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**VULNERABILITY CATEGORIES**

National average for Covid exposure is 2.5% and 2nd dose of Covid vaccination is 50% as on Dec 30, 2021.

Special focus	Assumptions	No. of districts
Category 1	Covid exposure: below 0.5% Vaccination: below 50%	99
Category 2	Covid exposure: 0.5 to 2.5% Vaccination: below 50% OR Covid exposure: below 0.5% Vaccination: above 50%	212
Category 3	Covid exposure: above 2.5% Vaccination: below 50% OR Covid exposure: 0.5 to 2.5% Vaccination: above 50%	299
Category 4	Covid exposure: above 2.5% Vaccination: above 50%	104

Most of poll-bound UP, Punjab, Manipur vulnerable to Covid: empowered group

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

MOST of the districts in three poll-bound states – Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Manipur – have been found to “represent high vulnerability to emerging Covid pandemic due to Omicron variant”, with their population at “heightened risk of severe disease and adverse outcomes”, according to an analysis by one of the empowered groups constituted by the Centre on Covid-19.

The report – “Vulnerability of districts for Covid-19” – was shared with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Monday, two days after the Election Commission announced the Assembly poll schedule for five states (UP, Punjab, Manipur, Goa and Uttarakhand).

According to the report, seen by The Indian Express, 65 of 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh, 21 of

22 districts in Punjab, and 9 of 16 districts in Manipur are listed as “Category 1” and “Category 2” districts, which “represent high vulnerability to emerging Covid pandemic due to Omicron variant.”

“The population of these districts is at heightened risk of severe disease and adverse outcomes,” says the analysis.

The vulnerability assessment of districts is based on two parameters: prior confirmed exposure to Covid (proportion of population infected), and vaccination coverage (both doses) as on December 30, 2021. Based on these two indicators, 714 districts across the country have been categorised into four categories.

■ Category-1: Districts with prior confirmed Covid exposure less than 0.5% and vaccination (both doses) coverage less than 50%.

■ Category-2: Districts with prior confirmed Covid exposure

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

REBELS HEAD FOR SAMAJWADI PARTY IN POLL RUN-UP

Jolt for Yogi as key Minister exits, 3 MLAs say will quit too

Swami Maurya says UP govt anti-Dalit, anti-farmer; poses for photo with Akhilesh

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 11

IN A jolt to the ruling BJP less than a month before the start of the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, OBC leader and five-term MLA Swami Prasad Maurya resigned Tuesday as Minister for Labour and Employment from the Yogi Adityanath government and seemed headed to the rival SP, posing for a photograph with its chief Akhilesh Yadav soon after.

At least three other BJP MLAs – Roshan Lal Verma, Brijesh Prajapati and Bhagwati Prasad Sagar – said they would follow Maurya who indicated that more from the BJP would join him.

In his resignation letter to Governor Anandiben Patel, Maurya, who represents the Padrauna constituency in the eastern district of Kushinagar, alleged neglect of “Dalits, backwards, farmers, unemployed and small traders” by the government.

While there was no immediate response from Chief Minister Adityanath, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, in a Twitter post, said: “I am not aware of the reasons for which Swami Prasad Maurya ji has resigned but it is my appeal to him to sit

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Amit Shah, Yogi arrive for BJP meeting in Delhi Tuesday for candidate selection. Prem Nath Pandey

High-profile exit dents BJP's OBC push, forces rethink at Delhi meet

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE EXIT of long-time OBC leader Swami Prasad Maurya from the BJP Tuesday cast a shadow on a meeting held by the party's top leadership on the Uttar Pradesh elections in Delhi. Maurya's decision is likely to help the Opposition's campaign that the Yogi Adityanath government is a “pro-upper caste” regime, setting back its efforts to woo OBC votes.

At the Delhi meeting to discuss strategy for the polls and candidate names, Adityanath was present along



Photo tweeted by Akhilesh with Maurya on Tuesday

with Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, BJP state chief Swatantra Dev Singh and Union

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

**MAURYA SPENT HIS CAREER FIGHTING SP P 6**

Channi nudges Cong to name candidate for CM, with a hint: he is quite popular

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 11

SIGNALLING MORE trouble for the Congress ahead of the elections in Punjab, where the party faces infighting, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi said on Tuesday that the party “should announce” its chief ministerial candidate. “Whenever the party has not announced the CM candidate, it has lost,” he said.

Channi made the remarks while responding to a question on whether the Congress should declare its CM candidate, during an interview to a local channel, Pro Punjab TV.

“When the party declared its CM candidate during the 2017 elections, it won. Before that, when it did not declare the candidate, it lost. Whenever the party has not announced the CM candidate, it has lost. So the party should announce it,” he said.

He went to say that he was a popular leader and people waved at him and broke barricades to meet him. Channi, however, refused to comment when

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



'Lost when CM not named'

EXPLAINED
E Different voices

THE CONGRESS has said it will fight the Punjab Assembly elections under a “collective leadership”. But Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's call for the announcement of a CM candidate, even as Punjab PCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu has made clear that he has his eyes on the top post, indicates that fissures remain.

Vodafone opts for equity-linked rescue, Govt will own 35.8%

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

DEBT-LADEN private telecom operator Vi on Tuesday said it would accept the option offered by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to convert interest on deferred spectrum auction payments and adjusted gross revenues (AGR) to equity.

In its release to the exchanges, Vi said the net present value of interest related to spectrum auction dues and AGR would come to around Rs 16,000 crore. Since the average price of

Vi's shares on August 14, 2021, which the Supreme Court decided would be the cut-off date, was below par value, the company would issue shares to the Government at par value of Rs 10 per share.

As a result, the Government would end up owning 35.8% of total outstanding shares of the company while the shareholding of current promoters, Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group, would fall to 28.5 per cent and 17.8 per cent, respectively.

Currently, Vodafone Group owns close to 45 per cent of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Mangeshkar tests positive, in ICU with pneumonia signs, stable



The singer, 92, was admitted on Sunday

YOGESH NAIK
MUMBAI, JANUARY 11

SINGER LATA Mangeshkar, 92, is being treated for Covid-19 and pneumonia at a hospital in Mumbai, a doctor said Tuesday.

The singer had been hospitalised in 2019 as well for a serious lung ailment and pneumonia.

Dr Pratib Samdhani, who is heading the team of experts treating Mangeshkar, said she was brought to Breach Candy Hospital early on Sunday morning and is under treatment in the intensive care unit.

“She has been diagnosed with Covid and pneumonia and is presently undergoing treatment,” Dr Samdhani told The Indian Express.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Thirty-six children from an orphanage in Palam Vihar, New Delhi, leave a quarantine and care centre at the Commonwealth Games Village on Tuesday, after being cured of Covid, 12 days after they were admitted. Tashi Tobgyal

Delhi govt tells pvt offices to close, Kejriwal says restrictions will be lifted as cases fall

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

WITH THE Capital breaching the 20,000-mark in daily cases last week and the positivity rate continuing to rise, the Delhi government has ordered the closure of all private offices, barring those

listed in the exempted category.

“The practice of work from home shall be followed,” said an order issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA). On Monday, all restaurants and bars were ordered to shut dine-in services, with only takeaway and home delivery services allowed.

While all government offices, except essential and emergency services, shifted to work from home last week, private offices were allowed to function with 50% of their staff strength.

Private offices that are allowed to remain open include banks, companies providing essential services like pharma

companies, telecom services, petrol pumps, transport of cargo, aviation services, RBI-regulated entities, offices of advocates, and courier services.

On Tuesday, the city reported 21,259 new cases, 23 deaths and a positivity rate of 25.65%. Officials said most of the people

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Special airport lanes, empty stadium, stringent bubble: Maharashtra lays ground for Asian Cup

PAGE 1 ANCHOR**MIHIR VASAVDA**
MUMBAI, JANUARY 11

BEFORE INDIA'S women footballers board the plane from Kochi to Mumbai on Thursday, each player will be handed a dossier of sorts. From basic Covid-appropriate behaviour to avoiding shops and cafes at the airport, the document will spell

out all the dos and don'ts for their trip.

And the moment they land in Mumbai, the 23-member squad and the coaching staff will be separated from other passengers and whisked away to a dedicated testing area at the Arrivals terminal through special lanes. Only after they test negative will the players board a bus for their hour-long journey to Navi Mumbai, where they will stay in a bio-secure environment for the next fortnight.

Mumbai had been reporting



Indian players train in Kochi. They leave for Mumbai Thursday

the highest number of cases for any city in the country till a few days ago, but there are clear signs now of the surge stabilising. On Tuesday, the city reported only 11,647 new cases, almost half of what it was reporting a few days ago.

But Maharashtra is not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DROP IN DAILY TALLY CONTINUES, MUMBAI LOGS 11,647 CASES
PAGE 8

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FROM PAGE ONE

OBC face quits

and talk. Decisions taken in a hurry often turn out to be wrong.”

Incidentally, it was Roshan Lal Verma who carried Maurya’s resignation letter to the Raj Bhavan. “Hum Maurya ji ke supporter hain, jahan woh jayenge wahan hum bhi jayenge (I am a Maurya supporter, I will go wherever he does),” he said.

Verma, BJP MLA from Tilhar in Shahjahanpur, was earlier the constituency’s BSP MLA but quit the party along with Maurya in 2016. He contested the 2017 elections as the BJP candidate from the same seat and won.

Brijesh Prajapati, MLA from Tindwari in Banda, said: “Swami Prasad Maurya ji is our leader. Since he has sent his resignation letter, I have done it too.”

Bhagwati Prasad Sagar, MLA from Bilhaur in Kanpur Nagar district, said: “We will all go together.” He said they had to “struggle for four-and-half years in our own government”.

Maurya’s move comes as a shot in the arm for the SP which is trying to win over non-Yadav OBCs to bolster its Muslim-Yadav vote base. The non-Yadav OBCs played a key role in the BJP’s sweep of the 2017 elections.

After Maurya’s resignation, Akhilesh Yadav posted a photograph with him on Twitter, welcoming him to the SP fold. “Samajik nyay ka inquilab hoga, Bayis mein badlav hoga (Social justice will triumph, there will be change in 2022),” he wrote.

Meanwhile, Maurya’s daughter Sanghamitra, who is the BJP MP from Badaun, told news agency PTI that her father has resigned but has not joined the SP or any other outfit yet, and that he has told the media he will decide his strategy after two days.

Maurya said it is his decision to quit the party and not that of his daughter or son. “She has her own responsibilities as MP and she will continue to fulfill that. It is my decision alone,” he told reporters.

He said he is a “political person” and will join a political party, and that he would soon share details of those leaving with him.

“I have sent the letter of resignation to the Governor and have cited the reasons for quitting the Cabinet. In the next one or two days, I will speak to my supporters

and make it clear who all are coming with me,” he said.

In his resignation letter in Hindi, he said: “I have worked with responsibility and dedication in the Cabinet of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath as Labour and Employment Minister even under adverse situations and ideological positions but because of the neglect of Dalits, backwards, farmers, unemployed, youth as well as small traders, I resign from the Cabinet of Uttar Pradesh.”

He told reporters that he tried to raise matters but his concerns were not resolved.

“For long, I raised my issues at appropriate platforms in the party. While I was heard, my issues were not resolved. I have resigned from the anti-Dalit, anti-farmer, anti-youth and anti-trader government,” he said.

He said he had joined the BJP – from BSP – thinking “I will see a change” of the party.

“When I joined, the then president of the party, Amit Shah, said I would be given respect according to my personality. The department offered did not matter and I worked with dedication and responsibility as Labour and Employment Minister despite ideological differences,” he said.

Asked about claims that the BJP would win over 300 seats in the Assembly elections, he said: “Now they will know what Swami Prasad Maurya is capable of, the mandate he commands. They will realise my worth when the BJP loses the election.”

High-profile exit

Home Minister Amit Shah, apart from other senior leaders. However, the news of Maurya leaving upset all plans. As did speculation that more MLAs might follow him out; Maurya claimed as many as 15 would do so.

So while the state unit had zeroed in on two-three names for every constituency going to polls in the first three phases, a call was taken to review the list given the new uncertainty.

Also present at the meeting were organisation general secretary Sunil Bansal, UP election in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan, co-in-charge Anurag Thakur, and national general secretary organisation B L Santhosh. J P Nadda and UP in-charge Radha Mohan

Singh were also expected to attending, but could not as they are down with Covid.

Party leaders said that the BJP would have to rework its campaign for the state given Maurya’s exit and the message it sends to the politically significant OBC communities. So far, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Adityanath have been the faces of the campaign.

The messaging would also be conscious of the gains the Samajwadi Party hopes to make from Maurya’s exit. The party has been trying to expand its loyal Muslim-Yadav vote bank to include non-Yadav OBCs, who are estimated to constitute over 35% of the electorate.

As a minister, Maurya is the most high-profile leader to leave the BJP ahead of the UP polls. He had joined the party in 2016 from the BSP, where he was No. 2 to supremo Mayawati. Playing down the development, BJP leaders claimed Maurya was a fence-sitter for long and was sulking because the party had spurned his demand for a ticket for son Utkrist. His daughter Sanghamitra Maurya, the BJP MP from Badaun Lok Sabha seat, had earlier backed the demand for an OBC census on the floor of Parliament, breaking away from the party’s stand.

“Maurya leaving is not a shocker. It has been on the cards. It’s a one-day sensation, after which it will die down,” said a senior BJP leader.

That will be easier said than done. BJP leaders in Uttar Pradesh, including a sitting MLA, admitted Maurya’s exit creates a “serious perception issue”, with the party and government often accused of not giving OBCs their due. It might strengthen the charge that the BJP uses backward class votes only to come to power, and then ignores them, despite the OBCs playing a crucial role in Modi’s emphatic win at the Centre in 2014.

Before this, another high-profile leader, Eknath Khadse from Maharashtra, had left in 2020. However, the BJP had sent a big message by inducting as many as 27 ministers belonging to backward classes in Modi’s Cabinet expansion in July last year.

All eyes in UP will now turn towards Keshav Prasad Maurya, the BJP’s senior-most OBC leader in the state who has been nursing a grudge for being made to settle

for one of the two Deputy CM posts after the 2017 results, in spite of having led the party in the polls. Of late, Keshav Prasad has made several noises indicating his displeasure, including asserting that the issue of who would be CM should the BJP return to power was far from settled. This is despite Modi and Amit Shah making it clear that Adityanath was the face of the BJP state campaign.

On Tuesday, even as the BJP officially maintained silence over Maurya’s exit, Keshav Prasad issued a public appeal as he tweeted: “I don’t know why honorable Swami Prasad Mauryaji has quit. I would appeal to him to sit and talk as hasty decisions could prove wrong.”

However, things have not been all sugar and sweet between the two Maurya leaders. Swami Prasad knew he could never gain the same eminence as he had in the BSP as long as Keshav Prasad held the Maurya mantle. “While he could never be the top OBC leader in the BJP, he can be the top non-Yadav OBC leader in the SP,” a party functionary pointed out.

The heat for the BJP may first come from allies like Apna Dal (Soneylal), which also claims backward support, who would seek to press their advantage, a senior leader said.

Apart from the messaging to OBCs, Maurya’s exit puts the spotlight back on the functioning of Adityanath as CM, said a BJP MP from the state. “Some call Yogiji a polarising figure for other reasons. But inside the BJP, he is a highly polarising figure too. The party is divided into ‘for Yogi’ and ‘against Yogi’ now. While the first lot wants the BJP to return to power with his image and clout, the other side does not see a bright future under him,” he said.

The development might also trigger fresh questions over induction of leaders from other parties, a cause of much heartburn. “The cadre feel that their stand against this stands vindicated. They would question the wisdom of the leadership on the matter,” said the party functionary.

The SP’s non-Yadav OBC push earlier got a boost with the entry of Madhuri Verma, an OBC leader and MLA from Behraich; Rakesh Rathore, a lower OBC Rameshwar leader from the BJP; Shiv Shankar Singh Patel, former minister and BJP MLA from Banda; Congress leader Bal Krishna Patel; and Ram Adhal Rajbhar and Lalji Verma who were expelled from the BSP.

Another senior BJP leader and an MP, however, expressed confidence that the party could contain the damage from Maurya leaving. Admitting that there would be an impact on the BJP’s Kumi / Maurya support base in Rae Bareilly, Badaun and Kushinagar areas, the MP added: “Keshav Prasad Maurya’s presence will arrest any outflow of votes. Plus, Akhilesh will not be able to mobilise votes in other areas because, on the ground, the tussle is not between upper castes and OBCs, it is between backward castes and Dalits. Vote transfer is not at all easy. Even among OBCs, there is not a larger backward consciousness, it breaks into smaller groups and each one wants their political share.”

