END DATE	20.01.2022
V	PRE-BID MEETING DATE	03.01.2022
VI	DOCUMENT DOWNLOAD/SALE END DATE	25.01.2022
VII	BID SUBMISSION END DATE	25.01.2022
IX	DATE AND TIME OF BID OPENING	27.01.2022

- 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/Jammu, 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 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.
- The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of DD /TR/le 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/le-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 kmphed@gmail.com or pheceju@gmail.com Chief Engineer, No. CE/PHE/Kmr/34034-49
Date: 28.12.2021 DIPP-15877 Kashmir, Jal Shakti, PHE Department.

**ADVERTISEMENT NO : 30373/TRIAL/2023-24/ST-25
MG ASC HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN COMMAND
UDHAMPUR : SHOWCASING AND DISPLAY OF SPECIAL
RATION ITEMS FOR REVISION OF INVENTORY FOR THE
CY 2023-24**

- Inventory of Special Ration Items (packaged food products) in respect of Northern Command is being revised for the Consumption Year 2023-24 & onwards.
- A showcasing/display/trial is being organised in two phases by this Headquarters at Udhampur as per details given below:
 - Phase-I-** Initial Screening of Items wef 01 March 2022 wherein all interested firms/vendors to submit item details/ catalogue/ product description only along with an application (Application form can be obtained from HQ Northern Command/ 603 ASC Bn (AM), Chandigarh, FSD BD Bari/ FSD Udhampur/ FSD Srinagar/ 497 (I) Comp Pl, ASC, Chandigarh)
Note : NO SAMPLES TO BE SUBMITTED IN PHASE-I
 - Phase-II** - Technical Evaluation of Items will be held at Udhampur at NSOI tentatively on 09 Apr 2022, wherein samples (five) of items screened in Phase-I only will be called for evaluation. Confirmed dates will be intimated later.
 - The List of Items is as under:

Soups	Juices	(xxvii)	Tomato Puree
(i) Tomato Soup	(xiii) 100% Apple Juice	(xxvii)	Tomato Ketchup
(i) Chicken Soup	(xiii) 100% Orange Juice	(xxviii)	Semian
Tea	(xiv) Guava Juice	(xxix)	Ready to Eat Dal Makhani
(iii) Tea CTC	(xv) Mango Juice	(xxx)	Paneel Ready Made
(iv) Kahwa Tea	(xvi) Coconut Water	(xxxi)	Roasted Pista Giri
Noodles	(xvii) Pineapple Orange Fruit Drink	(xxxii)	Ground Nut Salted
(v) Noodles Veg	(xviii) Mango Fruit Drink	(xxxiii)	Honey
(vi) Non Veg Noodles	(xix) Pineapple Fruit Drink	(xxxiv)	Gulab Jamun
(vii) Cup Noodles	Other Items	(xxxv)	Soya Chunks
Biscuits	(xx) Roasted Ground Nuts	(xxxvi)	Isabgol Nature Care
(viii) Cookies Cashew	(xxi) Chikki Peanut	(xxxvii)	Pudin Hara Capsules
(ix) Biscuit Bourbon	(xxii) Walnut (Vaccum Sealed Kernels)	(xxxviii)	Tulasi Cap/ Tablets
Chocolates	(xxiii) Eclairs	(xxxix)	Revital
(x) Milk Chocolate	(xxiv) Digestive Candy	(xxxx)	Malted Milk Products
(xi) Chocolate Temptation	(xxv) Mixed Pickle		

Note:-

- Preferably the life of ibid items should be best before nine months & above.
- Tentatively delivery stations are Chandigarh, Leh & Srinagar.
- Original manufacturers/ authorised managers or managing directors/ authorised C&F agents/ authorised distributors can participate in the above event.
- The above event is on 'no cost no commitment basis' and Headquarters Northern Command reserves the right to reject any item/ firm/ vendors without assigning any reasons.
- Interested firms/ vendors may submit their item details/ catalogues/ product description in a sealed envelope duly mentioned "SHOWCASING AND DISPLAY OF SPECIAL RATION ITEMS FOR REVISION OF INVENTORY FOR THE CY 2023-24" on the envelop in Tender Box kept at Headquarters Northern Command, Main Gate at reception by 01 March 2022 by 1200 Hrs (no application will be accepted thereafter).
- Any other detail can be obtained from this office of the Executive authority on any working day between 1100hrs to 1200 hrs on under mentioned details:
 - Email address - jaynan569p@gov.in
 - Contact No - 01992-242153 & 270714* (Extn 2763)
*(Udhampur Exchange Helpline No)
MG ASC
HQ Northern Command

davp 10602/11/0067/2122

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM
THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2021

**NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE**

No. 74-W/23/WA/Publication DATED: 29.12.2021

SRDENI/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following tenders closing date 13.01.2022 16:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender No. Date	171-DRM-MB-21-22 Date - 29.12.2021
Name of work	Improvement / upgradation of L-xing road surface by providing Rubberised surface at various LCs in MB Division. (2 nd time)
Tender Closing Date Time	13.01.2022 16:00
Advertised Value (Rs.)	8502429.00
Bidding Start Date	29/12/2021
Validity of Offer (Days)	20 Days
Period of Completion	2 Months

3081/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**Government of Jharkhand
Department of Mines & Geology
Directorate of Geology
Engineers' Hostel No-2, 2nd floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
Email: dir-geology@jharkhandmail.gov.in**

**Cancellation
Important Notice**


Tender No. MSTC/RNC/DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY/39/19-20/24439 Dated 30.10.2019
e-Auction of Lodhapat, Jobhipat and Hethilodha Bauxite Block

In Consonance with Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (as amended), the Tender No. MSTC/RNC/DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY/39/19-20/24439 Dated 30.10.2019 for auction published in different News Papers vide PR.No.- 224530 (Mines and Geology) 20-21 of Lodhapat, Jobhipat and Hethilodha Bauxite Block over an area of 75.198 Ha in Gumla District, Jharkhand for grant of Mining Lease has been annulled.

Sd/-
(Vijay Kumar Ojha)
Director Geology

PR 260760 Mines and Geology(21-22)D

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



Unknown

General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown**, Age about 25-30 years, Height 5'5", Complexion Shallow, Built Normal, Face Oval, Wearing White colour shirt, dark green colour lower and bare footed was found dead at Seelampur Flyover Under Metro Bridge on 16.08.2021. In this regard a DD No. 64-A date 16.08.2021 has been lodged at PS Seelampur, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased person may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

**SHO
PS: Seelampur, Delhi
Ph. 011-22562989, 22826006**

DP/1271/NE/2021

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a male dead person **Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 30/35 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Injury Marks: Head Injuries Wearing : Green Shirt**, was found dead at K.M. Pol No. 11/31 Badli Village, Delhi. On 21.03.2014 at 3.30 PM. in Train

Accident. In this regard, a DD No. 18PP, dated 21.03.2014 has been lodged at PS ODRS, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any, person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

**SHO
P.S., Old Delhi Railway
Station, Delhi
DP/325/RLY/2021 Ph. : 011-23961522, 9540360600**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one female **Namely: Yashoda, W/o Laxman, R/o: H.No.C-2/142, Nand Nagri, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 07.12.2021 from her house from the area of P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi In this regard a case vide DD No. 33-A dated 08.12.2021 has been registered at P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi.

The description of the missing/kidnapped female is as under: **Age: About 32 years, Height: 4'6", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Strong, Wearing: White-purple colour suit salwar, and blue colour slipper in her feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing female kindly inform to the following.

**Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi
DP/1219/NE/2021 Ph.: 011- 22137761, 8750870733**

**Government of Jharkhand
Department of Mines & Geology
Directorate of Geology
Engineers' Hostel No-2, 2nd floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
Short Tender Notice No. 18/2021-22**

Directorate of Geology invites sealed tender on plain paper from manufacturers/ authorized agents/ distributors of reputed having their registered offices in India for the purchase of **Equipments/Items** for State Geological Laboratory, Hazaribag as laid down in the Tender Document

Name of the Department : Directorate of Geology, Department of Mines & Geology, Jharkhand, Ranchi

- Name of the advertiser : Director, Geology Department of Mines & Geology Jharkhand, Ranchi
- Period of Tender Document 30.12.2021 to 17.01.2022
- Last date and time of receipt of Tender Document 17.01.2022 till 1.00 P.M.
- Date and time of opening of Tender Document 17.01.2022 at 3.30 PM Place of receipt of Tender Documents: Office of the Director, Geology, Engineers' Hostel No-2, 2nd Floor, Sector-III, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004.
- Place of receipt of Tender Documents: Office of the Director, Geology, Engineers' Hostel No-2, 2nd Floor, Sector-III, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004.
- Cost of Tender Documents:

Sl. No.	Equipment/Items	Cost of the Tender Document (In Rs.)
1	Platinum Crucible	5000.00
- Cost of tender document:- 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) It will be submitted online through official website www.jharkhandminerals.gov.in ➡ Other & Services ➡ e Payment ➡ Payment office (Directorate of Geology) ➡ Head of Payment (Cost of Tender Document) ➡ Description ➡ Type of Depositor (Other) ➡ District Name (Directorate of Geology) ➡ DDO Code (PRJOTH002) and Tender Document will also be available in our Government website www.jharkhand.gov.in
- Cost of Tender Document is non-refundable.

Sd/-
(Vijay Kumar Ojha)
Director, Geology

PR.NO.260701 Mines and Geology(21-22):D

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangaluru - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

**No: MESCOM/SEE(P)/EE(W)/1066 Date: 30.12.2021
TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Mode Only)**

MESCOM invites tender for Re-conductoring of old deteriorated Weasel conductor by Rabbit conductor of LT circuits of various capacities of distribution transformers under Stage-1 in Kundapura, Byndoor, Tallur, Shankar Narayana and Kota Sub-divisions of Kundapura Division vide bid enquiry no. MESCOM/2021-22/ EL/ WORK_INDENT1734.

The interested eligible bidders may log on to www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 31.12.2021.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Proc.), Corporate Office

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912


**Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MUMBAI**

**Request for Qualification and Proposal for
International Common User Cargo (including
courier) Terminal at Chhatrapati Shivaji
Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai**


Mumbai International Airport Limited ("MIAL") intends to award Contract for "International Common User Cargo (including courier) Terminal" (ICUT) through a competitive bidding process.

MIAL hereby invites interested parties to participate in the competitive bidding process by submitting an application to MIAL. The application can be downloaded from CSMA website: <https://csma.adaniairports.com/tenders.aspx>

Request for Qualification and Proposal ("RFQP") document containing land details, eligibility criteria and terms shall be provided to the applicant who submits the application by 10th January, 2022 on payment of cost for issue of RFQP.

Contact details: cargo.csma@adani.com

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that a unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown** was found dead on 22.12.2021 at Under Crown Plaza Flyover, Mayur Vihar-I, Exten. Delhi. In this regard DD No. 56 A, dated 22.12.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Mayur Vihar, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: About 45 Years, Height: 5'5" (Approx), Face: Round, Built: Medium, Complexion: Black, Hair: Black, Wearing: Blue, White, Yellow Colour Sweater & Red Colour Nikkar, Identification: Allergy & Burn Injury Like Marks.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

**SHO
Police Station Mayur Vihar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22711048, 8750870627**

DP/867/ED/2021

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, ROAD
DIVISION, GUMLA
e-Procurement Notice
e-Tender Reference No. RCD/GUMLA/919
Date :- 29.12.2021**

1.	Name of the work	Construction of PCC Road & Paver Block in Neterhat Awasiya Vidyalay a (Total Length 2.300 km)
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 2,75,92,900.00 (Two Crore seventy five lacs fifty two thousand nine hundred) only
3.	Time of Completion	03 Months
4.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	27.01.2022 Up to 12:00 Noon
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	07.01.2022 From 10:30 A.M.
6.	Opening Date of Tender	02.02.2022 12:30 PM
7.	Name & address of office inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department, Road Division, Gumla.
8.	Contact no. of e-Procurement officer	06524-222097
9.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

- Tender amount can be increased or decreased.
- Details can be seen on website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Gumla.