Vulnerable

0.5-2.5% and vaccination coverage less than 50%; or prior Covid exposure below 0.5% and vaccination below 50%.

■ Category-3: Districts with prior

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AUDIO

The logic behind India’s ‘precautionary dose’

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Today on the 3 Things podcast, we talk about why India has chosen to use the same vaccine for all the shots, and what studies regarding the mixing of Covid-19 vaccines tell.

confirmed Covid exposure above 2.5% and vaccination coverage less than 50%; or prior Covid exposure 0.5-2.5% and vaccination coverage above 50%.

■ Category-4: Districts with prior Covid exposure above 2.5% and vaccination coverage above 50%.

The last two categories represent the less vulnerable districts. While 99 districts have been listed in Category-1, 212 are in Category-2, 299 in Category-3, and 104 in Category-4.

The 99 districts in Category-1 are spread across 15 states, with Uttar Pradesh accounting for the most (39 districts), followed by Jharkhand (13), Bihar (11) and Punjab (9). Manipur has two districts in this list.

Of the 212 districts in Category-2, 35 are in Madhya Pradesh, followed by UP (26), Bihar (22) and Gujarat (21). Twelve districts in Punjab and seven in Manipur are included in this category.

“Rapidly scale up the second dose of vaccination in Category-1 and Category-2 districts. This is most urgently for the Category-1 districts in particular,” says the report. “Ensure all round preparedness in Category-1 and Category-2 districts: health facility readiness (beds, ICUs), testing, HR (human resources), medicines, oxygen, as also home care support,” it says.

The other two poll-bound states of Uttarakhand and Goa don’t have any district listed in the two “vulnerable” categories.

Only two districts in UP (Lucknow and Kanpur Nagar) and three in Manipur (Imphal East, Imphal West and Kakching) have been listed as Category-4, representing less vulnerability. The Category-3 list has eight districts in UP (Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Jhansi, Rae Bareilly, Meerut and Varanasi), one in Punjab (Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar) and two in Manipur (Chandel and Jiribam).

Of the 104 districts in Category-4, Maharashtra and Kerala account for 13 districts each, followed by Karnataka (9) and Arunachal Pradesh (8). And of the 299 districts in Category-3, 23 are in Assam, followed by Tamil Nadu (22).

to announce the CM candidate. Sidhu has indicated that he should be declared the CM candidate, saying he has an agenda for Punjab and a roadmap to implement it. He has also said that the AAP lost the 2017 elections because it did not have a CM candidate.

While Sidhu has not raised the issue since Congress general secretary K C Venugopal held a meeting with three Cabinet ministers from Punjab last week, he officially launched his “Punjab Model” on Tuesday, and said it would be part of the party’s manifesto.

APTI report also quoted Sidhu as saying that the people of Punjab would choose the CM, not the party high command. Responding to a question, he was quoted as saying: “Who told you that the high command will make the CM? ... People of Punjab will elect MLAs and people of Punjab too will make the CM.”

Vodafone

Vodafone Idea, while Aditya Birla Group owns roughly 28 per cent stake.

By another resolution, the current promoters also agreed to amend the shareholder agreement and brought down the minimum qualifying shareholding threshold from 21 per cent to 13 per cent.

This means that both Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group will continue to hold rights to make important decisions about the company, such as appointment of directors and other key officials. It is not clear yet if the DoT, which will become the largest shareholder, will get the power to appoint executives to the Vi board.

The option to convert interest on deferred spectrum auction payments and AGR dues was a part of the telecommunications reform package approved by the Union Cabinet last September. One of the major reforms, which aimed at alleviating the pain of the sector and providing immediate relief to debt-laden companies, was the decision to provide a four-year moratorium on payment of all dues arising due to the Supreme Court’s September 1, 2020, order on AGR.

This meant that telecom companies could opt to pay the principal, the interest, and all other penalties, as decided by the top court, after four years, instead of immediately. As a one-time opportunity, the Government also gave telecom service providers the option to convert the interest on this deferred payment into equity at the end of the four-year period.

Among the private service providers with major deferred spectrum auction and AGR dues, Bharti Airtel has opted not to take the interest-to-equity route even as it has opted for the four-year moratorium. Reliance Jio Infocomm had in October informed the DoT that it would not opt for the four-year moratorium altogether.

Other than these two, Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) also informed the exchanges on Tuesday that it would opt for the interest-to-equity conversion, which would end up giving the Government 9.5 per cent of the total outstanding shares of the company.

Vi, which is reeling under debt in excess of Rs 2 lakh crore, has been looking to raise funds from investors for quite some time. The Government’s offer of deferred payment of AGR dues came as a major breather for Vi, which owed the DoT more than Rs 58,000 crore in this category alone.

With Vi opting for conversion of its interest to equity, it is likely to free up the company’s funds for expansion. The company will now look to invest the funds made available into building long-term capabilities and invest in newer technologies such as 5G.

Most analysts believe that despite all these measures, the key to Vi’s survival would be its abil-

ity to raise fresh funds in the near term to meet cash flow needs.

In a report, Credit Suisse said that only a substantial improvement in the operating performance would help Vi “come out of this precarious situation”, and added that it had not “seen enough evidence for the sustained operational improvement”.

Some analysts believe that the regulatory pressures on Vi could ease now as the Government comes on board as a majority stakeholder, while also opening the channel for better regulatory measures.

“Bharti (Airtel) and (Reliance) Jio will need to be careful to not offend the Government with fierce promotions that undermine Vi. Better to compete on quality of service than price. The Government as owner of a large portion of the industry will be getting more feedback on the economic impact of its policies, and will probably be more sensitive to policy impact on operators,” said Deutsche Bank Research in a note.

Shares of Vi closed the day 20.5 per cent lower at Rs 11.80.

Delhi offices

who died had other diseases like cancer and liver disease, but would be counted as Covid deaths since they had tested positive.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal reiterated that “there is no plan to impose any lockdown in Delhi. We are imposing these restrictions out of compulsion as we have no choice. This is being done only for your safety. If we impose restrictions, the livelihood of people will be affected; and if we don’t, then cases will increase and the public will face problems. So, keeping both these scenarios in mind, we are moving gradually with striking a balance between both restrictions and public safety. I assure you that all these restrictions will be gradually removed once the cases come down,” he said.

The decision to shut private offices was taken on Monday at the DDMA meeting headed by Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal and attended by Kejriwal.

“The Covid situation in Delhi has been reviewed in the DDMA meeting... and it has been observed that the number of Covid-19 cases (including the cases of Omicron variant) has been rapidly increasing over the last few days and positivity rate has crossed 23%,” the DDMA said in its order.

“Therefore, it has been felt necessary that some more additional restrictions are imposed in Delhi to contain the spread of Covid-19 virus, including the highly contagious and transmissible Omicron variant... All private offices shall be closed, except those which are falling under the exempted category. The practice of work from home shall be followed,” it said.

Mangeshkar

Her niece Rachana Shah told *The Indian Express*: “She is stable and alert.”

A family friend said the singer has been in good spirits.

“Ever since Covid started, the family took utmost care that visitors did not meet her. Her attendants were also regularly tested for Covid-19,” this person said.

Mangeshkar, who started singing at 13, has over 30,000 songs in several Indian languages to her name in an over seven-decade career.

Considered one of Indian cinema’s greatest singers, she received the Bharat Ratna, the country’s highest civilian honour, in 2001.

She is also the recipient of several other awards, including the Padma Bhushan, the Padma Vibhushan and the Dada Saheb Phalke Award, and multiple National Film Awards.

Asian Cup

taking any chances. The state government is going all out to ensure that the Asian Cup, which kicks off on January 20, is not derailed by the third wave. The 12-nation tournament, which is also a qualifier for the 2023 Women’s World Cup, will be played behind closed doors in Pune, Navi Mumbai and Mumbai.

According to Aadiya Thackeray, state minister and president of the Mumbai District Football Association, the players and officials “will be in bio-bubbles and have testing protocols set for their own safety”.

“The most stringent Covid-appropriate behaviour protocols have been put in place to ensure that all the teams, officials and support staff are safe inside the bubble, and also for the safety of our citizens,” Thackeray told *The Indian Express*. “We are sure that the tournament will be a huge success, albeit at the moment without spectators and fans.”

India’s sporting calendar has already been hit by the latest Covid surge.

On Monday, the cricket board was forced to postpone the knockout matches of the U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy in Pune. Earlier, the All India Football Federation had to suspend the I-League, the country’s second-tier football championship that was being held in Kolkata.

Covid cases have also been reported in the ongoing Indian Super League in Goa while the India Open badminton championship, which got underway in New Delhi on Tuesday, saw some top players withdrawing at the last moment after testing positive.

But Asian Cup organisers are confident about the processes in place.

The 276 footballers, and hundreds of coaches, match officials and organisers, will have dedicated, fast-tracked immigration lanes at the Mumbai airport, frequent RT-PCR tests and be completely separated from the local population for the duration of the tournament, which ends on February 6.

Tournament officials said visiting teams and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) had expressed concern about the possible seven-day institutional quarantine mandated by the state for international travellers.

“However, the Central and state governments gave an exemption since the tournament is being held in a bio-bubble, where everyone will practically be in a quarantine-like situation. That assurance was very comforting,” an official said.

The official also said elaborate procedures have been put in place to minimise the visiting teams’ interaction with the local population, right from the moment they land. Three countries – Australia, China and Iran – will be taking chartered flights to Mumbai while the rest will take commercial planes via Doha or Dubai.

“At the airport, even before they go for immigration, we have set up a dedicated testing facility for the visiting teams and officials. Once they clear that, they will be escorted by the organising committee staff to dedicated immigration counters and there’ll be a separate lane for them to exit the terminal,” the official said.

The teams are being put up in seven hotels across Navi Mumbai and Pune, which will be exclusively for their use. The hotel staff, drivers, chefs and other attendants will also be a part of the bio-bubble. The teams and officials will be allowed to travel only between the hotel and the venue, and will be tested every 72 hours.

On January 20, the tournament will begin with a match between China and Chinese Taipei at the Mumbai Football Arena. Coached by Sweden’s Thomas Dennerby, India will open their campaign against Iran later that day at the DY Patil Stadium.

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
NCT OF DELHI
OLD HINDU COLLEGE BLDG.,
NIGAM BHAWAN KASHMERE GATE, DELHI
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

State Election Commission invites online tender through Delhi Government e-procurement portal for setting up of computer cell for General Elections to three Municipal Corporation of Delhi-2022. The details are as under-

Last date and time of Tender submission 24.01.2022 1.00 P.M.

Opening of Technical Bid date and time 24.01.2022 3.00 P.M.

Financial Bid will be opened after scrutiny of documents of Technical Bids submitted by the firms. Detailed NIT along with Terms & Conditions, specifications can be downloaded from the website: <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

For further detail vendors may visit help desk at 6th Floor, C-Wing, Vikas Bhavan-II, (Near Metcalfe House), Civil Lines, Delhi-110054.

Phone 011-23813523 (Monday- Friday, 09.30 A.M to 06.00 P.M)

Tender ID: 2022_STELC_214451_1

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2	3, Faridabad	4	2	8, Faridabad	2
3	8, Faridabad	7	3	56-56A, Faridabad	4
4	9, Faridabad	16	4	62, Faridabad	16
5	18 (P-I), Faridabad	7	5	64, Faridabad	9
6	19 (Phase-I), Faridabad	6	6	65, Faridabad	19
7	30, Faridabad	7	7	76, Faridabad	11
8	37, Faridabad	4	8	2, Palwal	5
9	2-P, Palwal	12	9	12, Palwal	8

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Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran
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The detailed information of the sites and terms & conditions of e-auction will be available on
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e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

e-Tenders No: IronISL/1021/Tender/158/VSU Horticulture works Date: 10.01.2022
e-Tenders in two packet system are invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "HORTICULTURE WORKS FOR SHRI VISHWAKARMA SKILL UNIVERSITY AT VILLAGE DUDHOLA, DISTRICT-PALWAL, HARYANA (PACKAGE-7)".

Estimated cost of Work: ₹ 5.18 Cr

Last Date & time of e-bid Submission 31.01.2022 upto 15.00 Hrs (IST)

For further details, visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> Amendment(s)/Corrigendum(s), if any, would be hosted on the website only. Chief Executive Officer/IronISL B-40A, Sector-1, Noida-201301
Phone No. 0120-2970406, E-mail: -ceo@ironintl.com, Website: www.ironintl.com

Death puts focus on safety net for gig workers

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE CASE of Zomato delivery executive Salil Tripathi, who died after being knocked down by an SUV on Saturday, brings into focus the insurance policies offered by online platforms to their delivery partners. While companies say they have been providing an insurance net to their active delivery partners, most of whom are contractual gig workers and spend a major portion of their working hours on the road typically driving two-wheelers, the safety net has become more inclusive and widespread with the onset of Covid-19 nearly two years ago.

Tripathi, according to a Zomato executive, was provided with an accidental death cover of Rs 10 lakh, as are all of Zomato's over 3 lakh delivery executives across the country. Zomato has extended this cover to its delivery partners through several insurance companies. In addition to the life cover, a Zomato official said Tripathi's family was also eligible for funeral expenses, which have already been disbursed.

"We have already initiated the claims process through our insurance partner," the executive said.

On its part, Zomato covers all of its active delivery partners through these insurance policies. On who is considered an active partner, the executive explained that any delivery executive who has completed at least one order in the preceding 14 days is deemed to be active and is provided with the benefits.

An official email query sent to Zomato did not elicit a response.

Zomato's rival Swiggy provides a Rs 6 lakh insurance cover. As per information from its website: "...all PDPs (pickup and delivery partners) and their families are covered under both

medical insurance and accident Insurance. The sum total of the insured amounts is Rs 6,00,000."

Shortly after the pandemic hit, and as gig workers continued to deliver essential goods, companies in this space bought fresh policy covers for their contractual workers. Flipkart, for example, had in 2020 offered a term-life cover of Rs 3 lakh to its contract employees.

According to insurance industry professionals, following the pandemic, these platform companies had bought medical and life insurance covers starting from Rs 50,000 per contract employee.

"The social protection that includes cover for life will have to be made mandatory under the social security code. This incident underscores the need for the government to look at not only life cover but also broader social protection. It's not only the accident cover that is needed but also income security. These incidents are cruel reminders to the lawmakers to amend the social security code to extend all forms of social protection beyond the conventional sectors to all kind of workers, including gig workers," labour economist and professor at XLRI, Xavier School of Management Jamshedpur, K R Shyam Sundar, told *The Indian Express*.

The Code on Wages, 2019, provides for universal minimum wage and floor wage across organised and unorganised sectors, including gig workers.

The Code on Social Security, 2020, recognises gig workers as a new occupational category. It defines them as a person who performs work or participates in work arrangement and earns from such activities, outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship, including insurance and benefits. However, these rules are yet to be enacted by the Centre.

SALIL TRIPATHI WAS KNOCKED DOWN BY POLICEMAN'S VEHICLE

Support pours in for wife and child of Zomato delivery executive, family says 'overwhelmed'

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

FROM BUSINESSMEN to IT firm employees to a filmmaker – help poured in from across the country for the family of Zomato delivery executive Salil Tripathi (36), who was run over, allegedly by a policeman's vehicle, while at work.

On Saturday night, Tripathi was waiting to deliver a food order when a speeding SUV rammed into his bike, killing him at the spot. Tripathi, a hotel management graduate, worked in the hotel industry for 15 years and was a restaurant manager before Covid-induced lockdown was implemented and he lost his job – and his father to the virus.

To make ends meet, he joined Zomato.

Salil's family said he worked 7-8 hours every day delivering food, and was earning Rs 8,000-Rs 10,000 a month based on the number of orders and the workload. Before Covid, he was earning Rs 40,000-50,000 per month at the restaurant.

He is survived by his wife Sucheta and their 10-year-old son. On Tuesday, several people reached out to the family to help in whatever way they can.

Among them was filmmaker Manish Mundra, who transferred Rs 4 lakh to Sucheta's bank account.

A man who works as a marketing director at a software company in Bangalore said he was willing to fund his son's education.



Tripathi with his family; *The Indian Express* report dated January 11

Salil's family must be going through a tough phase now that they have lost him. I spoke to the family and made a small contribution."

Rahul Shrivastav, who owns a construction business, said, "It was heartbreaking. I contributed something so the child could

have a good education. The lockdown and Covid have affected many families."

Salil's former colleague, Sunil D'Souza (65), said he intends to start a fundraiser for the family: "I worked with him in 2010. He was an honest man, always smiling. At that time, he worked as

the head of the food and beverage section at hotel Park Plaza. He would work extra hours but never complain. I am speaking to his ex-colleagues and people in the hotel industry about a fundraiser."

The family said they were "overwhelmed" by the support being offered by strangers. Said his brother Manish: "Salil helped everyone in the family – he was taking care of his wife, son and would also send money to us in Ayodhya. I am happy people are helping Sucheta. She doesn't have a job, and has a young son. I want them to live in Delhi and have a good life."

A Zomato spokesperson said their team "is in touch with the family", "We will help them financially. There was a slight delay

from the insurance partner's side but the process has been initiated." Meanwhile, the accused constable, Zile Singh (48), has been arrested, and suspended from duty. He has been booked under sections of rash driving and causing death by negligence.

Singh's MLC report mentions that when he was arrested, he had an "alleged history of alcohol intake... blurred voice". Officials said they have conducted a blood alcohol test and the sample has been sent to a forensic science lab. Results are awaited.

Pranav Tayal, DCP (Rohini), said, "Singh was posted at Budh Vihar police station and was going home when the accident took place. We are conducting a detailed investigation."

इंडियन बैंक

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Budh Marg, Patna

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY)

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) and 13(12) read with Rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a Demand Notice on **02.09.2021** the calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sec 13(4) of the said Act read with Rules 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each Account.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned against each account herein below :
The attention of borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Branch	Name of the Account	Name of The Borrower/ Guarantor (owner of the property)	Description of the charged/ Mortgaged property (all the part & parcel of the property consisting of)	Date of Demand Notice Date of possession Notice Amount outstanding as on the date of demand Notice
1.	Patna City Branch	1. M/s Maharani Kirana Store	1. Shri Shyam Babu Singh, 2. Shri Manoj Kumar, S/o Shri Shyam Babu Singh, 3. Shri Santosh Kumar, S/o Shri Kishor Kumar, S/o Shri Shyam Babu Singh, 5. Shri Sujit Kumar, S/o Shri Shyam Babu Singh.	All that part & parcel of property situated at Morcha Road, P.S - Chowk, P.O - Begumpur, Patna - 800009. M.S. Plot No - 512 & 513, Circle No - 191, Ward No - 29/36/67/53, Holding No - 57/49/169, Sheet No - 256 measuring Land Area - 03 dhur vide Registered Mortgaged Deed No - 14	02.09.2021 06.01.2022 Rs. 952955.00 (Rupees Nine Lacs fifty two thousand nine hundred fifty five Only) as on 02.09.2021 and interest, cost & charges till the date of realization.

dt 02.01.2013 executed by party No - 02 to 06 in favour of Erstwhile Allahabad Bank now Indian Bank, Patna City Branch in Book No - 01, Volume No - 01, CD - 1 page no - 145-152, registered with sub registry office - Patna City. **Boundary :- North:** Ram Babu Singh, **South:** PMC Lane (Gali), **East:** Morcha Road, **West:** Ram Babu Singh.

Date : 06.01.2022
Place : Patna

(Authorized Officer)
Indian Bank

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment,
Government of India

Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs), De-notified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic Tribes (DNTs), Safai Karamcharis including Waste Pickers & their dependents and transgender persons, in the age group of 18 to 45 years, are invited for **free employment-oriented Skill Development Training Programmes (SDTPs) with stipend, under PM-DAKSH Yojana for Financial Year 2021-22. Registration will be opened till 15.01.2022 .**

Applications are also invited w.e.f. 01.03.2022 for the training programmes for the financial year 2022-23

Type of SDTPs: UP-skilling/Re-skilling, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes, Short Term and Long Term Training Programmes.

Interested candidates may register at 'pmdaksh.dosje.gov.in' or on Mobile App "**PMDAKSH**" maybe downloaded from 'Google Play Store'

For more details call Toll-free No.:1800110396 or visit pmdaksh.dosje.gov.in, respective Corporations' website:

National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) - for SCs (Website: <https://www.nsfdc.nic.in> E-mail: support-nsfdc@nic.in

National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) -- for OBCs, EBCs and DNTs (Website: <https://nbcfdc.gov.in> E-mail: nbcfdcskilltraining@gmail.com

National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) — for Safai Karamcharis including Waste Pickers & their dependents (Website: www.nskfdc.nic.in E-mail: nskfdc-msje@nic.in)

davp 38123/11/0003/2122

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RERA REGISTRATION NO.: RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/518/250/2021/86
(www.haryanarera.gov.in)

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

PROJECT DETAILS

1. Coloniser/Developer	Sternal Buildcon Private Limited							
2. Project Approval	Licence No. 63 Of 2021 Dated 01.09.2021. Building Plan Approved on 24-11-2021 Memo No. ZP-1499/AD(RA)/2021/29992							
3. Location	Sector 37D, Gurugram, Haryana							
4. Provisions Project Area	814 no. of apartments available out of total 814 number of units in the housing scheme spread over 5.89 acres. As per Policy, 5% of total apartments are available for management quota and 95% of total apartments are for public. Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2000 sq.ft. and One Anganwadi-cum-creche of 2000 sq.ft.							
5. Apartment Details, Allotment Rates & Payment Terms								
Apartment details								
Category (Type)	No of Units	Carpet Area sqft (approx)	Carpet Area sqm (approx)	Balcony Area sqft (approx)	Balcony Area sqm (approx)	Allotment Rate of Apartment (all inclusive)*	With application Booking Amount 5%*	On Allotment 20%
2BHK TYPE-1	194	580.535	53.933	80.342	7.464	2518589	121912.35	507735
2BHK TYPE-2	252	588.931	54.713	80.450	7.474	2553960	123675.51	514815
2BHK TYPE-3 (2 UNIT FOR MQ)	194	597.779	55.535	89.298	8.296	2599970	125533.59	524459
2BHK TYPE-4	135	585.605	54.404	87.759	8.153	2547300	122977.05	513848
2BHK+STORE TYPE-5-MQ	29	645.603	59.978	102.656	9.537	2811533	135576.63	567307
2BHK+STORE TYPE-6-MQ	10	645.603	59.978	102.656	9.537	2811533	135576.63	567307

*Rate mentioned does not include GST and other statutory charges, Registration Fees Extra

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

6. Parking	Two-wheeler parking with each apartment
7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment	• Flooring: Rooms Vitrified Tiles, Kitchen Vitrified / Ceramic Tiles, Toilet Anti-Skid Ceramic Tiles, Balcony Anti-Skid / Matt Finish Ceramic Tiles. • Windows: M.S. Sections as per IS Codes / Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Doors Frame: Red Merandi / Mild Steel/ Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Wall Tile: Ceramic Tiles III 4 Feet / 7 feet high & Oil Bond Distemper Above. • Kitchen Counter Top Green Marble / Granite • Wall: Oil Bond Distemper • Sanitary fitting: ISI marked CP Fittings, W.C & Washbasin • Electric Fitting: ISI Marked. Structure: RCC Frames Structure designed for SEISMIC forces as per latest IS code and NBC Recommendations.
8. Applications Timelines	(i) Apply Online at TCP website (https://edraw.tpharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home) for submitting application for allotment of dwelling units by e-Draw, starting from date 05.01.2022. For more information, call 7053-121-121 (ii) Last Date of submission of Applications is 19.01.2022.

Eligibility: 1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.

2. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licenced colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats.

3. An applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retaining only one flat.

4. Supportive Affidavit and certificate suggesting eligibility are mandatory to be uploaded at TCP website while submitting application for allotment.

Allotment Criteria: 1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.

2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.

3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Group Housing Policy 2013 vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (available at the Department website, i.e., tpharyana.gov.in).

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Promoter urges every applicant to inspect the project site and shall not merely rely upon or to be influenced by any architectural impression, plan or sales brochure and therefore, requested to make personal judgment prior to submitting an application for allotment. The images shown here are indicative of design and for illustration purposes only. Further, the actual design may vary in fit and finished from the one displayed above. Project details / specifications can also be accessed at the office of Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority website <https://haryanarera.gov.in/>. Journey time shown, if any, is based upon google maps which may vary as per traffic at relevant point of time. T & C Apply. 1 Sq. mt = 10.7639 Sq. ft.

7053-121-121

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New Delhi

		Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS		14,762	12,478
ICU BEDS		4,192	3,667
Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
14,076	17	76,670	
12,161	23	82,884	
14,90,074	25,200	3,36,43,306	

*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA		
	Jan 10	Jan 11
Cases	1,223	1,680
Deaths	0	0
GURGAON		
Cases	2,621	2,385
Deaths	1	0

Nuh village in mourning as freak accident cuts short lives of 4 girls

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
NUH, JANUARY 11

"KUDRAT KA jo niyam hai sehna padega (We have to bear the nature's law)," said Wali Mohammad on Tuesday, amid wails of crying, as hundreds gathered outside his house in Kangarka village in Haryana's Nuh district on Tuesday to offer condolences on the death of four teenage girls – all from the same extended family – who were buried alive after a mound of earth caved in on them a day earlier.

Family members said that on Monday evening, Wakeela (18), Janista (18) Tasleema (11), Gulafsha (8) and Sofiya (9) had gone to fetch dry soil from a pan-chayat mound, typically used for tending to farm animals and to use for drying wet soil after heavy

rain.

"As they were digging with small spades, the entire 25-foot mound collapsed and they were buried underneath. It was an hour before villagers spotted them. An earthmover was called and it took another hour to pull them out. One girl survived," said Abdul Sattar, the village sarpanch.

Nine-year-old Sofiya, a student of class 3 at government school in Tauru, was the lone survivor. She was pulled out by villagers and rushed to a nearby hospital, where she is stable. Her father Javed said, "When I reached the site, my daughter was unconscious. She later told me the soil suddenly fell from the top and there was no time to run. She told us they were buried there for over an hour."

Among the victims was Wali's niece, 18-year-old Wakeela, who was supposed to meet with a



The spot where the girls died; (right) Sher Mohammad, father of 18-year-old Wakeela, with relatives. Express

suitor on Tuesday to get married. Her father Sher Mohammad, a taxi driver, said, "His family was supposed to come meet her to-

day. Such is the fate that they attended her funeral."

Her family said she dropped out of school after class 8 and



had been helping her mother run the household ever since. "Before I left for work at noon yesterday, she served me lunch

and we talked. I never knew I wouldn't see her again," said her father.

Hamid, a security guard,

whose 8-year-old daughter Gulafsha was among the dead, said she had gone to the site to collect dry soil for the first time. "She must have tagged along with her cousins. I was returning from my shift when a relative informed me of the incident. *Jab mein pahuncha woh mitti ke neeche dabi hui thi* (When I reached, she was buried under the soil)," he said.

A pall of gloom descended on the village on Tuesday.

A day earlier, the Nuh district collector, sub-divisional magistrate and senior police officers had visited the family.

Wali said, "Everyone collects dry soil for use in their homes. Something like this has never happened before."

Family members said that when the girls did not return home for an hour, relatives and neighbours frantically started

searching for them, leading them to the site, about 500 metres from their house.

"There was a wedding in the village yesterday. So initially everyone suspected that they may have gone there to see the customs. Around 6.15 pm, someone found that soil had caved in and informed others. If we had known earlier, they could have been saved," said Israil, a relative.

Wali said, "One by one, three bodies were retrieved from underneath the soil and rocks by a JCB. Each time we hoped someone would survive. But, in vain."

Villagers said they would stop sending children to fetch dry soil from now on. "It used to be johad (percolation pond) where the incident took place. Frequent digging for soil made it unsafe. We never imagined something like this could happen," said the sarpanch.

BRIEFLY

Cop 'caught on video thrashing stray dog'

New Delhi: A video has emerged purportedly showing a Delhi Police assistant sub-inspector thrashing a dog in Northeast Delhi's Jafraabad on Monday. Police said the officer has been "sensitised". Several videos of the incident were posted on social media, purportedly showing a man in police uniform beating the dog with a wooden stick. The dog, which can be seen struggling to sit and walk, is currently undergoing treatment.

JNU AC to discuss pattern of common entrance test

New Delhi: The Academic Council (AC) of Jawaharlal Nehru University will Wednesday discuss the implementation of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) from the next academic session. As of now, JNU holds its own entrance examination conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Delhi BJP protests against new liquor policy

New Delhi: The Delhi BJP unit staged protests at several places in Delhi, including Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi Railway Station, Safdarjung market and Rajinder Nagar Metro station, against the new excise policy of the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi government. **ENS**

Restrictions will be lifted as cases decline, says Kejriwal

Of 136 Covid patients at Lok Nayak, 130 came for treatment of other illnesses



At Sehnai banquet hall, converted into a Covid care facility, 21 patients were admitted on Tuesday. Abhinav Saha

GAYATHRI MANI

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

INDICATING THAT the current Covid wave is milder and fewer patients are requiring hospitalisation, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday said that of the 136 Covid patients currently at Lok Nayak Hospital, just six came in for treatment of the virus, while the rest were hospitalised for other diseases but also tested positive for Covid, he said.

Kejriwal also said there will be no lockdown in the national capital and all restrictions will be gradually lifted as and when the cases and fatality rate decrease.

"There is no plan to impose a lockdown in Delhi. We are imposing these restrictions out of compulsion. This is being done only for your safety. If we impose restrictions, the livelihood of people will be affected and without curbs, cases will increase. As a result, we need to strike a balance," Kejriwal told the media after examining treatment facili-

ties at Lok Nayak Hospital, Delhi government's largest Covid treatment facility. "I assure you all these restrictions will be gradually removed once the cases come down."

The Chief Minister said the third wave is mild as compared to the second, when the spike in hospitalisations had overwhelmed the healthcare system and left many patients in the lurch.

"We are dealing with a very mild wave. The second wave witnessed in April last year was very dangerous and scary," he said. "During the second wave, only people with Covid symptoms, low oxygen levels were admitted to hospitals. However, this time many cases admitted to hospitals are patients with comorbidities like cancer, hypertension, diabetes, chronic disease and respiratory issues. Cases are mild but it is spreading very fast... at present, we see fewer hospitalisations but the government has the capacity to provide 36,000 beds and 11,000

YOGA CLASSES FOR PATIENTS UNDER HOME ISOLATION



The government will start special yoga classes virtually from Wednesday for Covid patients under home isolation to help them recover from the disease, CM Arvind Kejriwal said. "Yoga and pranayam help improve the body's immunity and strength. We are starting online classes for these people. Instructors are being specially trained to teach yoga asanas that will help Covid patients," Kejriwal said. **ENS**

ICU/oxygen beds if the need arises."

"There are enough beds, oxygen, medicines (at LNJP Hospital). The number of people being admitted is less as compared to the second wave," he said.

Kejriwal said around 22,000 Covid patients admitted to the hospital have recovered so far. "It is the only hospital in Delhi that provides treatment to pregnant women. It has not denied admission to any woman and has so far treated 700 pregnant women, including Covid positive patients."

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority had on Monday decided to close restaurants and bars for dining but allowed takeaway and delivery of food. On Tuesday, it announced the shutting of all private offices, except those involved in essential activities.

The government has also requested the Centre to impose similar curbs in NCR regions, including Ghaziabad, Noida and Gurgaon.

Riots: 2 yrs on, police identify 1 personnel in Vande Mataram video, HC questions delay

SOFIAHSAN

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

NEARLY TWO years after the death of 23-year-old Faizan, who was seen in a video lying injured on the ground as security personnel forced him to sing Vande Mataram and the national anthem during the 2020 Delhi riots, the police on Tuesday informed the Delhi High Court that they have identified and questioned a head constable in the case.

The single-judge bench of Justice Mukta Gupta, however, questioned the delay in probing the case, and asked: "It has been two years, you have been able to just identify some person?" While adjourning the case for hearing on February 22, the court also sought a detailed status report on the investigation and directed the DCP and investigating officer to remain present on that day.

Faizan died in a hospital on February 26, 2020, a day after his release from a police station, where he was taken after he had been allegedly assaulted by policemen on 66 Foota Road in Northeast Delhi and, along with four others, was forced to sing Vande Mataram and the national anthem.

During the hearing of a petition filed by Faizan's mother Kismatun for a court-monitored SIT probe into her son's death, Justice Gupta said it should not have taken two years to identify the policeman. The court also asked why the cyber cell has not been able to trace the origin of the video.

Inspector Pankaj Arora, the initial investigating officer, submitted that police found head constable Ravinder had made

the video but forensic examination of the suspect's phone did not show anything conclusive. When Ravinder was questioned, Arora told the court, he denied shooting the video.