PR 260716 Road(21-22)D

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह**

ई- अत्यकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई- निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/GIRIDIH/12/2021-22

- कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	गिरिडीह जिला के पीरटॉड प्रखंड अंतर्गत डुमरी सीमा कौशिया नवासार जमुना दहा में पुल निर्माण। (पुल की लंबाई-68.44 मीटर)	38581700.00	772000.00	10000.00	18 माह

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 07.01.2022
- ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय – 17.01.2022 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
- ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह / मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, एफओ एफओ पीओ भवन, धुर्वा, राँची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रघन की राशि, Bank Credit Certificate एवं Affidavit जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय 18.01.2022 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।
- निविदा खोलने का स्थान – मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, एफओ एफओ पीओ भवन, धुर्वा, राँची।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 19.01.2022 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे।
- निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह।
- ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 9431323435 (संबन्धित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
- निविदा शुल्क राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निर्गत ड्राफ्ट या बैकर्स चेक जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह के पदनाम से देय हो देना होगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह

PR 260734 Rural Development (21-22)_D

**Office of the Chief Engineer
Central Design Organisation (CDO), Drinking Water & Sanitation Department
Near Nepal House, Doranda Ranchi-834002
Email: dwsdcdo@gmail.com, website: dwsd.jharkhand.gov.in**

RFP No- 01/CDO/Ranchi/TPQA/2021-22 Dated: - 29.12.2021

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Inviting Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of Third Party Inspection Agency to carry out inspection of all engineering works relating to civil, mechanical and electrical components of Rural water supply scheme executed under Jal Jeevan Mission in the State of Jharkhand For 09 (Nine) Circle covering entire Districts.

- Date of uploading of RFP on <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> 04.01.2022
- Pre-Bid meeting at CDO, DW&SD Jharkhand, Doranda, Ranchi-832002 11.01.2022 at 3: 00 PM
- Last date & time of online submission 25.01.2022 up to 6:00 PM
- Last date & time and Place for Submission OfHard Copy 27.01.2022 up to 5:00 P.M., at CDO, DW&SD, Jharkhand, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 (Bid Security & Document Fee should be submitted exclusively in physical form is sealed envelope)
- Opening Date of Technical Bid 28.01.2022 at 3:30 P.M
- Document Fee Rs. 10,000/- only (non-refundable)
- Helpline No. +91 9504577191
- Document fee should be submitted in the shape of Bank DD in favour of **Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Ranchi West** payable at Ranchi.
- Bid Security should be submitted in the shape of NSC / Bank FD (issued within Jharkhand) / Bank guarantee (from any Indian nationalized / scheduled bank) of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rs Five Lacs only) pledged in favour of **Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Ranchi West**. Bid Security should have validity period of 180 days.
- In the event if the date specified for receipt/ opening declared a holiday, the due date for submission and opening, will be next following working day at the appointed time.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel, revise or amend this notice or bid documents fully or partly prior to the last date notice for submission of offers or on any subsequent date.
- All legal disputes will be entertained within the jurisdiction of Jharkhand high Court, Ranchi.
- Bid Documents / any changes & Further details can be seen the website: <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
- All the documents must be submitted online and hard copy of the same should be submitted at CDO office.

Sd/-, (Sunil Kumar)
Executive Engineer (Quality Control),
CDO, DW&SD, Jharkhand, Ranchi

PR 260743 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22):dD



MEANWHILE

SCHWARZENEGGER'S DIVORCE FINAL AFTER 10 YRS

Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver's marriage is officially over more than 10 years after the award-winning journalist petitioned to end her then-25-year marriage to the action star and former California governor. The pair had been married since 1986 when Shriver filed for divorce in 2011 after Schwarzenegger disclosed he had fathered a child with a member of their household staff years earlier.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Simorgh rocket ahead of its launch. AP

IRAN

State TV: Tehran launches rocket bearing 3 devices

Tehran: Iran on Thursday announced it launched a satellite carrier rocket bearing three devices into space, though it's unclear whether any of the objects entered orbit around the Earth. The state TV report, as well as others by Iran's semiofficial news agencies, did not say when the launch was conducted nor what devices the carrier brought with it. However, Previous launches have drawn rebukes from the US. The US State Department, Space Force and the Pentagon did not respond to requests for comment. Ahmad Hosseini, a Defense Ministry spokesman, identified the rocket as a Simorgh, or "Phoenix," rocket. He said the three devices were sent up 470km (290 miles). AP

MASK UP: PARIS MAKES MASK must for people stepping outdoors

COVID VACCINE: MEXICO APPROVES use of Cuba's Abdala coronavirus vaccine

BOOSTER: J&J'S SHOT TO HELP against severe Omicron disease, says study

Half a million new cases in US in a day

Figure is almost twice as high as the worst days of last winter

NYT & REUTERS DECEMBER 30

WITH A caseload nearly twice that of the worst single days of last winter, the United States shattered its record for new daily coronavirus cases, a milestone that may still fall short of describing the true toll of the Delta and Omicron variants because testing has slowed over the holidays. As a second year of living with the pandemic was drawing to a close, the new daily case total topped 488,000 on Wednesday, according to a *New York Times* database. (The total was higher on Monday, but that number should not be considered a record because it included data from the long holiday weekend.)

Wednesday's seven-day average of new daily cases, 301,000, was also a record, compared with 267,000 the day before, according to the database. In the past week, more than two million cases have been reported nationally, and 15 states and territories

reported more cases than in any other seven-day period.

The rise has been driven by the highly contagious Omicron variant, which became dominant in the United States last week. So far, however, the increase has not resulted in more severe disease, as hospitalisations have increased only 11 percent and deaths have decreased slightly in the past two weeks.

Omicron cases are expected to surge even faster across the United States as schools reopen next week after the winter holiday, experts cautioned. Within weeks, the Omicron variant has fueled thousands of new Covid hospitalisations among US children, raising new concerns about how the many unvaccinated Americans under the age of 18 will fare in the new surge.

Doctors say it is too early to determine whether Omicron causes more severe illness in children than other variants of the coronavirus, but that its extremely high transmissibility is one key factor that is driving up hospitalisations.



Long lines are forming at testing sites across the country, including Manhattan, on Wednesday. NYT

Omicron will soon replace Delta as dominant global variant: Experts

GURDIP SINGH

SINGAPORE, DECEMBER 30

EXPERTS IN Singapore, where 170 new Omicron cases were reported on Wednesday, have warned that the new and supposedly more contagious variant is likely to replace Delta over the coming weeks to months.

While Delta is still the most common variant in all continents except Africa, Omicron is spreading quickly, said Dr Sebastian Maurer-Stroh, executive director of the state-owned Agency for Science, Technology and Research's Bioinformatics Institute here.

Of the genome submissions sent to the Munich-headquartered GISAID, a data science initiative that provides the shared genome plat-



As many as 170 new cases in Singapore

form for Covid, the Omicron strain has comprised between 7 percent and 27 percent of new submissions over the past month, up until Tuesday. The figures refer to all continents except Africa.

"From current data, it looks like Delta will go down over time relative to Omicron," *The Straits Times* said quoting Dr Maurer-

Stroh, who is part of the global team that maintains GISAID.

Omicron is already dominant in Australia, India, Russia, South Africa and the United Kingdom, noted Professor Dale Fisher, a senior consultant at the National University Hospital's Division of Infectious Diseases.

Based on local experience, if a person tests positive for the S-gene target failure, the individual is likely to have the Omicron variant. While the Delta variant has 13 mutations with nine on the spike protein, Omicron has about 50 mutations not seen together before, and 32 of them are on the spike protein.

Because of its mutations, the Delta variant attaches effectively to human cell receptors, causing it to be more infective, said Fisher. PTI

Messages pour in for whistleblower doctor in China who died of Covid

MARTIN QUIN POLLARD SHANGHAI, DECEMBER 30

THOUSANDS OF people left messages on the social media account of the late Chinese Covid-19 whistleblower Li Wenliang on the anniversary of the day he learned of possible pneumonia-causing virus cases in Wuhan and shared the information with doctors.

On December 30, 2019, Li, an ophthalmologist at a hospital in Wuhan where the Sars-CoV-2 virus outbreak was first detected, saw a medical report showing potential SARS coronavirus cases were confirmed in the city, he wrote in a post on his Weibo account on January 31.

In early January, after the information on "SARS cases" was shared in a WeChat group, Li was



People attend a vigil for late Li Wenliang in Hong Kong

Reuters file

reprimanded by the local police, according to the same Weibo post.

On January 12, he went to hospital, infected with the virus that causes the Covid-19 disease and

died on February 7, 2020.

Since then confidence has grown in China's response to the pandemic, but people have continued to post to Li online, especially on certain anniversary days as they did on Thursday.

"Happy new year Dr Li, we will remember you forever," wrote a user called Tdbly. Others posted candle emojis, brief messages of thanks and exclamations of how two years have gone by so quickly, in the comments section of one of Li's posts on Weibo, China's equivalent of Twitter. Many wrote conversationally as if they were speaking to him beyond the grave.

Fang Kecheng from the Chinese University of Hong Kong said Li's Weibo microblog has become a place where people express their feelings they are not comfortable expressing elsewhere. REUTERS

CHINA

Two from news outlet charged with sedition

Hong Kong: Two former editors from a Hong Kong online pro-democracy news outlet were charged with sedition and denied bail on Thursday, a day after the outlet said it would cease operations following a police raid on its office and seven arrests. National security police said they charged two men, aged 34 and 52, with one count each of conspiracy to publish a seditious publication. Police also said they would prosecute the company for sedition. Both were denied bail. AP

UNITED STATES

Navy seizes \$4million worth of heroin

Dubai: United States navy vessels seized 385kg of heroin in the Arabian Sea worth some \$4 million, in a major bust by the international maritime operation in the region, officials said on Thursday. The drugs were hidden aboard a stateless fishing vessel plying Mideast waters, the international task force said in a statement. The seizure took place on Monday. The Navy said the fishing vessel likely came from Iran. All nine crew members identified themselves as Iranian, an official said. He did not elaborate on who manufactured the drugs or the ultimate destination. AP

PAKISTAN

Pak buys 25 fighter aircraft from China

Islamabad: Pakistan has acquired a full squadron of 25 multirole J-10C fighter jets from China in response to India's purchase of Rafale aircraft, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said. He added that a full squadron of 25 all-weather aircraft comprising J-10C will attend the Pakistan Day ceremony on March 23 next year. "VIP guests are coming (to attend 23rd March ceremony) for the first time in Pakistan, the fly-past ceremony of JS-10 (J-10C) is being held....," Ahmed said. PTI

3 Indo-Canadians receive Canada's civilian award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA TORONTO, DECEMBER 30

THREE INDIAN-origin Canadians have been bestowed with the Order of Canada — one of the country's highest civilian honours — for their outstanding achievement, dedication to the community, helping in building a better nation and promoting bilateral ties between Canada and India.

Internationally renowned scientist and innovator Dr Vaikuntam Iyer Lakshmanan; real estate mogul Bob Singh Dhillon, also known as Navjeet Singh Dhillon; and renowned paediatrician Dr Pradeep Merchant were among the 135 individuals honoured with the prestigious award, according to a press note uploaded on the website of the

Governor General of Canada on Tuesday. "Today, Her Excellency Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, announced 135 appointments to the Order of Canada," it said, sharing the list of the recipients.

"Delighted to see the contributions of the dynamic Indian heritage community in Canada being recognised with Order of Canada. Congratulations to Dr Vaikuntam Iyer Lakshmanan, @BobDhillon_MEQ and @PradeepMerchant," the High Commission of India in Ottawa tweeted on Wednesday.

According to the citation, Lakshmanan from Mississauga, Ontario was honoured "for his philanthropy and for his expertise in hydrometallurgy and business, which greatly benefited Canada-India relations"

Ghislaine Maxwell convicted of hiring four teenage girls for Epstein sex abuse

LUCCOHN

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 30

GHISLAINE MAXWELL was found guilty by a US jury on Wednesday of helping the late financier Jeffrey Epstein sexually abuse teenage girls, sealing a remarkable fall from grace for the British socialite.