"But there were certain things about him due to which we are sure that he made the video, head constable Ravinder was the only one not wearing a helmet in the video... He had also got an injury on the head during the riots. *Isne helmet nahi daala hua hai, ye patti daale hue nazar aaraha hai* (He was not wearing a helmet, and his head was bandaged)," submitted Arora, referring to a physical description of the person seen shooting the video.

"He was made to undergo a lie detector test which revealed that what he is saying is 'deceptive'. He also had a smoke gun, which is visible in the video..." Arora submitted.

Arora also told the court that Ravinder has not revealed names of other cops. However, the court was told that a forensic expert has given a report that Ravinder was the person making the video. "We have also taken his voice samples and sent them to FSL. The report is awaited," Arora told the court.

Justice Gupta asked whether the cyber expert had said anything about height, body stature of the policemen visible in the video. The court also said the police department would know the identity of the personnel who were deployed on the date of the incident. "You can zero down easily. How much time will the identification take place?" asked the court.

The court also asked whether CCTV footage of Jyoti Nagar Police Station, where Faizan was allegedly detained before his

'Umar defence wants to equate case with *The Trial of Chicago 7*'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

ARGUING THAT the ultimate idea of the alleged Northeast Delhi riots conspiracy was to "overawe the government and bring it to its knees", the prosecution Tuesday opposed the bail plea of former JNU student Umar Khalid in a UAPA case.

Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Amit Prasad said before Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat that the riots were "clearly a criminal conspiracy carried out in secrecy. There is a continuation after the crime and a clear attempt to cover up".

Prasad further said, "Conspiracy has to be proved taking into account circumstantial evidence," and that the riots were not a "spontaneous burst of violence".

"This has been appreciated by the Delhi High Court in a bail matter," he submitted. "The High Court appreciated that this did not happen in the spur of the moment. There were 23 protest sites that were created. They were not organic in nature but meticulously planned in close proximity to masjids. There were teams to give logistical support, etc. We have demonstrated that."



Umar Khalid is accused in 'larger conspiracy' case

"The ultimate idea was to overawe the government and undermine the authority of the government, which enacted CAA, and destabilise democracy. Idea was to bring the government to its knees and withdraw CAA," he said. Prasad also addressed the argument put forth by Khalid's lawyer, senior advocate Trideep Pais, that the chargesheet was the "fertile imagination of the investigating officer" and that it felt like the script of a web series.

"He wants the present case to be decided based on web series and wants to equate (it) with Trial of Chicago 7 and Family Man. When you don't have merit, you want to create headlines. What happens with all this? You create a perception... Family Man is not related to riots... There is another show called Graham which

COURT ACQUITS 4

New Delhi: Acquitting four men facing trial for loot and arson at Muslim houses during the Northeast Delhi riots, a Delhi court tore into police witnesses in the case, calling their testimony "intensely doubtful". The ASJ acquitted Dinesh, Sahil, Sandeep and Tinku in a judgement passed on January 7. "This court feels absolute loath to place any trust upon the testimony of PW-8 (constable Vipin) & PW-12 (head constable Sanjay) on aspect of identification of the accused as rioters," the ASJ said.

is based on the 1984 riots. You want to refer to Family Man and Chicago 7 since they are popular," the SPP said. Prasad said it was "unfortunate" that Pais called the investigating agency communal. "Investigating agency is not of a particular person but a state. We have to reach out to the same investigating agency if we have a problem. The first conviction in the riots case was of a Hindu," he told the court.

SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday observed that the nature of a relationship cannot put it on a different pedestal when it comes to dealing with cases of marital rape.

The court was hearing a bunch of petitions which challenge the legal exception that protects men who have forced, non-consensual intercourse with their wives. During the hearing, the Delhi government submitted that though the exception to IPC section 375 (rape) does not criminalise the act of unwilling intercourse with a spouse, it does not compel a wife to remain with or have sexual intercourse against her will with

her husband.

Advocate Nandita Rao, representing the government, also submitted that a woman has the remedy of divorce on the grounds of cruelty, and she can register a criminal case under IPC Section 498A or other provisions. "It is not a crime under 375 doesn't mean that I can't say no. It doesn't even mean that I cannot criminalise the act and send the man to jail. The only thing is the sections applicable to a married couple are different," submitted Rao, adding that a woman is not left without a remedy.

However, the division bench of Justice Rajiv Shakdher and Justice C Hari Shankar appeared unconvinced with the submission and said that section 375 deals with the situation where

the offence of rape has already taken place, and the exception creates a firewall in cases of married couples.

"375 deals with a situation where rape has occurred. 375 then says that when there is a marriage, the offence does not attract. Of course, nothing can compel... The state or a provision in a statute can't compel anyone to do something if she or doesn't want to do anything. The point is it has happened in a sense that if someone is unwilling and someone doesn't give consent, the man imposes himself," said Justice Shakdher, adding that the man does not face penal consequences because of the exception.

Justice Shakdher added that the argument is that the nature of a relationship cannot put it on

a different pedestal. "Woman remains a woman... You can show us sections but jurisdiction after jurisdiction has held that merely because you are married, it is not good enough to say it is not an offence. You want to persuade us that because she is married and there are other provisions in the law, she can only recourse to that, but cannot call him out for rape under 375," added the court.

Rao submitted that the court will have to come to a conclusion that the alternative remedy is inadequate to protect her dignity, and the exception in law is an intrinsic assault on her dignity. The court asked whether 50 countries have got it wrong, "Why is it so different for a non-married woman? It affects non-married women's dignity but doesn't af-

fect the married woman's dignity? What is the answer to that," it added.

When the court cited a situation where a man "brutalises" a woman who is on her menstrual cycle, despite her stating that she is not in a condition to have sex, and asked whether it does not violate her dignity, Rao responded that it is an offence. "But not under 375," submitted the government counsel. "The act of forced sexual intercourse is a crime whether it is a wife or a live-in partner or stranger... the language of 375... legislature has drafted it in a way does not make it an offence."

The petitioners before the court have earlier argued that the exception violates Article 14 as it differentiates between a married and unmarried woman.

ADVERTORIAL



Epistle of Handsome Oriental

On the 159th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, *Dr SC Vats* revisits the teachings of the great monk



As we celebrate 159th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, it's time to revisit the teachings of the wandering monk in the context of the current mood of the nation. Swamiji worked on three premises - social discipline, patriotism and belongingness.

At the epochal Parliament of the World's Religions, which had opened on 11 September 1893 at the Art Institute of Chicago as part of the World's Columbian Exposition, Swami Vivekananda gave a brief speech representing India and Hinduism. He began his dialogue with those famous lines, "Sisters and Brothers of America!" At these words, Swamiji received a two-minute standing ovation from the crowd of 7000 delegates. When silence was restored he began his address, greeting the youngest of the nations on behalf of "the most ancient order of monks in the world, the Vedic order of *sannyasins*, a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance."

The short discourse by Swami Vivekananda voiced the spirit of the Parliament.

On hearing Swamiji, Parliament President John Henry Barrows said, "India, the Mother of religions is represented by Swami Vivekananda, the Orange-monk who exercised the most wonderful influence over his auditors." Vivekananda attracted widespread attention in the press, which called him the "cyclonic monk from India."

Vivekananda's speeches at the Parliament had the common theme of universality, emphasising religious tolerance. He soon became known as a "handsome oriental" and made a huge impact as an orator.

After the Parliament of Religions, he toured many parts of the US delivering lectures on the "life and religion to thousands." Vivekananda spent nearly two years lecturing in the eastern and central United States, primarily in Chicago, Detroit, Boston and New York.



He founded the Vedanta Society of New York in 1894. During one such session at Brooklyn Ethical Society, he remarked, "I have a message to the West as Buddha had a message to the East." During another such session he said, "I do not come to convert you to a new belief. I want you to keep your own belief; I want to make the Methodist a better Methodist; the Presbyterian a better Presbyterian; the Unitarian a better Unitarian. I want to teach you to live the truth, to reveal the light within your own soul."

Many decades later, looking for that within my own soul, in the lap of the Himalayas I came face-to-face with Swami Jitatananda. It was in the year 1997 that I met Swami Jitatanandaji, an eminent educationist, management expert, author of books, *Modern Physics & Vedanta* and *Indian Ethos in Management*, an active social worker and the editor of *Prabudh Bharat* (Awakened India), a journal started by Swami Vivekananda.

This was not my first interface with Swami Vivekananda's legacy. I was initiated as a disciple by Swami Bhuteshananda, then president of the Rama Krishna Mission order, way back in 1977. Since then discourses by knowledgeable monks like Swami Ranganathananda, Swami Swami Budhananda, Swami Vandanananda and Swami Gokulananda at Shyamalatal Ashram, Almora Ashram and

Mayavati Ashram kept me greatly engaged with Swamiji's intellectual and spiritual inheritance. I drew immense satisfaction serving at the RK Mission Ashram in Delhi as part of the managing committee.

As the destiny ordained under a silver oak tree at "Advait Ashram" in Mayawati in Pithoragrah district of Uttarakhand, vibrating thoughts flowed from Swami Jitatananda's lips in the balmy aroma of the dense pine and fir forest and he almost gave a dictat to me to set up an Institute, for higher learning in the capital city of India, in the name of Swami Vivekananda, to me and several others, a prophet and a path finder.

It was a gigantic task that fell upon my shoulders. But resolved as I was, I returned to Delhi and in a couple of months' time sold my ancestral house and from the sales proceed of that house seed capital was created, which was so very important for establishing a new Institute with high ideals.

In order to give shape to Swamiji's dreams, I rolled out a road map. As a first step, I held brain storming session with eminent scholars and people from academia along with some legal luminaries and retired civil servants. The brain child of which was a society for Total Revival of Nation, thus called the Society for Total Revival and National Glory and True Heritage (STRENGTH), which was later registered in 1998, as a charitable soci-

ety under the Registration of Societies Act of 1860, with a mission of making Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS) an ideal educational Institution with the clear objective of "*Man Making, Character Building, Nation Building*" as envisaged by Swami Vivekananda.

"INDIA, THE MOTHER OF RELIGIONS IS REPRESENTED BY SWAMI VIVEKANANDA, THE ORANGE-MONK WHO EXERCISED THE MOST WONDERFUL INFLUENCE OVER HIS AUDITORS"

Many years after Swami Vivekananda had passed away, Noble laureate Rabindranath Tagore told his French counterpart Romain Rolland, "If you want to know India, study Vivekananda. In him everything is positive and nothing negative."

Swamiji's writings impressed several other western intellectuals. He communicated with orientalist Max Müller, and scientist Nikola Tesla, who were influenced by his Vedic teachings. American industrialist John D Rockefeller is said to have made his first large donation for public welfare and later became a notable philanthropist after a

meeting with Vivekananda. Swamiji laconically explained to Rockefeller that his philanthropy could be a channel to help the poor and distressed people.

He inspired India's first modern corporate honcho, Jamsetji Tata to set-up Indian Institute of Science. In 1893, during the journey from Yokohama to Canada on the ship *Empress*, Vivekananda met Jamsetji Tata who was also going to Chicago. During the conversation Vivekananda told Tata about the necessity of establishing a world class scientific Institution in India and this encouraged Tata to establish the Indian Institute of Science, which gradually has become India's best-known research university.

My endeavour is a small step in that direction; to take VIPS to the level of eminence which IIS has achieved but not in just one field of research but with an interdisciplinary approach towards education. That's what had Swamiji ordained - Eastern Wisdom Must Meet Western Science.

Swami Vivekananda's writings inspired a generation of leaders of freedom struggle including Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Aurobindo Ghose, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bagha Jatin. Kamala Nehru was an initiated disciple of the order, so is our Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On 6 February 1921, Mahatma Gandhi came to Belur Math and

paid homage to Swami Vivekananda. On this occasion he said: "I have come here to pay my homage and respect to the revered memory of Swami Vivekananda. I have gone through his works very thoroughly, and after having gone through them, the love that I had for my country became a thousand-fold. I ask you, young men, not to go away empty-handed without imbibing something of the spirit of the place where Swami Vivekananda lived and died."

With Indian Nationalism still in its nascent state when Vivekananda lived and worked, Swamiji's influence in West gave it the great confidence. Nation's second President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a widely acclaimed philosopher, has said that Vivekananda was born in a "critical period" when the nation and her people were collapsing in "despair, frustration and hopelessness" and in such circumstances Vivekananda's teachings gave them new hope and taught them to rely on spiritual resources.

According to social reformer Charles Freer Andrews, "The Swami's intrepid patriotism gave a new colour to the national movement throughout India." Nationalism is a prominent theme in Vivekananda's thought. He believed that a country's future depends on its people, and his teachings focused on human development. He wanted "to set in motion a machinery which will bring noblest ideas to the doorstep of even the poorest and the meanest."

These thought later got interpreted variously in the ideas and philosophies of later Indian social and political leaders. Be it Mahatma Gandhi's *Sarvodaya* or Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay's *Antodaya*, Swamiji remained the source of

these great social philosophical treatises. Gandhian reformer and Bhoodan Movement's driving force Acharya Vinoba Bhave praised Vivekananda's contribution in making the Indians conscious of their strength and said that Swamiji showed them their shortcomings and defects and also taught them to overcome these.

Inspired by these ideals, we at the VIPS have adopted Swamiji's ideas and ideals in the field of education. Vivekananda believed education is the manifestation of perfection already in human beings. He thought it a pity that the existing system of education did not enable a person to stand on her/his own feet, nor did it teach her/him self-confidence and self-respect.

To Vivekananda, education was not only collection of information, but something more meaningful; he felt education should be ***man-making, life giving and character-building***. To him education was an assimilation of noble ideas.

Swami Vivekananda prescribed 'positive' education. He said, if young boys and girls are encouraged and are not unnecessarily criticized, they were bound to improve.

He also told the youth: "Set yourselves to the task of spreading education among the masses. Tell them and make them understand, you are our brothers-a part and parcel of our bodies, and we love you and never hate you." These are the ideas we try to inculcate at Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies through innovative teaching-learning process and imbibing ideals of social responsibility.

To us at Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS), work is like journey towards discovering our inner self; ***man-making, life giving and character-building*** the destination.

(The writer is Founder & Chairman, Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies [VIPS], Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi)



FREE ONLINE YOGA CLASSES FOR COVID PATIENTS IN HOME ISOLATION



Yoga to boost immunity for COVID-19 infected people in home isolation



Yoga instructors trained to facilitate COVID-19 care



Anyone who tests positive will receive a registration link from the Department of Health



Sign up using the link in the message sent by Department of Health



दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Directorate of AYUSH, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi



New Delhi

6 DECISION 2022

UTTAR PRADESH • UTTARAKHAND • PUNJAB • GOA • MANIPUR

HASHTAG POLITICS



● TMC launches Goa campaign song

Trinamool Congress Goa unit released the party's campaign song today with #GoenchiNaviSakal.

"Goa is chanting in one voice... 'Don Fulancho Kaal, Goenchi Navi Sakal'. Presenting to you the official campaign song of Goa Trinamool Congress, Goa Election 2022, 'Goenchi Navi Sakal'. This song celebrates Goa and the Goenkar spirit, getting set to usher in a New Dawn in Goa."

639 LIKES, 422 RETWEETS IN 10 HOURS

● Channi explains why Punjabis are 'famous'

In a short video clip, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi said, "The reason why we Punjabis are famous around the globe is that we return double the love we receive. We fight for our Punjab and can stand against the world for its integrity."

12.3 K LIKES, 2022 RETWEETS IN 11 HOURS

● RLD woos farmers, Dalits

In a series of tweets, Rashtriya Lok Dal (@RLDparty) criticised the Yogi government over 'violence against Dalits across the state', and promised 'to get respect for farmers'.

BALLOTIN



In Lucknow, Tuesday. With rallies banned due to rising Covid-19 cases, BJP has launched a door-to-door campaign. Courtesy: Twitter/BJP's Swatantra Dev Singh

Opp flays Yogi over '80-20' quip

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday hit out at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over his remark that the assembly polls in the state will be about '80 per cent vs 20 per cent', and urged the youth to make the election about issues such as employment and education. Opposition leaders said the CM's comment pointed to the ratio of Hindus and Muslims in UP, and was an attempt to polarise voters. Making such remarks is a way to divert attention, Priyanka wrote on Twitter, adding: "...make the UP polls, an election of issues such as employment and education."