Maxwell, 60, was accused of recruiting and grooming four teenagers between 1994 and 2004 for Epstein, her former boyfriend, who killed himself in 2019 in a Manhattan jail cell while awaiting trial on sex abuse charges of his own.

She was convicted on five of six counts, including one count of sex trafficking. Lawyers for Maxwell, who faces up to 65 years in prison, vowed to appeal. Maxwell's trial was widely seen as the reckoning Epstein never had and one of the highest-profile



Maxwell was accused of recruiting four girls between 1994 and 2004 for Epstein. NYT file

cases in the wake of the #MeToo movement, which encouraged women to speak out about sexual abuse by famous and powerful people.

Meanwhile, members of Maxwell's family say they still believe

EXPLAINED Charges against Maxwell

Ghislaine Maxwell, former girlfriend of late financier Jeffrey Epstein, faces up to 65 years in prison for the five charges she was convicted of. She separately faces two perjury counts that will be tried at a later date. The two perjury counts relate to allegations that Maxwell lied under oath about her role in Epstein's abuse during a deposition for a separate civil suit in 2016.

she is innocent. In a statement issued late on Wednesday, the Maxwell family said it would support the British socialite's efforts to appeal her conviction. REUTERS

At Congress meet, Nepal's Dahal faces graft attack

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE

KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 30

PUSHPA KAMAL Dahal, who will be completing his three-and-half-decade as party chief, will have to respond to criticism related to growing personality cult and corruption within the party on Friday — the fourth day of the ongoing Maoist Party Congress.

Several speakers have criticised Dahal for his politics of one-upmanship during the closed sessions. Dahal's life-size cutout and posters, which dominate the venue "ignoring hundreds of leaders whose sacrificed their lives during the peoples war", was one of the issues that found huge echo at the meeting. Central committee members Lekhnath Adhikari and Indra Bahadur Thing raised the issue of corrupt lifestyle of top leaders, and "corruption" in the party while they were in the government.

Adhikari also accused Dahal of compromising on policy issues, including international situation, mainly for his silence on "border encroachment" by India. Dahal is all set to be elected its chief for another four-year term at the end of the Congress.

ON THE MORNING OF THAT DAY, I HAD NO INKLING THAT BY LATE AFTERNOON I WOULD BE LEAVING: ASHRAF GHANI

Former Afghan President says had no choice but to flee Kabul

KATHY GANNON

ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 30

AFGHANISTAN'S FORMER president said he had no choice but to abruptly leave Kabul as the Taliban closed in and denied an agreement was in the works for a peaceful takeover, disputing the accounts of former Afghan and US officials.

Former President Ashraf Ghani said in a BBC interview that aired on Thursday that an adviser gave him just minutes to decide to abandon the capital, Kabul. He also denied widespread accusations that he left Afghanistan with millions in stolen money.

Ghani's sudden and secret departure August 15 left the city rudderless as US and NATO forces were in the final stages of their chaotic withdrawal from the country after 20 years.

"On the morning of that day, I had no inkling that by late afternoon I would be leaving," Ghani told BBC radio.

His remarks conflicted with other accounts.

Former President Hamid Karzai told *The Associated Press* in an interview earlier this month that Ghani's departure scuttled the opportunity for government negotiators, including himself and peace council chairman Abdullah Abdullah, to reach



Ghani denied widespread accusations that he left Afghanistan with a cache of stolen money. Reuters

an 11th-hour agreement with the Taliban, who had committed to staying outside the capital.

After calling the government defense minister Bismillah Khan, the interior minister and police

chief and discovering all had fled the capital, Karzai said he invited the Taliban into Kabul "to protect the population so that the country, the city doesn't fall into chaos and the unwanted elements who would probably loot the country, loot shops."

But Ghani in his radio interview with British Gen. Sir Nick Carter, former chief of defence staff, said he fled "to prevent the destruction of Kabul," claiming two rival Taliban factions were bearing down on the city and were ready to enter and wage a bitter battle for control. There was no evidence upon the Taliban entry of the rival factions Ghani referred to.

The insurgents, who in the days prior to the push into Kabul had swept over much of the country as Afghan government forces melted away or surrendered, quickly took control of the palace. According to humanitarian aid workers, the Taliban moved to protect their compounds.

Still, the Taliban takeover was met with widespread fear and a deep longing by many to flee their desperately poor homeland despite billions of international money over the 20 years the U.S.-backed governments had been in power.

In the BBC interview, Ghani denied widespread accusations that he left Afghanistan with a

cache of stolen money. The US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko has been tasked with investigating those allegations.

Successful Afghan governments, as well as independent foreign and Afghan contractors, have been accused of widespread corruption, with dozens of reports by Sopko documenting the most egregious incidents. Washington has spent \$146 billion on reconstruction in Afghanistan since the overthrow in 2001 of the Taliban, who had harbored al-Qaida and its leader, Osama bin Laden. Yet even before the insurgents returned in August, the poverty level in Afghanistan was at 54%. AP



GOLD

₹46,688



RUPEE

₹74.42



OIL

\$74.60



SILVER

₹60,024

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of December 28

SENSEX: 57,794.32 ▼ 12.17 (-0.02%) NIFTY: 17,203.95 ▼ 9.65 (-0.06%) NIKKEI: 28,791.71 ▼ 115.17 HANG SENG: 23,112.01 ▲ 254.7 FTSE: 7,425.75 ▲ 5.06 DAX: 15,864.04 ▲ 11.79

International market data till 1900 IST

POLICY WATCH
INSOLVENCY & BANKRUPTCY CODE

Panel proposal to speed up resolution: 30 days for NCLTs to decide on plan

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

A HIGH-LEVEL committee, constituted by the Centre, has proposed changes to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to speed up the corporate insolvency resolution process and prevent avoidable transactions or deals likely aimed at siphoning off funds from distressed companies.

The Insolvency Law Committee (ILC) has proposed that once a resolution plan is approved by the Committee of Creditors (CoC) of a corporate debtor, the National Company Law Tribunals (NCLTs) be provided "with 30 days for approving or rejecting a resolution plan", with the tribunal being required to provide a reason in writing if it is not able to do so in the stipulated period. Banks and other key stakeholders have regularly cited delays in the resolution process as their key concern about the insolvency regime.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has sought public comments on the proposed changes by January 13.

The ILC was constituted in 2017. Experts have often called out delays by the NCLT in approving or rejecting a resolution plan after it has been approved by the creditors as unnecessarily long.

The ILC has also recommended that certain creditors be required to submit records of their claims authenticated by Information Utilities (IU), so that defaults can be verified more easily to speed up the process of admission of a corporate debtor into insolvency proceedings. While the IBC already requires the NCLT to either admit or reject an application for insolvency within 14 days of an application, such a

MCA SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS

■ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has sought public comments on the proposed changes by January 13

decision often takes much longer in practice, said experts. "Consequently, the AA (Adjudicating Authority) would only be required to consider IU authenticated records as evidence of default for Section 7 applications filed by such financial creditors as prescribed," the ILC recommended. Section 7 of insolvency proceedings are the ones initiated by financial creditors, such as banks and other financial institutions.

The ILC proposed the requirement for approval by the NCLT for a voluntary liquidation be removed and that only a special resolution or members' resolution with approval of creditors representing two-thirds in value of the debt be required for the process.

The ILC also recommended that the look-back period, or the period which is reviewed for avoidable transactions, be started from the date of the application for insolvency proceedings instead of the date of the commencement of insolvency proceedings. The IBC provides for the insolvency professional or liquidator managing proceedings to look back and review transactions over 2 years and evaluate whether any transactions were preferential, undervalued, defrauding creditors or extortionate transactions and seek to reverse such deals. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

URGE UNION GOVT TO RAISE ITS SHARE IN CENTRALLY-SPONSORED SCHEMES

In meet with FM, states push for GST compensation extension by 5 years

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

WITH THE Covid pandemic impacting states' revenues, they have urged the Central government to consider increasing its share in Centrally-sponsored schemes and an extension of compensation for another five years under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. In their pre-Budget meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday, some states urged the Centre to look into direct cash transfers for supporting economic recovery.

Rajasthan Education Minister Subhash Garg said extension of compensation cess window under GST till 2026-27 is a valid demand of states and the Centre should consider it. "Our most significant demand is that the Centre's share in Centrally-sponsored schemes has gradually reduced and states' share has increased. Earlier share would be 90-10 and now it is 50-50 or 60-40, our request is that it should go back to 90-10," Garg said.

Under GST, states were guaranteed compensation at the compounded rate of 14 per cent from the base year 2015-16 for losses arising due to implementation of the taxation regime for five years since its rollout. The compensa-



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the pre-Budget meet with state finance ministers in New Delhi, Thursday. PTI

tion regime will end in June.

There has been a loss of revenue to states due to the GST system, the Centre has not made arrangements to compensate the loss of revenue of about Rs 5,000 crore to the state in the coming year, so the GST compensation grant should be continued for the next five years after June 2022, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said. "Many states have asked for this. We have also asked to extend GST compensation. If it is not extended, the finances of many states will be in a bad shape," Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said.

The Finance Minister and state ministers will meet on Friday as

well at the 46th meeting of the GST Council, where the issue of the proposed hike in GST rate on textiles to 12 per cent from 5 per cent, effective January 1, will be taken up. West Bengal Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya asked the Centre to consider extending GST compensation, along with a demand for direct cash transfers.

"We have asked that money should be given directly to the hands of the people as DBT so that the economy can be revived. When India's growth was negative by implementing DBT, Bengal had a positive growth. Because of Covid situation, states had to take

EXPLAINED
Revenue hit amid Covid

STATES WERE guaranteed compensation at the compounded rate of 14 per cent from the base year 2015-16 for losses arising due to GST implementation for five years since its rollout, which will end in June. States are concerned as their revenues have taken a hit amid Covid.

a huge financial burden. The centre has to compensate for that through the Union Budget. The next issue is the centrally sponsored scheme and its share. There were many schemes which were 100% government. Now it is 60-40 (ratio), 50-50 and in some schemes 75-25 has been turned into 25-75 so this should be corrected," she said.

Rajasthan made a representation for reduction in import duty on gold and silver from 10 per cent to 4 per cent. Rajasthan also requested that all irrigation and water work projects should be brought under the Centre's ambit and declared central schemes.

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister

'High tax mop-up, under-spending to help undershoot fiscal deficit target'

The Centre is set to undershoot the fiscal deficit target by 20 bps at 6.6%, amid overall robust revenue mop-up and under-spending by many ministries, as per an India Ratings report

Centre had set Budgeted fiscal deficit target at 6.8% for FY22

Government finances show tax collections have benefitted both growth & inflation

Capital receipts are lagging and till Oct were only 10.5% of budgeted amount



Source: India Ratings/PTI

IndiGo EGM: Nod to amend AoA

New Delhi: Shareholders of Inter-Globe Aviation Ltd, parent company of low-cost airline IndiGo, on Thursday cleared a proposal by the carrier's promoters to amend the articles of association (AoA), as per a stock exchange filing.

At an extraordinary general meeting (EGM), the shareholders approved the proposal to remove certain clauses from the AoA, to allow the sparring founder promoters Rahul Bhatia and Rakesh

Gangwal to sell their respective stakes in IndiGo without each other's approval. The two promoter groups led by Gangwal and Bhatia together own 74.4 per cent state in the airline, and the removal of the clauses means that either side can sell or transfer shares to a third party without giving each other notice.

The EGM was called upon a joint request by the promoters who have been at loggerheads

over corporate governance issues at the airline. The call for the EGM came with a backdrop of an order in September by the London Court of International Arbitration, which directed an amendment to the articles of association to delete the clause pertaining to right of first refusal. Later, in October, Gangwal had approached the Delhi High Court, seeking directions for calling the EGM but the petition was dismissed. ENS

DICGC mops up ₹9,561 cr premium in first half of fiscal

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 30

THE DEPOSIT Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), which provides insurance cover to depositors of banks, has collected deposit insurance premium of Rs 9,561 crore from banks during the six months ended September 2021, of which 93.5 per cent was contributed by commercial banks and the rest by co-operative banks.