Manipur sets up SIT over killings

The Manipur government on Tuesday constituted an SIT to probe alleged political killings of two people, including a BJP worker in Samurou, Imphal West, according to a police order. The victims, Abujam John and Abujam Sashikanta, were shot by unknown armed assailants on Sunday night. John was a close aide of Manipur Agriculture Minister O Lukhloi and Sashikanta was a havildar in the India Reserve Battalion. They later succumbed to their injuries during treatment.

—ENS & Agencies

Farm leader Rajewal may contest from Samrala seat

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 11

PROMINENT FARM leader Balbir Singh Rajewal is likely to contest the Punjab election from Samrala Assembly constituency in Ludhiana district as a candidate of the Samyukta Samaj Morcha (SSM) - the political outfit floated by several farmer unions after the end of their year-long agitation.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (Mansa) president Ruldu Singh is also expected to fight the election from Mansa.

A senior leader of the SSM told *The Indian Express* on Tuesday that a formal list of the candidates will be released soon, but Rajewal and Ruldu's seats are almost final.

When asked, Rajewal - the president of BKU (Rajewal) - did not deny the possibility and said: "My home is in Samrala."

Rajewal is also a key face of the SSM, which was formed last month after nearly two dozen-farmer unions that had spearheaded the agitation against the central laws announced that they will fight all 117 seats in Punjab. The state votes to elect its next government on February 14.

SWAMI PRASAD MAURYA

Headed to SP, he spent his career fighting party

Five-time MLA, Maurya says he has hold over non-Yadav voters in west, east UP

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 11

A PROMINENT non-Yadav OBC face of Uttar Pradesh politics, Swami Prasad Maurya, 68, who quit the Cabinet on Tuesday, is said to be headed to the Samajwadi Party (SP).

While SP chief Akhilesh Yadav was quick to post a photograph with Maurya on Twitter, it's a big leap for someone who has spent a career taking on the SP -- for two decades as a member of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the last five years in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), as a Cabinet minister in the Yogi Adityanath-led government.

Maurya had even fielded his daughter Sanghmitra, who is the sitting BJP MP from Badaun, as a BSP candidate against SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

Once a close confidant of BSP chief Mayawati and a vocal face of the party, Maurya was not only made minister in every BSP government -- in 1997, 2002 and 2007 -- but was also Leader of Opposition every time the BSP



Illustration: Sujayit Dey

was out of power. He was even made BSP national general secretary, effectively making him No. 2 to Mayawati in the party hierarchy.

In 2016, while he was Leader of Opposition, Maurya left the BSP, alleging "auctioning" of party tickets, an allegation refuted by Mayawati who, in turn, alleged that Maurya had quit because his son Utkrist and daughter Sanghmitra did not get tickets for the seats they had allegedly lobbied for.

In the 2012 Assembly polls, Maurya's son Utkrist lost from Unchahar Assembly seat of Rae

Bareilly while Sanghmitra lost from Aliganj in Etah constituency.

Maurya later joined the BJP, just before the 2017 polls, claiming that he was impressed with the work done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the "weaker sections" of the society.

Maurya won his debut election in 1996 from Dalmou Assembly constituency of Rae Bareilly district as a BSP candidate. Even in 2007, when Maurya lost the Assembly polls though the BSP came to power with a majority, Mayawati sent him to the

Upper House of the state legislature and made him minister. Over the years, the five-time MLA has established himself as the face of "non-Yadav" OBCs such as the Mauryas, Kushwahs, Shakyas.

Maurya won the 2017 elections as the BJP candidate from Padrauna Assembly seat in Kushinagar district, from where he had been MLA twice in the past. He won that election with over 93,000 votes, defeating BSP's Javed Iqbal. His son Utkrist, however, lost from Unchahar seat to SP's Manoj Kumar Pandey. Maurya, who claims to have a hold over a large section of "non-Yadav" voters, both in eastern and western UP, has claimed the support of many OBC leaders who moved with him to the BJP and who, he now claims, will leave with him.

Among these 'loyalists' is Roshan Lal Verma, BJP MLA from Tilhar Assembly constituency of Shahjahanpur, who personally carried Maurya's letter to Raj Bhavan on Tuesday.

His influence can also be ascertained by the fact that he got the BJP to let his daughter Sanghmitra contest the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from Badaun, an SP stronghold where the party had been winning for two decades. Sanghmitra defeated Akhilesh's cousin Dharmendra Yadav.

Sources in the BJP say his failure to accommodate his son in the party is among the reasons Maurya quit just ahead of a crucial election.

UTTAR PRADESH PHASE 2 VOTING ON FEBRUARY 14

SP-RLD alliance, minority votes could hold key to 55 seats

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 11

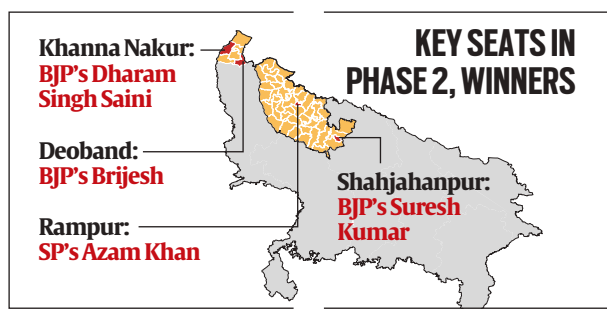
THE 55 seats in Uttar Pradesh that go to the polls on February 14, in the second phase of the Assembly elections, appear to be more challenging for the BJP than those in Phase 1 given the region's significant Muslim and Dalit population, the coming together of the SP and the RLD, and the performance of Opposition parties in past elections.

In 2017, the region -- which has western UP districts such as Moradabad, Saharanpur, Bijnore, Amroha and districts towards central UP such as Badaun and Shahjahanpur -- saw the BJP getting the maximum seats (38 out of 55) as the party rode a Modi wave and a bitterly polarised campaign.

The Samajwadi Party (SP) won 15 seats in 2017, the Congress as an ally of the SP won two seats, while the BSP drew a blank. A total of 11 Muslim candidates won from the region -- all from SP. The Akhilesh Yadav-led SP was runner-up on 27 seats, the BJP on 13 and the BSP on 11. In 2012, when the SP won a majority in the state, it won 27 seats in this region and the BJP eight.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, when the SP, BSP and RLD contested collectively, the BSP had won four of the 11 seats -- Amroha, Bijnor, Nagina and Saharanpur -- while SP won Rampur, Moradabad and Sambhal. These seven seats cover at least 35 Assembly constituencies.

This region has a significant presence of Dalit and Muslim



communities while Jats and OBC communities are scattered across constituencies. Badaun, which has a significant Yadav population, is considered an SP stronghold.

"The BJP won the highest number of seats in 2017 because then there was a pro-Modi wave and strong communal polarisation in all of western UP. But the situation is different now. Farmers

are upset with the BJP due to non-procurement of their crops and delay in payment of sugarcane dues. The public is fed up with corruption at the police station level. Unemployment is a major issue too," said Navab Jan, SP MLA from Thakurdwara in Moradabad district. The six seats that are part of Moradabad district had in 2017 sent four SP MLAs (all Muslims)

and two BJP MLAs to the Assembly.

Saharanpur, one of the seats that votes in Phase 2, witnessed a major political development on Monday when senior Congress leader Imran Masood crossed over to the SP. Masood -- who holds influence over Saharanpur's 42 per cent Muslim population -- had lost the 2019 Lok Sabha election to the BSP. Another significant seat in the region is Deoband, where the BJP's Brajesh had won in 2017, defeating Majid Ali of the BSP and Mavia Ali of the SP. Recently, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath laid the foundation stone for an Anti-Terror Squad training centre in Deoband, home to Islamic seminary Darul Uloom Deoband, and claimed that the centre would "finish off terrorists".

The SP bastion of Rampur is

also set to vote on February 14. In 2017, SP's Azam Khan won from here for his eighth term, before getting elected to the Lok Sabha from Rampur in 2019. His wife Tazeen Fatima is the sitting MLA.

In Badaun district, the BJP received a jolt on Monday when party MLA from Bilsil, R K Sharma, joined the SP. Badaun has been an SP stronghold in the past but in 2017, the BJP won five of the six seats here.

Shahjahanpur is another significant district in the region where Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently laid the foundation stone for an ambitious 594-km Ganga Expressway. In 2017, BJP won five seats in Shahjahanpur, barring Jalalabad, where Adityanath visited a few weeks ago as part of the BJP's special focus on seats the party lost in 2017.

After a day of waiting, Lobo joins Cong with wife

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, JANUARY 11

FORMER GOA minister and two-time BJP MLA Micheal Lobo was inducted into the Congress on Tuesday evening, a day after he quit the Bharatiya Janata Party.

This came hours after he said he was still in discussions with his supporters over which party to join. Besides Lobo, his wife Delilah Lobo, who is Sarpanch of the Parra village panchayat, and several of their supporters were inducted into the party. The ceremony put to rest speculation over the party rethinking Lobo's entry.

Lobo was the first minister in the Pramod Sawant-led government to leave the BJP ahead of the February 14 Assembly polls. At his induction at the Congress House in Panaji, Lobo said the Congress-Goa Forward Party combine would win over 22 seats in the 40-member House.

"We have joined in the interest of Goa. The way forward for the people of Goa is only the Congress," Lobo said.

He said Sawant who has repeatedly said "22 in 22" (22 seats in the 2022 election), was, in fact, speaking for the Congress. "We will definitely win more than 22 seats," Lobo, who severed his 15-year ties with the BJP on Monday, said. "When I was deputy Speaker



Michael Lobo (right) and his wife Delilah joined the Congress on Tuesday. Courtesy: Congress/Twitter

VOTING ON FEBRUARY 14

I had taken a very strong stand. Defection has to end. You cannot switch sides. You have to resign." Congress Goa desk in-charge Dinesh Gundu Rao said: "A very strong, powerful grass-root leader is joining the Congress party... A big force has entered the Congress party."

On Tuesday, former Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party MLA Lavoo Mamladar also joined Congress, two weeks after he quit the Trinamool Congress. Among the first batch of Goan leaders to be inducted into the TMC, Mamladar had quit alleging that the TMC-MCP combine was trying "to divide Goans on the basis of religion".



New Delhi



8 EXPRESS NETWORK

Lakhimpur Kheri violence: Minister's kin first to get bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 11

UNION MINISTER Ajay Mishra's relative Virendra Shukla has obtained bail from a court in Lakhimpur Kheri in a case related to the death of four farmers and a journalist in the district's Tikonia area last October. An SIT probing the case has named Shukla in its chargesheet, accusing him of destroying evidence.

Senior prosecuting officer SP Yadav on Tuesday said the SIT filed the chargesheet last week, following which a notice was served on Shukla. On Monday, the Pallia block pramukh surrendered before the local court that granted him bail.

Shukla is among the 14 people the SIT has named in its chargesheet, and the first and only person to receive bail in the case. Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra is also among the accused.

According to Yadav, Shukla has been booked under IPC section 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving information to screen offender). The others face various charges such as murder and criminal conspiracy.

The SIT has said during investigation it found a convoy of three SUVs, including a Thar belonging to Ajay Mishra, ran over a group of farmers assembled at the Tikonia crossing. The protesters set ablaze the Thar and a Fortuner belonging to accused Ankit Das, the nephew of former MP Akhilesh Das.

The driver of the third SUV escaped with his vehicle. According to the SIT, the third vehicle belongs to Shukla and he hid it after the incident. The vehicle is now in the agency's possession.

SC no to Bihar's appeals against liquor case bails

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

IN A jolt to the Bihar government, the Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed its batch of appeals challenging grant of anticipatory and regular bails to accused under the state's stringent liquor law, saying these matters have choked courts and 14-15 Patna high court judges are hearing these cases only.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana rejected the contention of the Bihar government that guidelines be framed to ensure reasoned bail orders are passed taking into account the quantity of liquor seized from an accused.

"You know how much impact this law (The Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016) has created in the working of the Patna High Court and it is taking one year to get a matter listed there and all the courts are choked with the liquor bail matters," the chief justice said.

"I have been told that 14-15 high court judges are hearing these bail matters every day and no other matters are being taken up," Justice Ramana observed.

The observations assume significance as the CJ recently at a function at Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh had referred to the Bihar liquor prohibition law and had said it has resulted in filing of a lot of bail applications in courts and the state high court.

Suspended IPS officer held after six months on the run

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, JANUARY 11

SUSPENDED IPS officer G P Singh, who was absconding for almost six months after being booked on charges of disproportionate assets and sedition, was on Tuesday taken into custody by the state Economic Offence Wing.

A 1994-batch officer, Singh was earlier Additional Director General of the Anti Corruption Bureau and also served as Inspector General, Raipur. He was posted as head of the police training academy before being suspended on July 5.

After his appeal for a stay on investigation and arrest warrants against him before the High Court and later Supreme

Mumbai records 11,647 fresh cases, 4th straight day of fall

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, JANUARY 11

THE DOWNWARD spiral of Covid cases continued for the fourth day running in Mumbai with the city registering 11,647 cases on Tuesday. This corresponds with a dip in the daily positivity rates which fell from 23 per cent on Monday to 18.7 per cent on Tuesday.

The daily Covid cases in Maharashtra however increased marginally to 34,424 from 33,470 recorded on Monday. The state also recorded a spike in deaths — 22 on Tuesday compared to 8 reported on Monday, which is a three-fold rise.

Mumbai's daily cases have been dropping since January 7 when the city recorded 20,971 daily cases. On January, the number fell to 20,318. The next day, it dropped to 19,474. On Monday, the number dropped exponentially to 13,648 cases — a 30 per cent plunge. Tuesday's numbers translate into a 14.6 per cent



A student gets vaccinated in Mumbai, Tuesday. Amit Chakravarty

drop in cases.

The test positivity rate (TPR) — ratio of positive cases out of the total tests conducted — also dropped sharply. On January 10, a total of 59,242 tests were conducted with 23 per cent TPR. On January 11, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) conducted 62,097 tests, of which 18.7 per cent were positive. The drop in TPR compared to the previous day can also be because of

the rise in testing on Tuesday.

The gradual drop in cases is also reflected in the occupancy of beds. On January 10, 7,408 beds were occupied and the number dropped to 7,283 on Tuesday.

On Monday, there were 1,03,862 active cases which decreased to 1,00,523 on Tuesday.

The sudden change in the trajectory of the wave is hinting towards a plateauing. But, health

69.87 lakh

TOTAL POSITIVE CASES IN MAHARASHTRA

New cases 34,424

Total deaths 1,41,669

Deaths today 22

9,3,7817

TOTAL POSITIVE CASES IN MUMBAI

New cases 11,647

Total deaths 16,413

Deaths today 2

minister Rajesh Tope said to The Indian Express, "It is too early to say that the curve has started plateauing or flattening. We have to wait for another week to confirm it with a clinical explanation."

Dr Shashank Joshi, member of the state Covid-19 task force has stated on Twitter that the city's Covid-19 pandemic curve has started flattening.

As cases surge in Karnataka, concern over likely rise in hospital bed demand

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, JANUARY 11

IN A sign of growing demand for hospital beds, 857 patients have been admitted to hospitals across Karnataka between January 7 and 10, out of a total reported 42,598 Covid-19 cases.

In comparison, the first week of this year saw 886 Covid-19 patients being hospitalised — and both figures are a huge jump from 61 such patients requiring hospital support through December 2021, according to data gathered by the state Covid-19 war-room.

While hospitalisation is still relatively low in terms of per cent — 2 or thereabouts — experts are concerned that hospitals in the state can soon come under severe pressure from coronavirus patients in need of hospital beds if the number of daily positive cases stays over

EXPLAINED

Bid to curb another steep curve

DURING THE second wave, in April-May 2021, 8,922 people died in Bengaluru alone. With infection rate jumping by the day, in an effort to address the situation before it gets out of hand, the government Tuesday extended Covid-19 restrictions in the state till the end of January.

10,000 for a long spell.

On Sunday, the state registered 12,000 fresh Covid-19 cases, of which Bengaluru accounted for nearly 9,000 cases. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had said on Monday.

On Tuesday, the state reported 14,473 new cases, along with five deaths. Bengaluru alone clocked 10,800 new cases, taking the number of active cases in the city to over 59,000.

According to data collated by

the Covid-19 war-room, 2.45 per cent of 50,114 patients required hospitalisation between December 1, 2021 and January 7 this year. The first 10 days of the new year saw 66,469 fresh cases reported across the state, with 1,492 of them hospitalised, working out a rate of 2.28 per cent.

The positivity rate remains highest in the 70-plus and 80-plus age groups — each has jumped, respectively, from 1.25 per cent and 1.74 per cent in December last

year to 7.02 per cent and 7.51 per cent, respectively, in the first 10 days of this month.