With this, the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF), built out of the premia paid by insured banks and coupon income received on investments in government securities, swelled to Rs 1.41 lakh crore as of September 2021, yielding a reserve ratio (ratio of DIF to insured deposits) of 1.81 per cent, up from Rs 1.29 lakh crore in March 2021, the RBI said in the Financial Stability Report (FSR).

The settlement and recovery of claims from banks in the first half of 2021-22 was significantly higher than a year ago, the central bank said. As on December 20, 2021, DICGC has paid Rs 1,374 crore in respect of 1.09 lakh depositors of 16 out of 21 troubled banks —

Pvt bank CEOs get 67 times of typical staff's pay

Mumbai: There's a huge gap between the compensation paid to the CEO of a private bank and its employees, as per an RBI report. "For PSU banks, on an average, CEOs earn 3 times the typical employee, while the same was 75 times in case of small finance banks and 67 times in the case of private banks," the RBI said in its Report on trend and progress in banking. ENS

that were eligible to receive such pay-outs, it said.

The DICGC, headed by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patti, pays out a maximum of Rs 5 lakh as insurance to the depositor of a troubled bank. It paid Rs 393 crore to depositors in the first six months of the half-year ended September 2021, a rise of 1,334 per cent compared to Rs 27.4 crore in the same period of last year. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Assembly polls: SBI set to issue electoral bonds from Jan 1-10

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

AHEAD OF Assembly elections in key states, the government has authorised State Bank of India (SBI) to issue and encash electoral bonds through its 29 authorised branches from January 1-10, the Finance Ministry said in a statement on Thursday. Seven states are heading into Assembly elections next year — Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat and Uttarakhand.

The electoral bonds shall be valid for 15 calendar days from the date of issue and no payment shall be made to any payee political party if the electoral bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period, the Ministry said. The electoral bond deposited by an eligible political party in its account shall be credited on the same day.

Announced in the 2017 Union

Seven states are heading to polls next year — UP, Punjab, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat and Uttarakhand

Budget, electoral bonds are interest-free bearer instruments used to donate money anonymously to political parties. The bonds are sold in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore. Companies as well as an individual can buy electoral bonds, either singly or jointly with others.

Only the political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and which secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last General Election or state assembly elections, are eligible to receive the electoral bonds.

Chip, display units scheme: From Jan 1, applications invited

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will start accepting applications for setting up of semiconductor fabrications units, display fabrication units, compound semiconductors, silicon photonics as well as for design linked incentive scheme from January 1, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

"For the smaller scheme, which is compound semiconductor, semiconductor assembly, testing, marking and packaging, we

Samsung, Micron warn of crunch

Bengaluru: Samsung and Micron warned that strict Covid curbs in China's Xian could disrupt chip manufacturing bases. REUTERS

will start concurrent evaluations ... The bigger ones, which is silicon and display, we will receive the application till February 15 and then we will start evaluations," he added. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

RBI CLEARS INTERIM NAME

RBL Bank sets up panel to name MD-CEO

Mumbai: RBL Bank said Thursday its board has constituted a search committee to identify a new managing director & chief executive officer to head the bank.

Earlier in the day, the bank said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cleared Rajeev Ahuja's appointment as its interim MD and CEO for three months from December 25, or till appointment of a regular MD & CEO, whichever is earlier. "... the Board ... has constituted a search committee (comprising of the Chairman of the Nomination & Remuneration Committee, two members of the Board and one external expert) to identify and evaluate candidates for the position of MD & CEO..." it said. FE

BRIEFLY

Tesla US recall

San Francisco: Tesla is recalling 356,309 Model 3 and 119,009 Model S cars in the US to address rearview camera and trunk issues that raise crashing risks. REUTERS

Dish TV AGM

New Delhi: Dish TV's AGM was held Thursday, but the result of e-voting for passing resolutions will be known only after Bombay HC's nod.

Important insurers

New Delhi: Irdai said LIC, GIC Re and New India continue to be 'Domestic Systemically Important Insurers'.

IICC stake sale

New Delhi: SBI will buy about 10% in India International Clearing Corporation. PTI

MANIPUR UNIVERSITY
CANCHIPUR - IMPHAL-756003
MANIPUR

CORRIGENDUM
Dated, the 28th December, 2021
No. MU/S-124/2013/FCY/644: In supersession of the University's Advertisement No. 1/2021 dated 24th December, 2021. It is hereby notified that the University is inviting applications for 78 (Seventy-Eight) posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor for 34 Departments.

The last Date of the online application is 24th January, 2022. UGC Regulation 2018 will be followed.

Details may be downloaded from the University website www.manipuruniv.ac.in Sd/- Registrar Manipur University

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Expression of Interest Proposal (REOI)

Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No./Credit No. 9066-IN

Grant No: _____
Date: December 31, 2021

The Director (Projects)-cum-CE, H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh India invites Expression of Interest from National and International Consultants for the consultancy services as detailed in the table below:-

Sr. No	Description of the consultancy Services	Date of availability of Expression of Interest (Eoi) on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/Time for submission of Proposals
1	Procurement of Safety Assessment of major road network in Himachal Pradesh using IRAP methodology.	December 31, 2021	January 21, 2022

REOI & ToR will be available on the official web site of HPRIDCL under link <http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridcl/HPSRTP.html>

Note: - Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Expression of Interest Proposals Documents shall be available to all interested firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by January 21, 2022 at 15:00 hours (IST)

Director (Projects)-cum-CE, H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002

0610/HP

SBI
Enterprise Integration Services, State Bank of India, Global IT-Centre, Sec-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

RFP No: SBI/GITC/Enterprise Integration Services/2021/2022/816 DATED: 27.12.2021

Bids are invited by State Bank of India from the eligible bidders for "PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND MAINTENANCE OF STORAGE". For details, please visit: "Procurement news" at <https://www.sbi.co.in> and e-Procurement agency portal <https://etender.sbi/sbi/>

Commencement of download of RFP: From 31.12.2021. Last date and time for submission of bids: 21.01.2022 up to 14:00 hrs.

Place: Navi Mumbai Date: 27.12.2021 Deputy General Manager Enterprise Integration Services

FACT THE FERTILISERS AND CHEMICALS TRAVANCORE LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise) Regd. Office: Eloor PIONEERS IN PROGRESS

CORPORATE MATERIALS, PD ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, UDOYGAMANDAL, COCHIN, KERALA-683 501

E-mail: akhila@facttd.com / mat-contracts1@facttd.com / jayakumar@facttd.com, Website: www.facttd.com / Phone: 0484-2568613 / 2568123

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Online competitive two bid tenders are invited for the following works through www.eprocure.gov.in

1) Preparatory Civil Works for the Construction of New 1000 MT Ammonia Storage Tank & Allied Structures at FACT CD, Ambalamedu, Kochi- Land Development Works.

Tender No : 04031/2021-2022/E24585 e-tender ID : 2021 FACT 665971 1

2) Discharging, sieving and recharging (with makeup) of catalyst and Honeycomb from all the four beds of the catalytic converter in Sulphuric Acid Plant at FACT CD during AIA 2022.

Tender No : 04006/2021-2022/E24581 e-tender ID : 2021 FACT 665976 1

Last date & time for submission of above bids: 20.01.2022 at 11.00 hrs.

The complete bidding process will be online (e-tendering) only. All the notifications, Time extension, Corrigendum, Addendum etc. if any, regarding this tender hereafter will be hosted in fact.co.in/PPP Portal (eprocure.gov.in) and will not be published in newspapers.

Date:- 30.12.2021 Sd/- SMI(M)C

URBAN IMPROVEMENT TRUST ALWAR
S.No.: 14970-79/21 Date : 24.12.2021

NOTICE INVITING BID- 20/2021-22

Bids for Drain work invited from interest bidders upto 29.12.2021 (For item no-1 upto 07.01.2022) 4.00 PM Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state and www.ualwar.in

UBN : UAL2122WSLB00240 Executive Engineer UIT, Alwar

Raj, Samwad/C/2021-22/9999

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)

TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are re-invited for the supply of following items.

(1) 70983, (2) 71584 (Corrigendum), (3) 72408, (4) 72253 (Re-tender).

Note : For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

PRO/AAM/(M)/101/2021 GENERAL MANAGER

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai - 600 107, India. Ph: 044 2379 2000

E-Tender Notice
e-procurement tender
International Competitive Bidding

E-TENDER No: CMRL/CON/PHASE-II/CORR-3/CP05/UG05-RT01/2021

CMRL invites digitally signed tender through e-procurement portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender through International Competitive Bidding under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the works as detailed below under loan disbursement of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA):

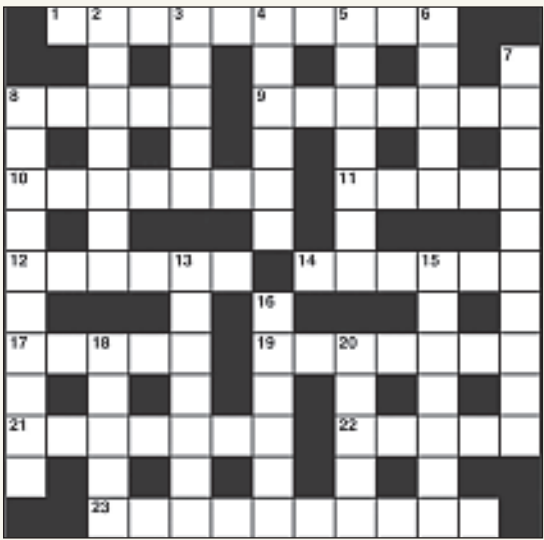
E-Tender No: CMRL/CON/PHASE-II/CORR-3/CP05/UG05-RT01/2021 (under JICA loan agreement ID-P272) - "Construction of Three (03) Underground Stations at Adyar Depot, Indira Nagar and Taramani Road Junction (Taramani) & Ramp and works other than Diaphragm wall of One Underground Station at Thiruvannamylur Metro in Corridor-3 of CMRL Phase-II Project".

For further details, please visit:
For NIT: www.chennai-metrorail.org
For Downloading Bid Documents:
<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> Sd/- Director (Projects)

DIPR/4387/Tender/2021

சோதனை கட்டுரை கருத்தினை அடைந்தேதாம். சாத்தனை புரிந்த சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

CROSSWORD 4626



- ACROSS**

1 Give old man weapons for the final conflict (10)

8 Checked garments for Scottish soldiers (5)

9 Overlook four in the smithy (7)

10 He drinks to a steamship vessel (7)

11 Follow directions and engage in litigation (5)

12 Notes there are many in short skirts (6)

14 The respect in which going back meets the point (6)

17 Convicts once picked it but not from choice (5)

19 Delivery from Ontario (7)

21 Regards foreign money as a bad thing (7)

22 Bill free of bitterness? (5)

23 There are terms for this (10)
- DOWN**

2 Catches as one comes drunkenly home (5,2)

3 Poe's a weird storyteller (5)

4 Spent two notes at the charity do (6)

5 Cuts off some of the beams? (7)

6 They are hit on the head and slain perhaps (5)

7 Settled in a resolute way (10)

8 Tribal symbols could be temples too (5,5)

13 Something that flies holding a large number - it's big (7)

15 Witty saying has some point with animals (7)

16 Resign because of one's self image? (6)

18 Supporters of a proposal (5)

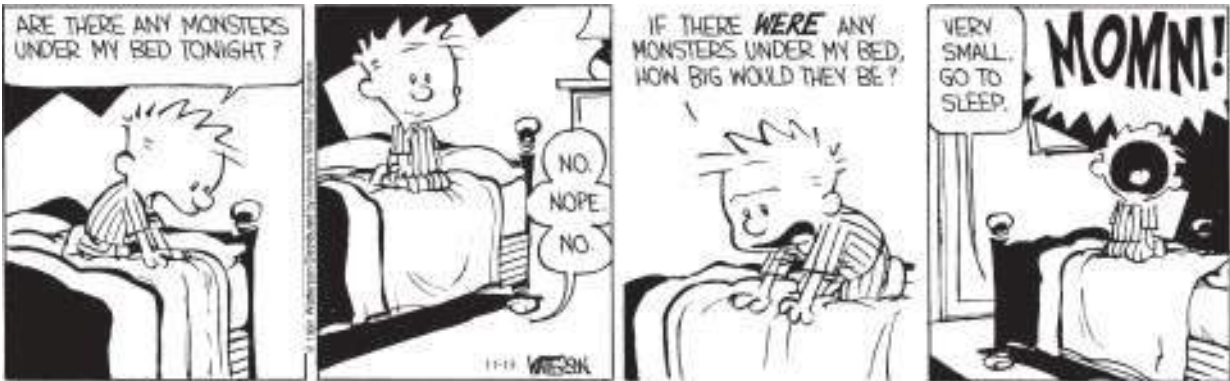
20 Not all separate (5)

Solutions Crossword 4625: Across: 1 Elapse, 4 Brooch, 9 Harbour, 10 Nutty, 11 Run up, 12 Towrope, 13 Out of breath, 18 Uncover, 20 Dossed, 22 Fines, 23 New moon, 24 Waylay, 25 Advers. Down: 1 Exhort, 2 Aaron, 3 Scorpio, 5 Renew, 6 Outpost, 7 Hayden, 8 Protuberant, 14 Uncanny, 15 Endowed, 16 Curfew, 17 Adonis, 19 Vesta, 21 Scope.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

I know of no great men except those who have rendered ____ to the human race.