"Positivity rate in the state has risen to 6.8 per cent; it is 10 per cent in Bengaluru. Karnataka is at the third spot among states in terms of Covid-19 cases," Bommai, who announced having tested positive for the infection, said on Monday.

Analysis of Covid-linked hospital admissions reported in Karnataka between December 1, 2021 and January 7 by the Covid-19 war-room also shows that unvaccinated people are "10 times more likely" to be hospitalised and 30 times more likely to be admitted to ICUs.

The analysis was carried out on the basis of data collected from 947 patients admitted to hospitals for Covid-19 treatment in the December 1-January 7 period.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Hate speeches: SC to hear plea for probe today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

SUPREME COURT will take up on Wednesday a PIL seeking seeking probe into the alleged hate speech by participants in two separate events in Haridwar and Delhi on December 17 and 21 last year.

The matter has been listed before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal had on Monday urged the CJ to take up the plea by Delhi resident Qurban Ali and Senior Advocate Anjana Prakash urgently. The CJ had asked if an inquiry was not already going on in the matter. Sibal replied that although FIRs have been filed, no one had been arrested. The CJ then said that "we will take up the matter".

CBI to SC: Bid to jeopardise probe against Deshmukh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE CBI has told the Supreme Court that there appears to be an "attempt to meddle...and jeopardise" its investigation into allegations of corruption against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

In an affidavit filed in the top court, the CBI, which took up the probe following a Bombay High Court order, referred to SC's November 22 order that referred to exchanges between former Mumbai Police commissioner Parambir Singh and his successor, Sanjay Pandey.

The agency stated, "from perusal...it prima facie appears that there is clearly an attempt to meddle in court-entrusted investigation carried on by CBI and, further, an attempt to jeopardise the same." Considering this, CBI urged the court to "ensure that such attempts by various quarters are thwarted once and for all".

The CBI also said media reports seemed to indicate attempts to frustrate the probe by registering cases with overlapping effect.

On Tuesday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta formulated the agency's concerns. "The overlapping is so apparent that my apprehension is that the state police might do something, making the court's task more difficult. A coverup or something..." he told a bench of Justices S K Kaul and M M Sundresh.

The top court's November 22 order, while referring to the transcript of exchanges between



Anil Deshmukh

Singh and Pandey, said "The sum and substance of the discussion was that the matter was broached by the Commissioner, who advised him (Singh) not to fight against the system and in effect withdraw the letter sent to the Chief Minister (Uddhav Thackeray) making complaints against the Home Minister (Deshmukh), as otherwise the consequences could be varied."

The CBI affidavit was filed in response to a petition by Singh praying for entrusting cases registered by Maharashtra Police against him to CBI, as they are interlinked with cases against Deshmukh.

Responding to the plea, CBI said in the affidavit that some of the cases against Singh are overlapping and should also be given to it "for a complete, thorough and impartial investigation".

Pointing out that its investigation is proceeding, CBI said that in the meanwhile it has been learnt from "news...in media that efforts are being made to frustrate the investigation" "by resorting to register such cases (with) overlapping effect over case being investigated by CBI".

Referring to one such FIR at Goregaon police station on July 20, 2021, CBI said that "subject to a detailed analysis of the investigation of the State of Maharashtra in the FIR...it is prima facie discernable that the same is an attempt to overreach..."

AHEAD OF INDIA-CHINA MILITARY TALKS

Watching closely, Beijing trying to intimidate neighbours: US

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

A DAY before the 14th round of military discussions between India and China to find a resolution to the standoff in eastern Ladakh, the United States on Tuesday said it is closely monitoring the situation and highlighted that Beijing's behaviour was an attempt to intimidate its neighbours.

The US said it will continue to stand with its partners.

At the daily press briefing, US President Joe Biden's Press Secretary Jen Psaki said, "We continue to closely monitor the situation, and we continue to support dialogue and peaceful resolution of these border disputes."

She was responding to a question on China's "aggressive behaviour" on its border with India.

Psaki said, "We've been pretty clear how we view Beijing's be-

haviour in the region and around the world. We believe it can be destabilising. And we're concerned by the (People's Republic of China's) attempt to intimidate its neighbours."

She also said, "We'll continue to stand with our partners on that."

Regarding the relationship with India in 2022, Psaki said, "You can expect our governments will be moving forward on a wide-ranging set of initiatives, from co-operating to fight the pandemic, scaling up action to address climate change, working bilaterally and through the Quad, expanding our cooperation and trading investments, cyber and in new and emerging technologies... and, as always, we are focused on strengthening the deep ties between our people and our shared democratic values that underpin the relationship."

India and China are scheduled to hold the next round of Corps Commander-level discussions on

SC: Vulnerable witnesses to include victims of sexual assault

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

SUPREME COURT Tuesday expanded the definition of vulnerable witnesses to also include, among others, sexual assault victims, those with mental illness and people with speech or hearing impairment.

Hearing a plea on the issue of protecting such witnesses, a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant said vulnerable witnesses will not be limited to mean only child witnesses, but will include age neutral and gender neutral victims of sexual assault under Section 377 IPC (unnatural offences), witnesses suffering from mental illness as defined in Mental Healthcare Act, witnesses with threat perception and any speech or hearing impaired individual suffering from any other disability who is considered to be vulnerable by the court concerned.

Underlining the need for setting up special facilities to create a safe and barrier-free environment for recording the evidence of vulnerable witnesses, the court also directed that all high courts adopt and notify a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre (VWDC) Scheme within two months. It asked the high courts to give an estimate of manpower required to have VWDC in their states within three months.

Agreeing with the suggestion by Senior Advocate Vibha Makhija, who assisted the court as amicus curiae, the court urged former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Justice Gita Mittal to act as chairperson of a panel for designing an All India VWDC training programme.

'CONSPIRACY' CASE AGAINST ACTOR

One accused has links with minister: director

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 11

THE CASE against Malayalam actor Dileep after allegations he had planned to kill investigators in the abduction and sexual assault of an actress, for which he is already facing trial, got a new twist on Tuesday. Film director Balachandrakumar, who had made the allegations, has alleged that one the five others accused in the alleged conspiracy case is "very close" to a Kerala minister.

It was after director Balachandrakumar's revelations that the Crime branch last Sunday registered a fresh case against Dileep and five others, including his brother and brother-in-law, on charges of conspiring to kill the police officers. Of the five other accused, however, the FIR had named only four. The fifth was listed as an unknown person.

On Tuesday, after deposing before the special investigation team, Balachandrakumar told reporters the "unknown person" was a VIP "very close" to Dileep



Actor Dileep

and "speaks about ministers".

He said: "In presence of a minister, that person had gone to the extent of saying the police officials should be verbally abused. He is close to the minister. He used to say he would get satisfaction only if he showers abuse on the officials in the minister's presence. He is also planning to target the officials. I call him a VIP because he has influence in a wide spectrum of society."

The director said he had handed over more evidence on Dileep's role in the alleged conspiracy, which he said was "planned" and not accidental.

Meanwhile, the high court will be taking up the anticipatory bail application of Dileep in the conspiracy case on Friday. Dileep has told the court the director's revelations are part of a "design to subvert" the trial in the assault case, which is in its final stages.

Cautious grammar of life doesn't go wrong: V-C after Governor's taunt

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN 11

A DAY after Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan criticised the "language and style" of the letter he received from Kerala University vice-chancellor V P Mahadevan Pillai last month, the V-C on Tuesday said he is "extremely vigilant to ensure that spelling and grammar of life do not go wrong".

Khan has been critical of Pillai, and the CPI(M)-led LDF government in the state, over the V-C's purported reluctance to consider his recommendation for conferring an honorary DLitt on President Ram Nath Kovind. Pillai had sent the letter concerned to Khan on this issue.

Maintaining that Pillai's reluctance stemmed from "instructions" from "someone", Khan had on Monday said his "head hung in shame" after seeing the "language and style" of Pillai's letter, and the latter's explanation. "...Pity, the V-C can't write two sentences properly.... This university is one of the oldest in the country...", he had said.



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

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

DASHBOARD, AS ON JAN 10

680
DAYS SINCE
PANDEMIC
BEGAN

New cases

1,68,063

Active cases

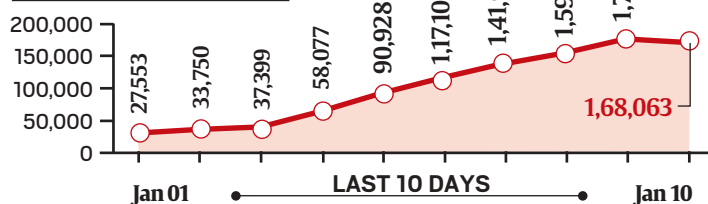
8,21,446

Deaths

277

Weekly CFR: 4.62% | Overall CFR: 1.39% | Total deaths: 4,84,213

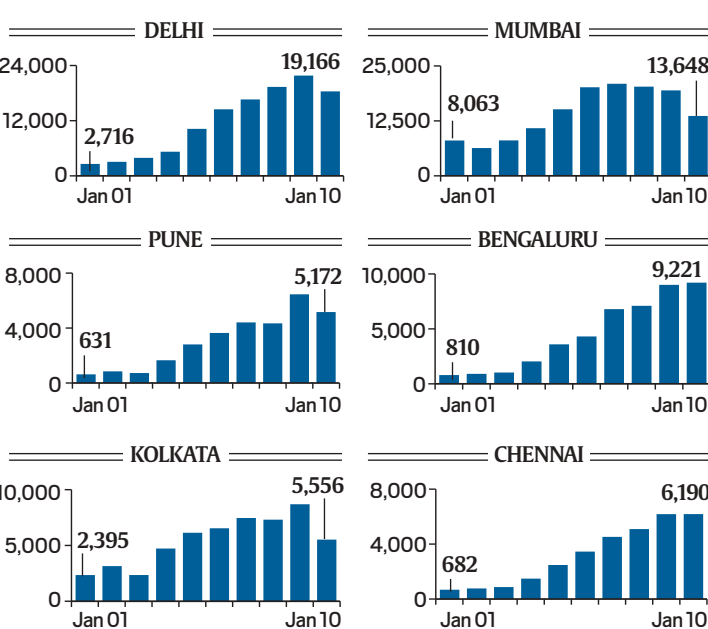
NEW CASES, DAILY



SURGE IN THE STATES

State	ON JANUARY 9			Weekly positivity
	New Cases	Active Cases	Deaths	
Maharashtra	33,470	2,06,046	12	17.90%
West Bengal	19,286	89,194	16	27.91%
Delhi	19,166	65,806	17	17.63%
Tamil Nadu	13,990	62,767	11	6.75%
Karnataka	11,698	60,177	4	4.99%

SURGE IN THE CITIES, LAST 10 DAYS



TOTAL TESTS

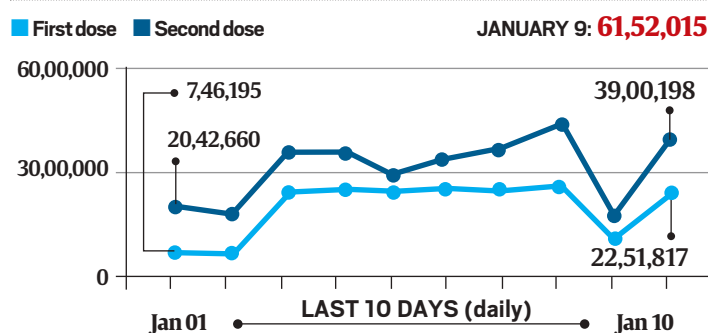
69,31,55,280

TESTS ON JAN 10	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	OVERALL POSITIVITY
15,79,928	8.53%	5.18%

INDIA TOTAL DOSES

150,17,50,087

(1st DOSE: 86,40,93,838; 2nd: 63,76,56,249)



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EXPLAINED THE PANDEMIC

Fight against virus, 2 yrs on

Progress has been made in vaccination, while therapeutics provide another tool. But the virus is still evolving, and although Omicron causes milder disease, it should be treated with utmost caution.

EXPERT
EXPLAINS

VIRANDER S CHAUHAN

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

THE PANDEMIC caused by SARS-CoV-2 has continued to haunt humanity over the last two years, and has created panic, anxiety, economic disruption, and a compromised ability to learn. It has also raised concerns about many long-term impacts of Long Covid and mental health, which may be hard to measure.

In a swift response, several safe and efficacious vaccines were developed within a year. But the almost simultaneous emergence of more infectious variants of concern — Alpha, Beta and Gamma — in locations across Europe, Africa and Latin America, underscored the complexities and threat from the virus worldwide. Soon after another 'fitter', highly infectious, fast replicating and lethal variant called Delta emerged, superseded all circulating ones and drove the waves of the pandemic throughout the planet. And just when things appeared to be settling down, another very highly mutated and fast-replicating variant, Omicron, first detected in South Africa, began to sweep through Europe and the US, and is currently spreading all over the world. The US and European countries, with their populations vaccinated, have recorded higher numbers of new cases since the pandemic began.

Two years on, and in yet another huge surge in the pandemic, where do we stand? What have we learnt about the virus? Are we better prepared to deal with the pandemic?

Vaccination

The development of vaccines against a new virus in less than a year will go down in history as one of the greatest achievements in science. With more than 20 vaccines approved worldwide, and about 9.3 billion doses having been rolled out, this is by far the largest vaccination drive ever in the world. But this huge achievement, sadly, has also laid bare one of the darkest facets of the modern world of haves and have-nots. While many rich countries have more than 80% of their population fully vaccinated, in some poor countries more than 80% of their populations have remained unvaccinated. With high rates of infection, low vaccine coverage and poor infrastructure for surveillance, the virus has a free hand to evolve into more infectious mutants and remain undetected in several poor countries.

With the recent waves of the highly infectious Delta and now even more infectious Omicron variants, health policy makers and governments in many countries are con-



Elderly citizens at a vaccination centre in Pune. Around the world, additional doses are being given wherever vaccines are easily available. Arul Horizon

fronted with questions including when children should be vaccinated, the need and necessity for booster shots, re-imposition of restrictions, and whether we are better prepared to deal with the pandemic now than last year.

DOSES FOR CHILDREN: Whether children should be vaccinated is no longer a matter of debate, with many vaccines proven to be safe in children and approved by regulators worldwide. In fact, back in mid-2021, vaccine companies had started safe dosing and efficacy trials in children of all groups including those below one year of age. Vaccination of

children should be vaccinated, the need and necessity for booster shots, re-imposition of restrictions, and whether we are better prepared to deal with the pandemic now than last year. While other forms of acquired immunity including T-cell immunity may play a role, the only measurable correlate of protection against severe disease is the level of virus-neutralising antibodies. While virus variants such as Delta and Omicron can evade acquired immunity to infect vaccinated individuals, it is remarkable that all vaccines currently in use have remained effective against severe disease and death. By end-August 2021, many rich countries had started giving booster doses even though it appeared morally incorrect due to global inequality in vaccine access, and was against the advice of the World Health Organization (WHO) at that time. Now with the huge surge in infections, booster doses are being given wherever vaccines are easily available. Israel,

a leader in Covid-19 vaccination, has already started testing a fourth dose in frontline health workers. The US has recently approved Pfizer's vaccine for boosters even in children above the age of 14. Booster doses are now mandatory in many countries. India too has started its booster vaccination programme.

The evolving virus

The data obtained from multiple locations so far suggest that symptoms and disease outcomes from Omicron infections may be from mild to moderate in most cases. But the sheer size of Omicron spread is likely to place health systems across the world under huge stress.

THE EXPERT

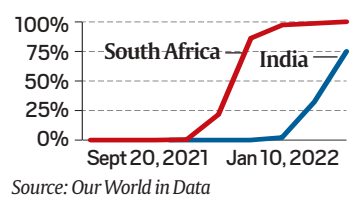
VIRANDER S CHAUHAN is a former chairman of UGC and a former director of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. He is best known for his efforts towards developing a vaccine for malaria.

Omicron has higher asymptomatic carriage: studies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS from two clinical trials in South Africa, from where Omicron was first reported, suggest that this variant of the coronavirus has a higher rate of asymptomatic "carriage" than earlier variants. Both studies found a higher rate of infection than during previous outbreaks, and a higher proportion of asymptomatic carriers.

Both studies are part of larger ones. 'Ubuntu', in sub-Saharan Africa, aims to evaluate the effectiveness of Moderna's vaccine in people living with HIV. The other study is a sub-

SHARE IN SARS-COV-2
SEQUENCES THAT ARE OMICRON

study of the 'Sisonke' study evaluating the effectiveness of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine.

FINDINGS: In Ubuntu, 230 participants were initially screened in December, and 31% tested positive, all of whom were later confirmed to be Omicron. "These data are in stark contrast to Covid-19 vaccine studies conducted pre-Omicron, where the SARS-CoV-2 PCR positivity rate at the first vaccination visit ranged from <1%-2.4%," said the study, 'High Rate of Asymptomatic

Carriage Associated with Variant Strain Omicron', currently posted on a pre-print.

In the sub-study of Sisonke, the mean asymptomatic carriage rate among 577 partic-

PAPER
CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

ipants was 16% during the Omicron period, compared to 2.6% during Beta and Delta outbreaks. The results suggest a high carriage rate even in those vaccinated, the South African Medical Research Council said in a release.

It quoted senior author Dr Lawrence Corey as saying: "Since so many people may be asymptomatic, we can't always know who is carrying the virus, but we do

know what we can do to protect ourselves and to help prevent further spread: Wear a mask; wash your hands; avoid large, indoor gatherings; and get fully vaccinated..."

How scientists are using grime-eating bacteria to restore classical art

ASWATHIPACHA
KOCHI, JANUARY 11

AS A once-in-a-century virus either shut down or restricted the open hours of the world's great museums, art restorers in Italy worked to rid a priceless Michelangelo of centuries of accumulated dirt and grime. They let loose the bacteria.

Art restorers have usually employed chemical agents and, more recently laser techniques, to remove dirt, oil, glue, or pollutants from monuments, stoneworks, and paintings. But since the 1980s, when researchers first used the bacteria *Desulfovibrio vulgaris* to clean a marble monument at the Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, US, the role of micro-organisms has been recognised in protecting the artistic heritage of humanity.

D. vulgaris went on to meet several artworks, including, in 2013, the *Allegoria Della Morte* — the *Allegory of Death* — at the English Cemetery in Florence. Art restorers from the Opificio Delle Pietre Dure museum allowed the bacteria to eat away the thick black crust that had veiled the beauty of the blindfolded

skeleton statue taking a scythe to a bunch of flowers, carved by Giuseppe Lazzarini in 1870.

Calling in the bugs

Environmental microbiology researcher Chiara Alisi, who was part of the team that restored one of Michelangelo's masterpieces in the New Sacristy at the Medici Chapels in Florence during the 2020 lockdowns, told *The Indian Express* over Zoom from Rome:

"At our lab in ENEA (Italy's national agency for new technologies and sustainable development), we have over 1,500 bacteria that like to eat different enzymes. My first bio restoration in 2014 was on a 16th-century wall painting. We screened the bacteria we had with us and selected three that could digest protein. The living bacterial cells were suspended in a gel and applied to the vertical walls and left for 24 and 48 hours. The bacteria did not disappoint us, they did their job well. When the gel was removed, we saw that the inorganic dark brown layer and also the other deposits were removed."

The New York Times, which first reported the initially secret restoration in Florence, said the team washed the hair of one of the mar-



Bio-cleaning on the front surface of the *Triumph of Death* fresco in Pisa; (right) after the treatment. G. Ranalli et al. *Journal of Applied Microbiology* (2018)

ble statues with *Pseudomonas stutzeri* CONCI1 bacterium isolated from the waste of a tannery near Naples, and cleaned the residue of casting moulds, glue, and oil using *Rhodococcus* sp. ZCONT, another strain that came from soil contaminated with diesel.

Faith in *Pseudomonas*

Over the past decade, Dr Pilar Bosch Roig,

a specialist in bio-cleaning and bio-deterioration of artworks in Spain, has trusted *P. stutzeri* to clean a range of monuments, as well as the stones of historic bridges and granite slabs of chapels in Spain.

She told *The Indian Express* in an email that over a decade ago, this strain of bacteria was used for the bio-restoration of frescoes in the 17th century Church of Santos Juanes in

Valencia, Spain, and murals of the Camposanto Monumentale di Pisa in Italy.

A team led by environment microbiologist Giancarlo Ranalli from the University of Molise in Campobasso, Italy, recently used *P. stutzeri* to clean the 14th century *Triumph of Death* fresco at the Campo Santo. The cemetery was bombed during World War II.

Dr Ranalli's team arrived in 2018, and applied the bacterial suspension on the fresco, and after three hours "the bacterial activity was so intense that the treated areas were largely bio-cleaned and no residues of proteinaceous materials were present," according to a paper published in the *Journal of Applied Microbiology*.

"The treatment was soft and delicate and did not show any structural damage," the authors reported.

"There is a general notion that bacteria are harmful," Alisi said. "But not all are pathogens. In fact, our lab is not allowed to use pathogens. Also, these bacteria are not modified or genetically engineered. They are just common ones from natural environments that love to eat various proteins and we are just using them to save our beloved artworks."

Could they clean Taj?

On whether these bacteria could be used to fix the discolouration of the Taj Mahal, Alisi told *The Indian Express*: "We first need to study the marble to understand if it is just dust and particulate carbon causing the dark colour or if there is a biofilm formation."

Biofilms are formed when communities of microorganisms adhere to a surface.

Dr Archana Tiwari, associate professor at Amity Institute of Biotechnology in Noida, expressed confidence that bio-restoration can save many of India's monuments. "We have tested these bacteria and now have a repository. The technology needs to move from lab to field and we can see our monuments like Taj Mahal get a new life," she said.

In 2014, a paper published by researchers from Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala, and Curtin University in Perth, Australia, noted that calcifying bacteria could be used for remediation of stones and cultural heritage monuments, including the Taj Mahal.

The Archaeological Survey of India is learnt to be exploring the option of employing bio-restoration at the Taj.

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE
THE POWER TO TAX IS THE POWER TO DESTROY.
— JOHN MARSHALL

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

NETWORK ISSUE

Government taking commanding stake in Vodafone Idea will have implications for consumers, and competition in sector

ON TUESDAY, VODAFONE Idea informed stock exchanges that the company was opting for the government's offer of converting its interest obligations into equity. With this conversion, the government will become the largest shareholder of the company with a stake of around 35.8 per cent. As a consequence, the shareholding of the Vodafone Group and the Aditya Birla group will be diluted, declining to around 28.5 per cent and 17.8 per cent respectively. That Vodafone Idea chose to exercise this option suggests that efforts of the promoters to rope in strategic investors or to raise funds have not borne fruit. With this move, the Indian government will own stakes in multiple telecom operators, placing it in a unique position in the world, with the exception of China. For a government that has repeatedly stated its intent to divest its stake in public sector entities — it recently announced the first major outright privatisation of a public sector company with the sale of Air India to Tata Sons — it is ironical that it should now end up with a stake in a private telecom operator.

The decline in the fortunes of telcos is a consequence of both policy action and inaction. Its beginnings can be traced to the tariff wars beginning in 2016, which were compounded by the verdict in the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) case. In order to address the consequent financial stress among telcos, last year, the government had announced a series of measures, amongst which was the decision to provide a four-year moratorium on the payment of spectrum and adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues. The government had also provided telcos the option of converting the interest on the deferred liability into equity. According to the notification to the exchanges on Monday, Vodafone Idea's board decided in favour of this option, approving the conversion of the interest (at a net present value of Rs 16,000 crore) into equity, while Airtel had earlier announced that it would not opt for the conversion of interest dues to equity.

While this move will ease Vodafone Idea's cash flow woes, the company is likely to face considerable challenges ahead. Foremost among them is the need to raise funds to acquire spectrum in the upcoming 5G auctions. The question is whether this move will facilitate or hinder capital raising. Further, at an operation level, if the government shareholding translates into the same limitations being imposed on Vodafone Idea as they are on public sector telcos, BSNL and MTNL, then the implications for competition, consumers, and for the telecom sector as a whole are not difficult to fathom. Reacting to this announcement, shares of Vodafone Idea fell 20.8 per cent, indicating investor concerns over the company's prospects.

THE THIRD PARTY

Chinese Foreign Minister's Sri Lanka visit highlighted Beijing's relentless drive in Indian Ocean region, and India's challenge

THE VISIT BY Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Sri Lanka as part of a five-nation swing-through, that also covered three African nations and the Maldives, has highlighted Beijing's relentless drive for influence over the Indian Ocean region. In Colombo, Wang spoke of creating a forum for Indian Ocean "island countries" that shared "similar experiences and common needs" and development goals to strengthen "mutually beneficial co-operation".

Such fora already exist. China is a dialogue partner of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, along with Russia, the US and several European countries. Since 2008, an Indian Ocean Navies Symposium brings together 24 countries in the region, in which, too, China, which is not an Indian Ocean country, is one among several observers. It is significant that Beijing, which has pumped in so much money into many of these countries, but by virtue of its geography, is not a full member in any of the region's groupings, now believes there should be another forum representing the region. Wang's proposal, which bears a curious resemblance to the Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) doctrine articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his first term, during a visit to Mauritius in 2015, is a sign that the India-China rivalry in the maritime sphere is set to intensify.

Wang left no one in any doubt about this when he described the China-Sri Lanka relationship as not targeting "a third party" and as one that "should not be interfered with by any third party". The term "third party" was first used by the Chinese embassy in Colombo to obliquely describe India, after Delhi objected to a Chinese solar farm project on Sri Lankan islands close to the Tamil Nadu coast. Wang described Beijing's relationship with Colombo as one that has "injected positive energy into regional peace and stability". For India, which has had to deal with two episodes of territorial creep by the People's Liberation Army in the last six years — one more round of talks on Ladakh is scheduled to take place today — and has put the Army on full alert all the way from Ladakh to Arunachal along the contested Line of Actual Control, it is impossible to share the same warm and fuzzy feelings about China's economic and political inroads in Sri Lanka, or the Maldives for that matter. India has long-established ties with Colombo and Male, and needs no lectures on how to conduct its diplomacy in the region — from a third party.

FIVE-LETTER WORD

The consolation of a word game in a world shrunk by virus and hate

SOMETHING STRANGE IS afoot on social media. Little grids of green, yellow and black squares have been mysteriously popping up on timelines, interrupting the regular programming of righteous rants, virtue signalling and hate speech. All clues lead to an unremarkable website, Wordle, which hosts a word game that is winning enthusiasts around the world faster than we have learnt to say Omicron. Like the best of things, Wordle began as an act of love. Software engineer Josh Wardle designed the game for his partner — she being a devotee of cryptic crosswords and the Spelling Bee — for their private pleasures. But they soon realised it was too good a thing to be left unshared. The world agrees. Since its release late last year, Wordle has been played by 3 lakh people.

The game's simple, even if it's got linguists writing Twitter threads on how to crack it. Wordle releases one puzzle a day. Every day, you get six attempts to guess a five-letter word. No clues are given, though for every word you submit, you get to know if you have got some letters right (they light up in yellow), if they are in the right place (green), or if your guess is entirely wrong (black), hopefully helping you find your way to the right word before your chances run out. You can even brag and post your performance on Twitter with the grid of squares, without letting the answer spill. There's something endearingly analogue about how little Wordle sucks up your time, or how it refuses to tempt you into rabbit holes of distraction with ads and notifications, unlike anything else on the internet.

Truth be told, the world is not the nicest of places today — shrunk by a virus, vexed by demagogues and despots, and on course to keep its date with the climate apocalypse. But doomscrollers, cheer up. When you are on the road to perdition, you can do far worse things than make a pit stop and play a word game or two. Hate, thankfully, is not a five-letter word.



AMITABH MATTOO

IT IS IRONICAL that one of the world's richest and most recognisable sportsmen, the tennis champion, Novak Djokovic, has become a symbol for critical concerns about global issues that we are confronted with in the Age of Covid. These include the most subaltern of anxieties about borders and sovereignty; the multiple layers of global, federal and provincial bureaucratic control; and the malleable nature of national and global public health policies rooted in what seems to be, for at least lay people, the politics of continuously elusive science-based evidence.

Djokovic is, of course, an unlikely leader of these causes and not what his father would have us imagine: A modern-day Spartacus leading a revolt of the "slaves" against their oppressors and tyrants. As minutiae of Djokovic's biography are dissected in the media, we know that one of the most gifted tennis players in the history of the game is a fierce Serbian nationalist and that his views on science, spirituality and vaccinations are unconventional, if not plain dodgy. Djokovic's curious, complex and colourful worldview may make many of his fans squirm, but in his native Serbia and elsewhere, as recent events have testified, his popularity is unchallenged even as he has publicly voiced his scepticism about vaccines.

While Australian commentators have been shocked by Djokovic's views, surely we in India should have greater tolerance given our own eclectic sensibilities. More to the point, Djokovic's "cocky" attitude, his eccentricities and his beliefs are an unnecessary diversion from the core concerns — to use Foucault's now rather tired and clichéd phrase — about governmentality at the national and trans-national level.

The story does not end there. The Rydges on Swanston Street in Melbourne, reborn a few months ago as the Park Hotel, is an unlikely venue for the Djokovic saga. Situated at the cusp of Melbourne's thriving CBD (central business district) and Melbourne University's robust Parkville campus, you would be inclined to turn your head away at this 1970s' architectural abomination as you rode past in the No 16 tram. For the most part, we used it to host aca-

How critical concerns in the Age of Covid have gathered around tennis star Novak Djokovic

Borders always have been instruments of territorial sovereignty as well as the ways to define and exclude Others. Within sections of Australian public opinion, controlling borders has been seen as a way of preserving a way of life. During the years of the pandemic, this acquired a bizarre dimension. For the first two years of the pandemic, it became almost impossible for citizens and permanent residents to return to Australia as the policy was designed to seal Australia to suppress the virus. However, even with the most stringent quarantine policies in place, there were celebrities who managed to evade isolating in designated facilities and were seen reveling in mansions.

demc visitors who spent much of their time on the campus rather than in the grim hotel. During the pandemic, it was used as a quarantine facility, and almost single-handedly contributed to the second wave in Melbourne. Initially, the media had reported that "inappropriate" contact in the hotel between a security guard and a woman traveller had led to the spread of the virus in the western suburbs. A later inquiry ruled this out, but Rydges acquired the sobriquet as the "outbreak hotel", until asylum-seekers and stateless refugees were interned in its precincts, including those waiting for years for their cases to be decided.

Two of the refugees held in the hotel, for instance, from the persecuted Ahwazi Arab Iranian minority arrived in Australia as children and are still waiting to be rehabilitated. By demonstrating its natural inclination to be fair and egalitarian, and by holding Djokovic at the Park Hotel, the authorities unwittingly gave the refugees more media attention than they may have had in years.

Borders always have been instruments of territorial sovereignty as well as the ways to define and exclude Others. Within sections of Australian public opinion, controlling borders has been seen as a way of preserving a way of life. During the years of the pandemic, this acquired a bizarre dimension. For the first two years of the pandemic, it became almost impossible for citizens and permanent residents to return to Australia as the policy was designed to seal Australia to suppress the virus. However, even with the most stringent quarantine policies in place, there were celebrities who managed to evade isolating in designated facilities and were seen reveling in mansions.

But today, Australia is just a symbol for a global refugee crisis caused by multiple conflicts and international travel crises accentuated by the rules regarding visa, entry, testing and quarantine to control Covid and consequently undermining the real promise of globalisation and a less Westphalian world. Ironically, many refugees may have been kept out, but the virus has overwhelmed much of the country.

The Djokovic saga also revealed, at the very

least, the manner in which at least three authorities botched up the case: Tennis Australia, the Victorian government and the federal government in Canberra, in a year in which the popularity of the federal government will be tested at the general election.

The transcript of the interviews, presented in court, between border control officials and the sportsman revealed a Kafkaesque bureaucracy unwilling to be reasonable or respond sensitively to reasonable requests. We witness an apparently transparent, straightforward, honest but somewhat confused Djokovic being confronted by rules and subjected to questions, almost to the point of harassment. As the federal judge pointed out: "The point I'm somewhat agitated about is: What more could this man have done?"

For most residents of Melbourne, who have experienced the harshest and longest lockdown over the last two years, a visa for Djokovic, however, is an insult to the months of confinement. In the last two years, in addition, we have seen the full play of federal politics even while there have been regular meetings of the national cabinet (with the prime minister and state premiers as members). Within the broad framework of a national policy, each state has devised its own rules sometimes with bizarre consequences. Till a few weeks ago, it was easier to travel from New York to Perth than from Victoria to Western Australia.

Tragically, the Djokovic story reveals the manner in which the science of the virus, the scientific evidence and the potency of vaccinations has tested the patience of a global audience mostly willing to accept the verdict without scepticism. But the danger is that since the advent of Omicron, as norms regarding social distancing, close contacts, RAT versus PSR tests and quarantining have been discarded — even as the virus has spread like wildfire — politics may be driving the science and the public policies being formulated.