-Voltaire (5,7)

LVEEE

TERRA

AGRIST

AINCGV

Answer: LVEEE: RATER, GRATS, CAVING
Answer: TERRA: - Voltaire

SUDOKU 4701

Difficulty Level 2s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4700

7	4	9	2	5	3	6	1	8
1	8	5	7	9	6	3	4	2
6	3	2	1	8	4	9	5	7
4	2	6	3	1	5	8	7	9
9	5	8	6	7	2	4	3	1
3	7	1	9	4	8	5	2	6
2	1	3	4	6	9	7	8	5
8	9	7	5	3	1	2	6	4
5	6	4	8	2	7	1	9	3

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R PALWAL	CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER AT VILLAGE HASSANPUR IN PALWAL DISTT. (J/C PH + RAIN WATER HARVESTING SYSTEM & ROAD PARKING). (RE-TENDER)	CLOSING DATE 17.01.2022	11.59 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8851491777 pwd-esop-palwal@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R BAHADURGARH	IMPROVEMENT OF GUJHANA TO BAKARGARH ROAD IN JHAJJAR DISTRICT (HARYANA) (REWRITE) + 2 OTHER WORKS	28.12.2021 18.01.2022	496.5 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01276234113 pwd-esop-bahadurgarh@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R KARNAL	RENEWAL COAT OF ROAD FROM NGGB ROAD TO MOODPUR VIA MUGAL MAJRA ROAD (ROAD ID 7172 & 7174) LENGTH KM. 0.00 TO 10.840 IN KARNAL DISTRICT (UNDER PHGSY SCHEME)	31.12.2021 20.01.2022	185.44 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9050620000 pwd-esop-karnal@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM ADAMPUR BUS STAND RAILWAY FATAK ROAD TO KOHLI MAHALSARA ROAD ALONG WITH SIRSA HISAR RAILWAY LINE AT VILLAGE BOUNDARY ADAMPUR KM 0.00 TO 6.300 IN HISAR DISTT. (ADAMPUR CONSTITUENCY) (P/G. SHIFTING OF EXISTING HT LT LINES ONLY). RECALL + 2 OTHER WORKS	30.12.2021 06.01.2022	9.03 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466724918 pwd-esop-hisar@hry.nic.in
5	FORESTS DEPARTMENT HARYANA PUNJORE	SDD WCS NO. 1-3 WORK IN NANANPUR BLOCK, KALKA RANGE	24.12.2021 31.12.2021	24.04 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01733-230537 dfconern@gmail.com
6	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING HISAR	ESTIMATE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 2 NOS. BOOSTING AT VILLAGE KHARAR AND ALPUR INCLUDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSE HOLD TAP CONNECTION AT VILLAGE KHARAR -ALPUR TEHSIL & DISTT. HISAR (UNDER JNH CAT II).	28.12.2021 04.01.2022	200.77 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9467070175 es2hsar@gmail.com
7	FORESTS DEPARTMENT HARYANA BHIMANI	ADVERTISEMNT FOR INTER LOCK TILE BLOCKS PATH & SIDE WALL IN FOREST COMPLEX BHIMANI II AND INSTALLATION OF MAIN GATE.	28.12.2021 10.01.2022	5.45 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9468262015 efo.bhimani@gmail.com
8	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA HARNAWA	LAYING PIPELINE OF FRESH WATER FOR FILLING OF CHENI WALA POND OF VILLAGE DHAROUDI FROM NEW DHAROUDI MINOR AT RD 29550/L IN THE LENGTH OF 0 TO 1100 FEET + 12 OTHER WORKS.	CLOSING DATE 17.01.2022	2.03 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7988925704 xen-harnawa@gov.in
9	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA BHIMANI	REHABILITATION OF SHERPURA DISTY FROM RD 0 TO 52500 + 1 OTHER WORK.	CLOSING DATE 17.01.2022	1104.43 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9215041185 xeravns@gmail.com
10	BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATS OFFICER BALLABGARH	INVITING RATES OF ELECTRIC ROCKAW FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION	29.12.2021 03.01.2022	EMD 50000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9971463375 fbdhsar@gmail.com
11	BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATS OFFICER SONPAT	RETENDER CONST OF 108 STREETS WITH AT VILLAGE SANDAL KALAN BLOCK SONPAT AND 7 NO. OF OTHERS WORKS DISTRICT SONPAT	30.12.2021 07.01.2022	42.52 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9315006203 bdposnp@gmail.com
12	BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATS OFFICER SONPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF I.P.B RASTA IN VILLAGE BHATGAON BLOCK SONPAT DISTRICT SONPAT	30.12.2021 07.01.2022	9.63 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9315006203 bdposnp@gmail.com
13	PANCHAYATI RAJ HISAR	RE TENDER FOR GREY WATER MANAGEMENT AT VILLAGE MAYYAR, BLOCK HISAR + 2 OTHER WORKS	30.12.2021 07.01.2022	87.67 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416498653 preeseng.hisr@hry.nic.in
14	PANCHAYATI RAJ KARNAL	1 NO. WORK CONST. OF COMMUNITY CENTRE INCLUDING PH WORKS AND 9 OTHER WORKS	28.12.2021 06.01.2022	469.76 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9813805200 preeseng.kr@hry.nic.in
15	PANCHAYATI RAJ KARNAL	1 NO. WORK CONST. OF MODEL POND OF GANGA POND AND 3 OTHER WORKS	28.12.2021 06.01.2022	610 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9813805200 preeseng.kr@hry.nic.in
16	PANCHAYATI RAJ KARNAL	1 NO. WORK COMP. OF BRICK LINDING AND RENOVATION OF POND AND 10 OTHER WORKS	28.12.2021 20.01.2022	123.10 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9813805200 preeseng.kr@hry.nic.in
17	PANCHAYATI RAJ BHIMANI	CONSTRUCTION OF MODEL POND IN BHIMANI DISTRICT.	10.01.2022 20.01.2022	374.70 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664-243929 preeseng.bhm@hry.nic.in
18	PANCHAYATI RAJ HARNAWA	CONST. OF BIO GAS PLANT (4000/L/DAY CAPACITY IN VILL. KATKAI	30.12.2021 05.01.2022	85.41 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8529595662 preeseng.nri@hry.nic.in
19	FORESTS DEPARTMENT HARYANA PUNJORE	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RANGE OFFICE BUILDING R-71, C-3, DP 253 IN DHAMALA BEAT, SURAPUR BLOCK, KALKA RANGE	27.12.2021 03.01.2022	27.72 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01733-230537 dfconern@gmail.com
20	WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT JHAJJAR	TRANSPORTATION FOR SHIP & OTHER ITEMS	CLOSING DATE 06.01.2022	50000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9960580882 pgr.wad@gmail.com
21	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	(I) BUS, MINIMUM 52 SEATER, MINIMUM 115 HP, ALONGWITH STANDARD ACCESSORIES, BS-VI (II) MINI BUS, MINIMUM 32 SEATER, MINIMUM 95 HP, BS-VI	31.12.2021 17.01.2022		https://etenders.hry.nic.in, dandharyana.gov.in	0172-2570121-124,2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
22	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	CRAIN, MINIMUM 80 BHP, BS-VI	31.12.2021 17.01.2022		https://etenders.hry.nic.in, dandharyana.gov.in	0172-2570121-124,2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
23	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	PRISON VAN BUILT-UP, 10-15 SEATER AND 2-4 GUARD SEATING CAPACITY, MINIMUM 95 HP, BS-VI	31.12.2021 17.01.2022		https://etenders.hry.nic.in, dandharyana.gov.in	0172-2570121-124,2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
24	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	VAJRA (RIOT CONTROL VEHICLE), MINIMUM 1+5 SEATING CAPACITY, MINIMUM 63 HP, BS-VI	31.12.2021 17.01.2022		https://etenders.hry.nic.in, dandharyana.gov.in	0172-2570121-124,2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
25	WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, PANIKULA	COMPLETE PLANNING OF ACTIVITIES, DRAWING DETAILED SPECIFICATION OF MACHINERY, LAYOUT OF MACHINERY AS PER LAYOUT PLAN OF BUILDING DESIGNED BY ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT HARYANA, PREPARING OF RFP (TENDER DOCUMENT FOR PROCUREMENT OF MACHINERY), AND GETTING LICENSES REQUIRED FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF PLANT INCLUDING MAINTENANCE (DURING DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD) ETC.	28.12.2021 13.01.2022		https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416388635 research.wcd@gmail.com
5590/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in						

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(POWER WING)

CORRIGENDUM-IV NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

NIT No.: BP-2839

Name of Office : Dy. Chief Engineer, Bhakra Power Houses Circle, BBMB (PW), Narnag.

Name of work: Replacement of 220 KV Single Bus Conductor Bus Bar with twin 0.5 sq. inch ACSR Marcella conductor bus bar & 2 No. Isolators at 220 KV Switchyard & supply of Hardware for Bhakra Right Bank Power House of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).

Last date for download tender documents 18.01.2022 upto 16:00 Hrs.

Last date for submission of online bid 18.01.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs.

Due date for opening bid (Part-I) 19.01.2022 at 11:00 Hrs.

For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB Website https://bbmbproc.ebeprocure.com, www.bbmb.gov.in

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CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

Ro.No.- 1058 e-Tender Notice Dated: 30.12.2021

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-II), Vyasi HEP, Lakhwar Bhawan, Dakpathar, Distt-Dehradun (Uttarakhand) invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-

Tender No: 15/UJVN/03/EE (Civil-II)/Vyasi HEP/2021-22.

Name of the Work: "Construction of Shops and Dispensary Center for Project affected people of Vyasi Project at Hathiyari, Dehradun."

Estimated Cost: Rs. 12328701.00 (Rs. One Crore Twenty Three Lacs Twenty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred one only) Including GST.

Date of availability of bid document on website : 29.12.2021 from 10:00 Hrs.

Last Date for submission of bid on website: 18.01.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in> EE(Civil-II)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

01. Name of work with its location : Mapping of OHE masts/portals of main line in section from CI to SMO via SPP and MFP-SPJ section over sonapur division, 02. Approx. cost of the works (₹) : ₹18, 66, 969/-, 03. Earnest Money to be deposited (₹) : ₹ 0/-, Cost of tender form (₹) : ₹ 0/-, 04. Date & time for submission of e-tender and opening of e-tender : Submission of tenders: 31.01.2022 till 12.00 hrs. Opening of e-tenders: on 31.01.2022 at 12.00 Hrs. in the office of the Sr. Div. Electrical Engineer (TRD), DRM Office, E.C. Railway, Sonpur, 05. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of e-tender can be seen : **WEBSITE:** <http://www.jreps.gov.in> **NOTICE BOARD:** DRM Office Campus, E. C. Railway, Sonpur, Asst. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD East Central Railway/Sonpur

PR/01439/SEE/ETRD/T/21-22/24

"IMPORTANT"

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	HARYANA DAIRY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD.	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF AGENCY TO SETUP AND OPERATE CENTRAL STATE LABORATORY FOR THE SAMPLING OF FOOD PRODUCTS IN ROHTAK, HARYANA	31.12.2021 19.01.2022	NA	www.vitaindia.org.in	vitaindia@gmail.com

6584/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER: PWD: BUILDING: ASSAM CHANDMARI: GUWAHATI-3.

No. CE/78-IV/30/2020/30 **PRESS NOTICE (Re-Tender)**

In cancellation of the earlier Press Notice issued vide No. SMC/30/2020/11, dtd. 27.10.2021, the Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings), Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites fresh bids through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode of contract for the following work, from eligible contractors having experience in similar nature of work. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

SI No	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work	Cost of RFP Document	Earnest Money Deposit	E.M.D. to be down in favour of	Completion Period	Defect Liability period
1	Reconstruction of Assam House at 8-Russel Street, Kolkata	Rs. 9132.00 Lakh	Rs. 12,500/-	Rs.182.64 L (for General) or, Rs. 91.32 L (for reserved Category)	E.E., PWD, Assam Houses construction Division, New Delhi.	24 (twenty four) months	1 (one) yrs.

N.B. this Press Notice will form a part of the bidding Documents.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

JANASANYOG /C/9949/21

19 SPORT

JAN
2021

Australia didn't lose a Test at the Gabba since their nine-wicket defeat against the West Indies in 1988. In the next 32 Tests at the venue, they won 25 and drew seven. India were down to their last man in the reserves. They won the Test by three wickets and annexed the series, chasing a fourth-innings target of 328.

DEC
2021

Since 1995, the SuperSport Park at Centurion hosted 26 Tests, with South Africa winning 21 of them and losing only two. One of those losses was the controversial Hansie Cronje 'forfeiture' against England in 2000. Before Thursday, the Proteas' last defeat here was against Australia seven years ago. A 113-run win saw India breach the fortress.

Tale of two Centurions show India have come a long way in four years

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
DECEMBER 30

"IT ALMOST has to be a madness to be able to win away from home and you have to live it every minute, every day of being on tour. It is a very individual thing but we need to discuss this as a team, for sure."

These were Virat Kohli's words at Centurion in January 2018. India had just lost the second Test against South Africa by 135 runs, and with it, the three-match series after their 72-run defeat in Cape Town.

"It will go down as one of the greatest years in Indian cricket history, especially in Test cricket. The victories have taken a lot of discipline. We have worked really hard as a team for the last few years and we are slowly starting to see the results."

These were KL Rahul's words at Centurion in December 2021. India had begun the year with the grandmother of all comebacks on one leg at the Australian fortress of Brisbane. They

would end the year by becoming the first Asian team to win a Test at the South African fortress of Centurion. In between, they would mount successful raids on those venerated citadels of English cricket – Lord's and The Oval.

Four years ago, all of this would have been unthinkable except, of course, inside Kohli's mind, where the "madness to win away" had taken strong roots long ago. Imagine telling the world right after one had been humbled 0-2 in a place one wanted to win desperately in that "we have to believe that we are the best side." (Kohli would revisit this line later that year in England, even after a 1-4 scoreline, during a heated exchange with a reporter at the post-match presser at The Oval)

But the rest of the world would choose to focus on more immediate matters instead of the captain's lofty vision, which was still somewhat nebulous for those on the outside in terms of how it would be actually executed.

Several times during the post-match press conference at Centurion 2018, Kohli would lose his cool. Like when he was asked whether he



Virat Kohli leads his team into the dressing room after the win. AP

had played his best XI (An XI that had no place for then vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane in both Cape Town and Centurion. An XI that had no place in Centurion for Bhuvneshwar Kumar after he had taken six wickets in Cape Town). "You tell me the best XI, we will play that," Kohli

had snapped. Or when he was asked why he never played the same team in consecutive games. Eventually, it came down to Kohli pointing to South Africa's record on their previous trip to India in 2015-16. "How many times did South Africa come into the game in India? Coming close to winning games in India? Can you count?"

That was straight from the playbook of the first part of that decade, when Indian sides kept getting whitewashed overseas and kept threatening to return the favour when their hosts would visit India.

Burning ambition

And that was certainly not how Kohli wanted to play his cricket. Sure, he wanted to hammer visiting sides on raging turners at home – he still does that – but he also wanted to develop a side that could win on green tops abroad. "We need to be hard on ourselves... the mistakes that we have made... not paying attention to detail at important stages of the game is something we need to discuss as a

team," Kohli had said.

He would repeatedly ask for 120 per cent or 150 per cent or 200 per cent effort from his players. A mere 100 wouldn't do. The potential was quite visible indeed, as the very next match after Centurion, at Wanderers, would confirm, with a memorable win on a brutal pitch. Or the win at Trent Bridge over England a few months later. But the big prize – a series win – would still be far from their grasp. A bad session with bat or ball, and it would all slip away.

We are getting close to the line but are yet to learn how to actually get across, Kohli would admit after England 2018 was lost in Southampton. The line would be finally, and decisively, crossed in Australia in 2018-19.

It was South Africa that had been the starting point of India's overseas tour cycles in 2013-14 and 2017-18. Kohli has spoken of how the Wanderers victory became the springboard for his team's ambitions, culminating in India's first-ever series win in Australia.

That has been followed by what was practically an India 'B' side looting the bank at

Brisbane 2021, and a 2-1 series lead in England.

It is fitting then that this overseas cycle ends in South Africa. And especially that the last leg has begun in Centurion, where the fruit of failure had sown the seeds of success, as it has turned out in the four-year interval.

How far Indian cricket has come in that period is evident in Rahul's response on Thursday when asked whether he considered himself fortunate to not have to face the Indian fast bowlers in a Test match.

"It is harder facing them in the nets, it is not something some of us batsmen enjoy," said Centurion 2021's Player of the Match. "They keep us scared and do not treat us as teammates. They are very competitive athletes. We are very lucky to have such quality."

Perhaps that madness to win away from home has also created its own luck in the span between the two Centurions. It has also created greater expectations, and nothing less than a series win in the 'final frontier' will do now. Wanderers 2022 to better Wanderers 2018? Who would have thought?

BRIEFLY
Covid: BCCI U-16 tourney postponed

Mumbai: The U-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy has been postponed due to the recent surge in Covid-19 cases in India. In its email to all its affiliated units on Thursday, the Indian cricket board's secretary Jay Shah, informed that domestic cricket had started off well, with the completion of 748 matches till date, however, the sudden spike in cases has forced the board to postpone its junior tournament. "The cases across India are spiralling and despite being a large number of adults doubly vaccinated, they have still been infected. We have been closely monitoring the situation in India and across the world, and it is estimated that the caseload will shoot up in the immediate future if the situation is not controlled now," Shah wrote an email, accessed by *The Indian Express*.

DEVENDRA PANDEY

Rupa Gurunath steps down as TNCA prez

Chennai: Former BCCI president N Srinivasan's daughter Rupa Gurunath on Thursday resigned from the post of president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) to focus on "business and personal commitments". Rupa had taken over as the TNCA president in September 2019, becoming the first woman to head a state cricket association in India. Interestingly, former BCCI Ethics Officer cum Ombudsman Justice (Retd) DK Jain's report in June this year found her to be potentially guilty of 'Conflict of Interest' as she was an integral part of India Cements which owns the popular IPL team Chennai Super Kings. While the TNCA officials emphatically denied 'Conflict of Interest' being the reason for her resignation, another theory that's floating in cricketing circle is that son of the most powerful political family of the state is very keen on becoming the state cricket body's head.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
DECEMBER 30

INDIA WENT to lunch smelling victory. Rishabh Pant had been enquiring about the lunch menu in between his words of encouragement to the bowlers. One of them was reserved for Ravichandran Ashwin: "Ball bhi accha hai, tappa bhi accha hai" (the ball is good, as also the bounce)."

At lunch on Day 5, South Africa were 182/7 despite an early caught-and-bowled reprieve for Dean Elgar and Ashwin looking a little flat on a fifth-day pitch with some visible cracks. But the Proteas batting line-up didn't have the quality or experience to make those opportunities count. Elgar and Temba Bavuma showed resolve. But India's pace attack was relentless and the hosts duly surrendered to lose the first Test by 113 runs. Chasing 305 for victory, their second innings folded up for 191.

After Fortress Gabba, Fortress Centurion was breached, 29 years after India first toured the Rainbow Nation.

In 26 Tests before this, South Africa had won 21 and lost only two at this venue. Their last defeat here came against Australia seven years ago. The hosts' apparent invincibility at Centurion added more gloss to India's win, notwithstanding the fact that the Saffers are on a rebuilding phase. Even without the injured Anrich Nortje, they boasted a very good pace attack. KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal neutered them with a 117-run opening partnership on the first day, batting first in overcast conditions. Eventually, that proved to be the difference.

Rahul went on to score a magnificent hundred and deservedly got the Man-of-the-Match award. Since returning to the Test fold in England earlier this year, the opener has revelled in his batting discipline. It was an effort he should be proud of. "It will be right up there," Rahul said at the post-match press conference.

The victory was achieved 11 minutes after lunch, making the weather forecast, that predicted a mid-afternoon thundershower, redundant. Elgar's wicket was important. A tough cookie, the South African captain showed plenty of gumption, scoring 77 and threatening to take the fight to India, through a 36-run fifth wicket partnership with



India captain Virat Kohli (L) celebrates the dismissal of South Africa's Lungi Ngidi on Thursday. AP

Bavuma. But Jasprit Bumrah, who else, removed Elgar, bowling from around the wicket and nipping the ball back into the left-hander just enough to trap him leg-before. Bumrah had opened the game for the tourists on the fourth day by cleaning up Rassie van der Dussen and Keshav Maharaj. On Thursday, he added finality to the outcome, returning with 3/50 in the second innings. As Virat Kohli said at the post-match presentation, India's victory margin would have been bigger if an ankle twist wouldn't have reduced Bumrah's bowling time in the first innings to just 7.2 overs.

Spare a thought for Mohammed Shami, who spearheaded India's attack in the first innings with a five-for. He added three more scalps to his tally in the second to have a match haul of 8/107. The cat-and-mouse game with Marco Jensen was one of the highlights of the final day. Twice the young allrounder had been

lured into front-foot drives through the covers with back-to-back fuller deliveries. Consecutive boundaries ensued. His prey nicely set up, Shami dragged his length back a touch, moved the ball a shade from an impeccable fourth-stump line to induce a nick to the wicketkeeper. "Shami is an absolutely world-class bowler, among the top three seam bowlers in the world for me. Very, very happy for him to get 200 wickets and have an impactful performance," Kohli told host broadcasters after the game.

Everyone contributes

Indian pacers love to bowl in tandem. They complement each other. The team culture and the enhanced self-belief of the side have allowed youngsters like Mohammed Siraj to get into the groove straightaway. Siraj took the important wicket of Quinton de Kock on Day 5, the final-day pitch playing a bit up and down

and the ball keeping low to take the bottom edge onto the stumps. An unnecessary throw on his follow-through to Bavuma, that hurt the batsman, was his only transgression. He is likely to get a talking-to from the match referee for taking his aggression too far. But Siraj promptly apologised to Bavuma and received a classy thumbs-up from the latter.

The India-versus-South Africa series is usually played in very good spirit and the on-field camaraderie was visible between some IPL team-mates. Bumrah smiled after beating his Mumbai Indians team-mate de Kock outside the off-stump. The left-hander responded with a sheepish grin. India have collectively grown as a team, keeping 'outside noise' and reported dressing-room misgivings at arm's length. When Siraj was brought into the attack on Thursday, Cheteshwar Pujara walked up to Kohli and advised him to keep a fielder at mid-

De Kock announces Test retirement

New Delhi: South Africa wicket-keeper-batsman, Quinton de Kock, announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect on Thursday. The announcement comes on the backdrop of South Africa's defeat in the first Test match against India in Centurion. In a statement released, the southpaw revealed that he intends to spend more time with his growing family and hence took the call for his relatively early retirement from the format. He and his wife, Sasha, are anticipating the imminent birth of their first-born child in the coming days.

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wicket instead of an extra man on the off-side. Pujara wanted protection for the bowler's stock incoming delivery. His captain readily obliged and changed the field.

Ashwin brought the finish with successive wickets of Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi, rounding things off nicely for his team. Nobody going wicketless from this game would be counted as a real positive. For South Africa, they were outclassed. But they would carry Bavuma's batting, Elgar's grit and the fast bowlers' form to the second Test that starts on January 3.

SCOREBOARD

India 1st innings: 327

South Africa first innings: 197

India second innings: 174

South Africa 2nd innings: 191 (o/n: 94/4)

Elgar lbw b Bumrah 77, Bavuma not out 35, De Kock b Siraj 21, Mulder c Pant b Shami 1, Jansen c Pant b Shami 13, Rabada c Shami b Ashwin 0, Ngidi c Pujara b Ashwin 0
Extras: (lb 2, nb 5) 7; FoW: 1-1, 2-34, 3-74, 4-94, 5-130, 6-161, 7-164, 8-190, 9-191, 10-191
Bowling: Bumrah 19-4-50-3, Shami 17-3-63-3, Siraj 18-5-47-2, Thakur 5-0-11-0, Ashwin 9-2-18-2

India won by 113 runs

Pace Boom: How Bumrah has rebranded the identity of Indian cricket

SANDIP G

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

IT HAS become a regular sight in cricket. Jasprit Bumrah beaming, India winning, opponents left staring at genius fast-bowling that defies belief. Bumrah has been instrumental in India's first-ever series in Australia, pivotal to India's 2-1 series lead in England, and now influential in orchestrating this 113-run win in South Africa, the first step in their pursuit of conquering another elusive shore.

Helping Bumrah break this cricketing ceiling was his long-time pace partner Mohammad Shami, who finished with eight wickets in the game as India took a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series. Easily the deadliest new-ball pair in the world today, they blew away the hosts at a venue that is considered their fortress. South Africa has lost just three of the 27 Tests played at Centurion.

On Thursday, South African skipper Dean Elgar seemed determined to protect the citadel. But against Bumrah's relentlessness, he had to finally give in, out lbw on 77. That was the key strike. After that, it was only a matter of time.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Javagal Srinath, the last India speedster to consistently clock 140-plus kph and dreaded by openers across the world, says Bumrah is "definitely ahead" of him.

"Of all the Indian pacers I have seen and played with, I would put him on top of the pack. Definitely, ahead of me. Top class bowler in world cricket, he has done enough to be in any Hall of Fame. Inswingers, straighteners, leg cutters, bouncers, yorkers, slower cutters – you name it, he has it. It's been a real pleasure watching him bowl," he says.

Srinath also shares the reason that makes him "go wow". "In the West Indies, he looks like a West Indian bowler, in South Africa, he operates like a South African. Same in Australia or England. The lines and lengths, and angles of release, and types of balls in each country conditions – minute tweaks that might go unnoticed – he makes it seem he has been in that country for years. Like a home bowler," he says.

Numbers back such praise. By any yardstick, they are startling: 106 wickets in 25 games, at an average and strike rate of 22.33 and 50.5; five-wicket hauls in Australia,



Jasprit Bumrah appeals for the wicket of Dean Elgar at Centurion on Thursday. Reuters

England, South Africa and West Indies; a Test hat-trick; and, man of the match plaques from all of these countries.

In the nine matches that India have won with Bumrah, he has nabbed 55 wickets at 15.81 and struck with every 37th ball he has bowled. It's no sleight of fate that India's evolution as a cricketing superpower outside Asia coincided with the emergence of Bumrah.

Beyond it all, he has rebranded the iden-

In the West Indies, he looks like a West Indian bowler, in South Africa, he operates like a South African. Same in Australia or England. The lines and lengths, and angles of release, and types of balls in each country conditions -- minute tweaks that might go unnoticed -- he makes it seem he has been in that country for years. Like a home bowler."

JAVAGAL SRINATH
FORMER INDIA PACER

tity of Indian cricket. For long, it was connoted to classical, guileful spinners before it came to be identified with virtuosos batsmen, the technicians and stylists that oozed oriental charm. Now, the world is in awe of their fast bowling riches, and the crown in the jewel is Bumrah. It could even be argued that his influence has been more than that of Virat Kohli, the titular figure of contemporary Indian cricket, since India are winning games abroad despite the captain's long phase of in-

different form.

Vignettes of India's fast bowlers were too few that all those were easily re-countable. Like that Ishant Sharma spell against Ricky Ponting, or Sreesanth in Johannesburg, or Zaheer Khan at The Oval. Bumrah has the skill and pace to stitch together more treasurable fast-bowling moments than all of those combined. It speaks of his inexorable brilliance, just as it exposes India's non-existent fast-bowling legacy.

Showering superlatives

The world has also risen to shower superlatives. The West Indies legend Andy Roberts, thrifty in praise, views him as one of their own. "He could have been one of us in our heyday," he had told this newspaper. Another Caribbean totem Curtly Ambrose said that he "would have loved bowling alongside" Bumrah. Vivian Richards said he would rather face Dennis Lillee, and called Bumrah the "diamond in their armoury".

The not-so-easily wooed Australian crowd were queuing up for his autograph, jerseys, gloves and what not. They composed songs and not parodies for him, they waited for him as they had once waited for Sachin Tendulkar.

In England, captain Joe Root wants his bowlers to learn ruthlessness from him. In September, referring to Bumrah's spell at The Oval that turned the game around and gave India a famous win, Root had said: "You look at that spell by Bumrah: he recognised a key moment in the game and turned it on its head this afternoon. It was a wonderful spell that really turned the game. If you're thrown the ball, you need to get the bit between your teeth and turn the game."

This sparkle sometimes obscures the feats of accomplices Shami and Mohammed Siraj. But it's their support that makes Bumrah, just as it's his support that makes them. It's a luxury some of his predecessors could only dream of.

Says Srinath: "The pressure and intensity of attack maintained by Shami and Siraj now, or Ishant before, has been great. The pressure just keeps building and Bumrah then comes back for his spells to attack more. He can be fresh, he can be mentally relaxed, that he doesn't have to do it on his own, that he doesn't have to bowl too many overs and spend his energy. Fast bowling is about conservation of energy. He stays fresh and then attacks ruthlessly when he comes back."

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.

NIHAL KOSHIE

AS THE season of endless felicitations, sponsor events, ad shoots, and interviews extended into November, Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra's window to tick something off his bucket list shrunk. His sister's wedding was in the third week after which he was to travel abroad for training.

The automobile enthusiast was restless. He keeps track of new launches and can talk about engine horsepower, top speed and acceleration times. Chopra test drove his dream SUV. The butch looks and road presence appealed to him. He was also being pragmatic. His javelins fit only in an SUV.

But the dealer said the four-wheel drive would take over a month to be imported, by which time he would be flying out. Chopra didn't pull strings to get ahead on the waiting list for delivery.

Quietly he looked for options in the second-hand market and settled for a used sports car.

Driving around Khandra village and Panipat town gave Chopra some rare 'me time' after more than three months of whirlwind touring to be feted as India's first gold medalist in track and field. The who's who of the country wanted his time. He was unable to step out without being recognised, even if he wore a mask and a cap. There were selfie requests at every step.

He had no time to train or hit the gym. Chopra gained weight and had to cut short his season. To his credit, the 24-year-old didn't let success go to his head, nor was he at his wit's end when his life turned into one big public mela.

He consciously kept the trappings of fame at a distance. He retreated to the comfort of his close-knit family and a small circle of friends when his stardom matched that of the big cricket names. His mentions on social media were in millions and his followers grew by lakhs overnight.

Not-so-mundane life

Aman Shah has been working closely with Chopra over the past four years and was with him during most of the post-Olympics travel. Shah is part of the team which manages him at JSW Sports. Being in the public eye came at a cost for Chopra. But he took it in his stride, says Shah.

When the attention got a little too much, Chopra needed a little help. Before flights, a request was made to the protocol officer at the airport to allow him an easier passage to the aircraft, away from the common area. But the

pilots often gave away who was on board.

"On airplanes, they used to announce 'we are thrilled to have the Olympic gold medalist on board.' Not once did I see him get angry with anyone despite people being invasive," Shah describes.

"When it comes to fans, especially kids, if somebody asks him for a picture, even if there are 10 people around him, including bouncers telling him not to do it, he feels that if somebody is waiting he needs to oblige them. That has not really changed, it is a big part of his personality. He is coming from very little and he knows that all of this could be very fleeting."

Chopra also made peace with not being able to enjoy the small pleasures of life. He could no longer enter a mall unnoticed. He had to try and slip into some sort of disguise.

"Earlier he could just walk into a mall and shop. Now he would wear a mask and cap and then go. He would still be recognized. He would tell people 'let us take a picture on the side' so not many notice," Shah says.

The javelin star had to wait a while before he could shop. When on a short holiday with the family, he bought shoes in Dubai. One of the pictures he posted on Instagram is of him sitting on the sand dunes during a desert safari with a brand-new pair of basketball sneakers on his feet. Being a sneaker-head, he spent a small fortune.

Before and after his mini-break though, he had to learn to pose before the camera during shoots, act, get comfortable with

talking about the medal-winning feat before big gatherings and make small talk at functions.

But he slipped into different roles like it was second nature. For the Cred television commercial, an instant hit, one of Chopra's request was to give him very short dialogues like 'ab kya? MBA?' or '360 degree marketing'.

His two gold medals, the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games in 2018, and the Junior World Championship gold two years earlier had given him a brush with fame. The wave of adulation post the Olympics was unprecedented.

Influential figure

Chopra switched off his phone on landing in India. To reach him, one had to go through either Shah or his uncle Bhim Chopra. The two of them had to plan each hour of each day. It would be a while before Chopra was able to return to his train-rest-train schedule.

"His uncle Bhim would take all the calls related to governments, Neeraj didn't have his phone on. There were at least 100 phone calls every day. It didn't get to him as he didn't face

Gold, Rush

Life hasn't been the same for Neeraj Chopra since his historic 87.58m heave of the javelin. Yet the man from Khandra has held on to his values



a lot of it," Shah says.

But at times people would get a little pushy. Some of those on the line would insist on talking to Chopra. Once they got to speak to Chopra, they would ask for favours — to put in a word for inter-departmental transfers, a promotion or to give a recommendation for a sports award.

He was also mindful not to get dragged into any controversy or be used as a pawn. Around the time he returned the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) dismissed the claim of a coach taking credit for guiding the athlete back in 2015.

Chopra paid the coach a courtesy call when he was in Pune for an army function.

But when the coach put out pictures of Chopra's visit to his home, the star javelin thrower wasn't amused because he felt like he had been used to prove a point.

He stayed clear of public spats. Just before the Games, foreign coach Uwe Hohn had said top sports organisations in the country did not do enough to prepare athletes for the Olympics. A day after Hohn's broadside, two other javelin throwers, nudged by officials, put out statements alleging the German-born coach used to train athletes from other countries when at foreign camps meant for the Indian team. Chopra didn't get into a mud-slinging game.

When the troll army was going after Pakistan thrower Arshad Nadeem for picking up the Indian's javelin before the first round in Tokyo, Chopra doused the fire by clarifying that athletes were free to use each other's equipment during competition. In a video message and via a tweet, Chopra made a strong statement by calling out those who painted a fellow competitor as a villain.

The competitor and friend

His empathy for this era's most dominant thrower Johannes Vetter, when the German great failed to qualify for the final at the Tokyo Olympics, was a lesson in how to stay grounded.

"Please pass on the message to him that I consider him as a great athlete and when he was leaving the field, I wanted to hug him and make him feel 'you are the best.' It's just that

he didn't have a good day. He is very close to the world record and I hope he sets the world record," Chopra said speaking at *The Indian Express* eAdda.

This was Chopra's attempt to comfort Vetter, with whom he had shared a car ride before the Olympics while in Europe. Chopra is known to stay in touch once he develops a bond, be it someone he just met or an early mentor.

Jaiveer, or as Chopra calls him 'Monu bhai saab,' was his very first coach in Panipat. Everyone knows of the story of the overweight boy who was told by his family to go to the ground to get fit. Jaiveer was the one who gave the unsure youngster his first lessons in the javelin throw.

To date, Jaiveer remains Chopra's guide and friend. He was one of the first people Chopra called after winning the gold in Tokyo. When Chopra underwent an elbow operation two years ago and his season unravelled, Jaiveer was by his side in the hospital room.

Meanwhile, a childhood friend running an academy near Chopra's village can bank on him to sponsor a promising young athlete. "He does not forget those who have been there for him. He is the same Neeraj, before and after the medal," his uncle Bhim says.

Sports writers have plenty of stories of athletes they have known well not returning calls or giving them the cold shoulder once they turn super stars. Chopra is proving to be an exception.

A journalist was pleasantly surprised when Chopra forwarded a personal voice note to invite him to this sister's wedding last month. Within a fortnight of the wedding, Chopra landed at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center in California, USA. Next year he will aim for medals in three major events, the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and World Athletics Championships.

He is coming off a long cheat phase and having a sweet tooth didn't help matters. The first aim is to get back to shape.

"I have slowly started training. I had become fat," Chopra said, while shooting a live Instagram video and replying to questions.

On the breakfast table was a plate of fruits and what looked like some cereal. In the distance was a training track.



SOLDIER WITHOUT UNIFORM

An internationally renowned expert in Cyber, Counter Terrorism , National Security, Drones and Electronic Warfare , Dr (Prof) Nishakant Ojha, is a sought- after advisor, an eminent Professor. Dr (Prof) Ojha is also a well-known author, whose recent book, "A New Game of Geo-politics in West Asia-US, Iran and India," carries the foreword of H.H. Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Kerala, commending his efforts. As Chief Strategic Officer & Advisor Cyber & Aerospace Security in a PSU under Government of India, Dr (Prof) Ojha, is spearheading several initiatives such as building a Centre of Excellence for AI and Cyber Security to strengthen the National Security of India. He was instrumental in advising many West Asia & middle East countries in sub setting the Terrorist activities .He had also served as a Principal Advisor -with Republic of Sudan for strengthening the National Security of the Country and also advising many Terrorist affected countries basically from Middle East & West Asia on Counter –Terrorism

Today, the world is facing a paradoxical situation where sophisticated technology is a boon and a bane. How protected are we as a nation?

India is in a grim situation when it comes to cyber warfare perpetrated by countries inimical to it. In today's highly sophisticated technology driven environment, Cybercrimes too have become a real time danger. India has to adopt a more aggressive stance, both overtly and covertly, to identify these threats. India needs to place intelligent safety checks and mechanisms to counter these threats. The existing Cyber rules and policies are inadequate to address the real time challenges thereby, making it important to frame stringent laws on priority to tackle and curb cyber terror attacks. The government is investing significant resources into institutions to tackle cybercrime and cyber terrorism and it is making all efforts to ensure proper monitoring for enhanced accountability and implementing periodic audits would further streamline and strengthen the near real time response in the fighting against cybercrimes and terrorism. India needs a centralised monitoring and coordination centre for processing actionable Intelligence for sharing the same with all the Law Enforcement Agencies in real time. When it comes to national security there should not be even a fraction of compromise. I believe in the rule, 'Respect all, Suspect all'.

The adversaries are employing new and asymmetrical technologies to pose a chal-

lenge to us, especially in the cyber space and also in the conventional space. How do you think we can counter the same.

I have worked very closely with the many Middle & West Asian countries who are striving hard enough to create a robust eco-system to address Cyber & Counter Terrorism issues .In lieu of that I would request and suggest to the concern authority in the government of India to set up a National Cyber Joint Task Force under the Ministry of Defence. The Task Force would compile intelligence and work in close coordination and collaboration with all the agencies to protect, secure and guard the all kinds of warfare domains - land, sea, air, space, and cyber within our country's territorial jurisdiction . The Task Force would basically serve as a resource focal point for the multi-disciplinary areas in research and analytical exchange for the national goals and strategic posture of the Republic of India. And the ability of that would be to build and deploy 50 military equipment in support of the national strategic objective. I wanted to emphasis on having a mechanism to keep the government officials apprised of the audit and its outcomes periodically.

On what premise would the proposed National Cyber Joint Task Force function?

The National Cyber Joint Task Force would work basically on two primary premises-strategic information support and information operations. The strategic information support would look into centralising technical intelligence, collection and management and providing strategic intelligence support to the various defence commands enabling joint operations.

The strategic operations would take into account input and output of intelligence for cyber warfare in paralysing enemy operations and system sabotage. It would enable India to conduct operations by integrating multiple decisions of information and warfare into a unified force covering a host of vital aspects such as cyber espionage, offence, media campaigns, psychological and political warfare missions. This system would defang the efforts of our adversaries to weaken and destabilize the country.

I am creating a cyber war room for cyber security and working deeply in counter terrorism, which if not blocked, will play a very dangerous role in the coming years for the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban. I can say this from my extensive experience in advisory roles to many countries including as former principal advisor to the Republic of



Sudan where I worked on enhancing their defence capability programme and my stint with the Russian government also. I also have a post-doctoral degree in AI from Denmark on paid scholarship from the EU. Today, I am an eminent expert for the BSF for counter terrorism.

Could you share about your role in fortifying the financial sector against frauds?

During the Covid pandemic, money trafficking and money laundering incidents rose sharply in the small cooperative banks, which still to be digitalised or are semi digitalised. There are approx. 90,000 rural cooperative banks and about 1300-1500 urban cooperative banks in India. To check financial frauds, CERT-in, under the Ministry of Electronics and IT and Ministry for Communication and Information Technology, Government of India, sought my expertise for creating Security Operation Centres (SOC), with whom we have signed an MOU. My primary objective is to create a robust cyber security eco-system to protect these 90,600 co-operative banks. The SOPs that are being created would take the traffic from cooperative banks, read, analyse them and send those data to CSIRT-FIN for sending alerts and advisories to the concerned stakeholders and cooperative banks for taking necessary action in time.

What is your strategy against cyber terrorism?

Cyber terrorism has many aspects to it. My suggestion is that there is need to create different cyber security nodes e.g., There are multiple defence theatres, for which we should create separate nodes and then create a WAN of those that will cover all them, and

likewise for all the critical infrastructure such as power, airport, ports, scientific installations. When these nodes are controlled through one WAN, it would be easier to check input and output of data. For this integration of all the agencies is of paramount importance under a competent leadership to bring all of them together for the sake of protecting the nation.

What kind of Drones are being built to counter predator drones sneaking into Indian territory?

In India, there are many indigenous projects where next generation drones can be developed that are capable of identifying, jamming, responding and are also suicidal. These drones can be controlled by their command centre, and also through the satellites to different satellites. We are working on a system where the Next-Gen Drones have the capability to identify and read the frequencies of other equipment and hop up to another frequency without jamming them. Many foreign universities have collaborated with us and have even started sharing the ToT with us. There are many countries who have robust technology, but no funds to take it forward. I am targeting them for importing those technologies into India, and bringing the start-ups on a common platform to develop well-integrated and comprehensive technologies compatible to our security needs and hand it over to the Government of India. Spoofing is one of the element which will play a vital role in that particular Drones.

You have worked closely with the Late CDS General Bipin Rawat. Could you share your association with him?

The tragic martyrdom of CDS General Bipin Rawat Sir is an irreparable loss to the nation and personally to me a lot as well. He was my mentor, guide and a great support to me. I know for sure that he was very popular, admired and respected as a brave heart in West Asian countries and the Middle East. He was truly a daring officer, a true warrior. Sir always encouraged me saying, "Have faith, we will do something good together for the Country ." A man of rare calibre, he was a true patriot for whom it was 'country first' and other thing secondary .

During my initial days of interaction with Bipin sir, he advised me to choose good people from different agencies, from different departments, from universities and create a team for a start-up, which should work as a vertical to all the supporting agencies as and when required. Bipin Sir is my idol and will be , he always helped in boosting my morale

whenever I felt weak He literally had transformed me into a Non-Uniform Soldier and made me committed to keep on doing what is good for the nation without fearing for one's life, he has instructed me to do right things which is for the betterment of the Mother India and I pledge to do till end of my life.

What made you join BECIL as Chief Strategic Officer?

I am grateful to CMD of BECIL, who has been a great support by offering me this platform and the responsibility of Chief Strategic Officer encouraging me to pick the best indigenous brains and integrating them for strategic planning. My areas of expertise are cyber, counter terrorism, national security, drones, electronics warfare . I am an eminent expert in Counter Terrorism for West Asia and the Middle east, so I have a sound understanding of how terrorism works and the dark cyber space operations correlate with that . I am developing a Centre of Excellence here, which will play a very vital role in enhancing the national security of our nation by nailing down counter terrorism and it will be a kind of supporting arm for the law enforcing agency.

We have started many start-ups that are working on many areas, including counter drones, electronic warfare etc. I have developed a digital forensic lab and my target is to make this lab into a world-class one in another 6-7 months. I am really thankful to the National Cyber Security Coordinator who had helped me in fulfilling this particular dream into reality An upgraded version of CBRN protection system for detecting and alerting about new viruses is another focus area. Where we are focusing and I put in words that it will change the entire dynamics of Combat Operations. In the future, I can foresee that there will be two kinds of war-machine war and biological war where combat by soldiers would be the last option.

AI is a powerful technology to contend with in stealth digital warfare. What is your observation?

AI is being dangerously used. In today's highly sophisticated environment hackers are on their job, teaming up, coordinating, and targeting to damage and attack across the global digital landscape resulting as a threat destroying trust among the service providers and customers. There is need for a safety mechanism against AI led cyber threat. My suggestion to the government is to set-up a cyber-war room in different locations where they can read the characteris-

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tics of the data, so that they can respond in real time basis.

Even at the recent Indo-global summit held in Dubai, I proposed to the member nations for creating a dedicated Centre of Excellence in the core area of AI Cyber security along with some sort of cognitive advanced technology between the quadrant countries India, Israel, Dubai, UAE, Sri Lanka. Dubai has shown his great interest for the same.

Cyber is not just about tools, it's an art. At the CoE here, we are developing AI with indigenous knowledge, which will be entirely 'Made in India' and handed over to the government to take it forward. We have to nurture fresh minds and put them on a specific task for good results.

What are the top priority areas that need attention for the fight against Cybercrime and cyber terrorism?

There are three things that needs immediate attention. Firstly, a Cyber security law and Cyber security Strategy must be formulated immediately. Secondly, the government should work closely with the security agencies on the Drones laws. Lastly, a WAN system must be created immediately to cover all the Defence Commands of India Army, along with critical infrastructures also. And then integrate them to build a better, faster cyber security data operations on PPP model. Private companies and start-ups must be encouraged and given support, but everything has to be audited. Due diligence of each staff member has to be carried out to ensure that there is no breach of data, which makes Data protection policy, all the more necessary. In grey areas where we are lacking, the government has to act fast to make national security more robust and strong enabling agencies to get a grip on the two-way passage of data.

With respect to the Terrorism in all its manifestations are unacceptable and never be justified. Today all States in every region are vulnerable to terrorism and this menace has become a serious global concern. India since its independence has been facing the problem of insurgency and serious victims of cross boundaries terrorism in different parts of the country and frontier- terrorism has been the unending vexed issue. The terrorist groups both religious and non-religious have been resorting to varied terrorist activities adopting improved and sophisticated devices having external links with likeminded terrorist groups in other countries. In the light of this, India should evolve equally improved & robust strategies to combat and counter frontier- terrorism in particular adopting global counter terrorism strategy also.