The writer is honorary professor at the University of Melbourne and professor at JNU. He is currently based in Melbourne

RECOVERY ON THE CARDS

Despite risks, chances of an investment-driven economic revival are high



BINDU DALMIA

AS WE begin the new year, to what extent is there an economic feel-good factor? I am inclined to see the glass as half full two years after the economic armageddon of 2020.

The economic optimism is fuelled by the "balance of risk being tilted towards the lower side", despite the Omicron surge denting the fourth-quarter expectations, as also due to a confluence of five tailwind factors that are expected to augment a sustained investment-led recovery: The improved asset quality of banks due to speedier recovery and adequate bank capitalisation; increased profitability due to domestic demand and deleveraging of corporate balance sheets; the government's sustained focus on reforms and public investments; robust foreign investor interest in India; and the 37 per cent surge in export growth in the third quarter.

The onset of virtuous economic cycles is always presaged by predictable demand in domestic consumption and the increase in global merchandise trade that holds the maximum weightage in GDP. This is expected to push average capacity utilisation from 60 per cent in June 2021 to 75 per cent by FY 2023. Higher demand means optimal capacity utilisation by industry, increased profitability and better employment rates.

India's total investments equal 30 per cent of GDP, of which the corporate sector including non-finance companies, account for 13 per cent, while the government accounts for another 17 per cent. With improved profitability and debt-to-equity ratios of the 2,800 listed companies, corporates are expected to channelise improved cash flows towards investments as demand deflates towards the latter

half of FY 2022-23.

The investment push through the 13 production-linked incentives, whether for export promotion or import substitution, as well as the recent policy-induced thrust of a Rs 76,000 crore plan to foster a semiconductor ecosystem to ease supply-chain impediments, will begin to increase the size of the economic pie over the next five years. Should these assumptions play out, we could be within striking range of the RBI's projection of 9.5 per cent growth in the current fiscal year, and the finance ministry's target of 7 per cent average annual growth for the next few years.

In times of extreme volatility, uncertainties, complexities and ambiguities, there are no textbook prescriptions to aid decision making. The post-Covid world will continue to throw up newer threats and opportunities, like rapid digitisation, increased market for renewables and electric vehicles. This could translate to an environmentally-sustainable recovery. Businesses must be flexible and be responsive to changes in the ecosystem.

Investments, as measured by gross fixed capital formation, GFCF, are anticipated to grow at 9.1 per cent in FY 22, though such investments will be sector-specific and not broad-based. After having over-invested in the previous boom-years that led to building up of excess capacity, followed by tepid demand, core private sector industries like steel, cement, housing and infrastructure have taken years to deleverage, and are consequently pursuing a more measured approach towards re-leveraging and capex expansion. Though large corporates are sitting on cash reserves of around \$1.5 trillion, increased cash

flows do not always translate into higher capex investments.

The government is betting big on revenue buoyancy as seen through better realisations in GST, a wider compliance-base of taxpayers, as also on disinvestment through the strategic sale of 22 public sector enterprises. The expansion in taxes will allow the government to prioritise growth-enhancing capital spending which will crowd in private investments. The other big source of revenue is turning out to be the leasing out to the private sector of existing, and consequently de-risked, brownfield projects in roads, ports, railways, mining and telecom through the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).

Though the global GDP is projected to rebound to 5.6 per cent this year, the risks that could dent momentum cannot be discounted. These risks stem from pandemic-triggered mobility curbs that will hit the contact-sensitive services sector; subsequent labour shortages; intermittent closures that will lead to MSMEs incurring further debt; rising input costs; rising energy and fuel costs, leading to domestic inflation dynamics; and from the rise in interest rates as indicated by the US Federal Reserve, which will increase the cost of doing business.

Hopefully, on February 1, the FM will provision for more budgetary allocations to supercharge the economy instead of reining-in fiscal deficit prematurely to less than the existing 6.8 per cent of GDP. If so, in a post-Covid world order, despite the odds, India could be one of the sweet growth spots.

Dalmia is chairperson for the NCFI, NITIAayog

JANUARY 12, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

POLISH TURMOIL

VIOLENT CLASHES BETWEEN workers and strike-breaking military authorities were reported from Poland but Warsaw radio indicated that the country was calm and hard at work. The military government said union leader Lech Walesa was broken and weeping. The French Premier, Pierre Mauroy, has been told that there have been 45,000 arrests in Poland and 17 people killed in incidents since the military take over. Reports reaching Western diplomats in Bonn said that water cannon and baton charges were used against supporters of the Solidarity union. The diplomats said troops were brought to break strikes

in Warsaw, Katowice and Gdansk, where there were unconfirmed reports of violence when the troops move in to clear the shipyards.

DIPLOMATIC ROW

INDIA CONVEYED ITS unhappiness to Pakistan over the refusal of permission to the Indian ambassador in Islamabad, K Natwar Singh, to visit the northwest frontier province. The Pakistan ambassador in Delhi, Abdus Sattar, was told that such behaviour was uncalled for. Pakistani diplomats don't face such discrimination, he was told, when he called on the foreign office at his own initiative, by Foreign Minister P V Narasimha Rao.

BIHAR OFFICERS' STRIKE

THE CRIPPLING STRIKE by Bihar non-gazetted officers entered the sixth day with no sign of a solution. While the various employee unions are sticking to their stand on the implementation of the recommendations of the pay revision commission, Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra announced that 200 officers who had joined the strike were suspended.

COLD WAVE

PARTS OF BIHAR, UP, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir are reeling under a cold wave. The deaths due to cold rose to 10 in Bihar.



New Delhi



THE IDEAS PAGE

Out of work

Unemployment has reached a critical stage and raises serious questions on the quality of economic recovery



TRISHALI CHAUHAN AND CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT

OVER THE LAST few months, the Government of India and the mainstream media have highlighted the return of economic growth. However, very little attention has been paid to the job market. India's unemployment rate has been soaring. It went up to 7.91 per cent in December 2021 from 6.3 per cent in 2018-2019 and 4.7 per cent in 2017-18, when the trend started to change — a sign that this phenomenon is not just due to Covid. In urban areas, this has gone up to 9.30 per cent in December 2021 from 8.09 per cent in January 2021. In rural areas, it has gone up to 7.28 per cent against 5.81 per cent.

Clearly, unemployment is more in the urban areas as compared to the rural areas. Between 2019-20 and December 2021, the manufacturing sector has lost 9.8 million jobs; by contrast, agricultural jobs jumped by 7.4 million. One probably needs to get back to the Raj years to see such a movement towards ruralisation: Workers are back in their villages even though urban jobs provide better wages.

The quality of jobs is also at stake. The percentage of salaried people has dropped from 21.2 per cent in 2019-2020 to 19 per cent in 2021, which means that 9.5 million people have left the salariat and become jobless or part of the informal sector. But the informal sector itself has shrunk, so much so that — to return to aggregate figures — the employed population, over the same period, has decreased from 408.9 million people to 406 million, at a time about 10 million young Indians were entering the job market. The age pyramid does not help, despite the belief in the so-called demographic dividend.

India's Labour Force Participation (LPR) does not compare favourably with other emerging countries — a category that is vanishing quickly. According to the World Bank, it stood at 46 per cent in 2020 (it has not improved since then), while that of Brazil stood at 59 per cent, Chile's at 57 per cent, China's at 67 per cent, Ethiopia's at 76, Ghana's at 66, per cent, Indonesia's at 66 per cent and Malaysia's at 64 per cent.

Certainly, there are variations among Indian states. As per CMIE data, the unemployment rate in December 2021 was the highest in Haryana (34.1 per cent), followed by Rajasthan (27.1 per cent), Jharkhand (17.3 per cent) and Bihar (16 per cent).

There are also variations age-wise. Based on the data from CEDA-CMIE (between January 2019 and July 2021), the year 2020-21 saw 42.4 per cent fewer 15-19-year-olds employed in comparison to 2019-20. The age group of 20-29-year-olds saw the average monthly employment numbers go down by 15.6 per cent.

In fact, according to the NSSO, in 2019, when India had the highest unemployment rate in the last 45 years, this rate was particularly high among India's youth: 34 per cent



C R Sasikumar

for those between 20 and 24 years. For urban dwellers in this age group, this rate was 37.5 per cent. This figure is coherent with the CMIE figures: For the age group of 20-29 years old, the rate was around 28 per cent, meaning that nearly 30.8 million young people in this age group were jobless, compared to 17.8 million in 2017. An astonishing fact is that the more educated the people, the more unemployed they were — 63.4 per cent of graduates falling in the age bracket of 20-24 years were unemployed. This number has increased with time.

Variations according to gender are also important. Unemployment among women is higher than men, both in urban as well as rural areas. For women, the average unemployment was 14.28 per cent and for men, it was 7.88 per cent. Further, of the women willing to seek work in urban areas, 92.1 per cent don't get any work. This count for rural women stands at 54.8 per cent.

To start with, the proportion of women who get employed and get paid is low and continues to decline over the years. This is happening even though more and more women are attending school and college in the country.

The absorption of women in the workforce, as compared to men, is much less for two main reasons. One, most women were involved in agricultural jobs in rural areas; the mechanisation of these jobs has had a huge impact on female labour force participation in the country. Two, India's manufacturing sector is not labour-intensive. This has made it difficult to compensate women who got displaced from agricultural jobs.

There has been a lot of discussion about how women's role as primary caregivers

The employment scene will improve only if private investment picks up. At the moment, the situation is grim on that front. The investment rate is declining — almost in a linear manner — since 2011. It has dropped from 34.3 per cent then to 27 per cent in 2020. One of the reasons why companies do not invest is weak demand — which is partly due to joblessness — that dissuade enterprises to hire more. This vicious circle is also fostered by growing inequalities, resulting in the shrinking of the middle class.

and ownership of domestic chores is a reason for the low participation of women in the workforce. The cultural norms and deep roots of patriarchy apparently limit women's labour participation in India. In fact, young women tend to abstain from looking for a job when their own brothers cannot find one.

The employment scene will improve only if private investment picks up. At the moment, the situation is grim on that front. The investment rate is declining — almost in a linear manner — since 2011. It has dropped from 34.3 per cent then to 27 per cent in 2020. One of the reasons why companies do not invest is weak demand — which is partly due to joblessness — that dissuades enterprises from hiring more. This vicious circle is also fostered by growing inequalities, resulting in the shrinking of the middle class.

Unfortunately, investors will also be at an unfair disadvantage of more delicate access to credit in the coming weeks and months: Not only are Indian banks still badly affected by NPAs, but interest rates are bound to increase because of inflation — the rate has almost touched 5 per cent. In December, the State Bank of India raised its base rate for the first time in two years.

Unemployment in India has undeniably reached a critical stage and perhaps, raises serious questions on the quality of the economic recovery, which the third wave of the pandemic may affect anyway, making joblessness an even more acute problem.

Chauhan is an independent research scholar from Kings College, London. Jaffrelot is senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The US doesn't have much capital to squander on great-power relations; its 'position from strength' cannot support its hegemonic ambitions. And the times will not give it such an opportunity either.” —GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

No one wins if justice fails

Lynchings in Punjab are affront to constitution and Sikh ethic of mercy. State must uphold rule of law, not pander to mob



ASHWANI KUMAR

THE SENSITIVE BORDER state of Punjab was rocked by disruptive violence following the attempted sacrilege within the *sanctum sanctorum* of Sri Harmandir Sahib. The outrage led to lynching of the offender by the enraged. Another lynching of a person wrongly accused of sacrilege followed thereafter in Kapurthala, raising several questions concerning the quality of our democratic arrangement and political structures.

That the reprehensible desecration of holy books deserves to be unreservedly condemned in the strongest terms is unquestionable, but unlawful retribution even for an unpardonable sin is an affront both to the cherished idea of constitutional justice and the Sikh ethic of *daia* (mercy/compassion), inspired by the teachings of revered gurus. While the state government has done well by apprehending those responsible for the murder in Kapurthala, thereby asserting the inviolability of the principles of due process, those guilty of lynching in Amritsar are yet to be arraigned. Need we remind ourselves that democratic accountability is about taming passions of the populace to the discipline of the Constitution without which democracy regresses into anarchy. Hopefully, the insouciance of political parties and their leaders, captive to the lure of fleeting electoral victories, will not be seen as legitimisation of individual retribution. Barack Obama had reminded us that “most of the sins of politics are derivative of the larger sin — the need to win, but also the need not to lose”.

Events in Punjab and elsewhere raise larger issues about the functioning of our constitutional democracy. That a crowd consumed by religious or political passions can be the prosecutor, judge, jury, and hangman at the same time offends the first principles of government by and under the law. Mob violence and vigilante justice pose grave danger to democracy, political stability and national security. Frenzied mobs endanger lives, undercut security, infract human dignity and challenge the state's lawful authority in the ordering of society. Can the state look away when confronted with situations that challenge its very existence? Surely, the alternative to inaction or tardy action by the state cannot be a surrender to uncontrolled passions that thrive on vengeance.

Leadership is tested in trying circumstances. Abnegation of duty to protest injustice and a reluctance to take principled decisions in testing situations annuls leadership and robs the democratic state of a willing allegiance of free people. Leaders must assert moral authority, calm passions, restore sanity and ensure social harmony.

Leadership is about doing what is right. It is about shaping the popular mood and not being led by it because the one merely following the crowd cannot travel beyond it. It is an inescapable lesson of history that leaders willing to sacrifice principle for power forfeit their claim to democratic leadership. Diminished leaders, we know, erode democracy while the taller ones define it. Winning elections is important but who wins if justice fails, is the question we must repeatedly ask ourselves. Indeed, democratic politics must defer to demands of justice as an index of responsive democracy and the government's badge of moral authority over its constituents.

The quality of democracy is also reflected in how the ruling dispensations treat their political opponents. In recent years, the nation has witnessed the silencing of political adversaries through coercive processes of the criminal justice system, thereby obliterating the substantive distinction between lawful prosecution and political persecution. The Opposition in Punjab alleges likewise, albeit without evidence thus far. A reminder from history and experience in Punjab tells us that political high-handedness, howsoever camouflaged, invariably rebounds. We must learn from history to disprove the despondent conclusion of Alexis De Tocqueville that man is wandering in obscurity “as the past has ceased to throw light upon the future”. Abuse of power is a ground for questioning the right to it. And we know that waters close with astonishing speed over the political careers of those drunk on power. Narrow political impulses and transient passions cannot trench upon the sacrosanct constitutional principles that provide an enduring edifice of the nation, the foremost being the citizens' right to justice according to procedures established by law.

Recent events in Punjab and elsewhere seen in their historical context impel us to revisit our politics and priorities so that social accord and communal harmony are not sacrificed at the altar of individual ambitions and vanities. Let us forget, the arrogance of power does not sit well with the idea of justice. Also, little minds and leadership go ill together. Marrying power to justice remains a perennial challenge of aspiring and evolving democracies. To recall the celebrated American judge, Justice Benjamin Cardozo, “the process of justice is never finished but reproduces itself generation after generation”.

A progressive vision of our collective future anchored in the harmonious coexistence of all our people and untarnished by narrow partisan politics should define the distinction of our democracy. In an era of democratic decline, we must strive for robust “institutional predicates of democracy” — the integrity of constitutional institutions, that allow democratic engagement without fear, as a practised reality. And it must be our burden to ensure that law is not wielded as a “partisan tool” in a distortion of its role as guarantor of social and political stability.

The writer is a former Union law minister. Views expressed are personal



KP KANNAN

Rail project in question

Wider discussion on feasibility and impact of Kerala's SilverLine system is needed

SILVERLINE, THE INDEPENDENT railway system for Kerala, proposed to be constructed and operated by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation Ltd (K-Rail), is the single biggest development project in the state's history. Its construction will cut across 11 of Kerala's 14 districts, covering a distance of about 600 km, from north to south.

Given its massive size, geographical coverage and the likely social and environmental impacts, the publication of its techno-economic feasibility reports should have preceded the state government's decision to proceed with the project. Even at this stage, it is not too late. I would, therefore, urge the chief minister to immediately release the techno-economic feasibility reports to enable wider discussion.

Subjecting this project proposal to a discussion in the Kerala legislative assembly as well as in the public sphere is not only in keeping with the spirit of democratic governance but would also set a precedent. On the basis of such discussions, the government of Kerala will be in a position to take an appropriate decision. Once a project is found to be techno-economically feasible, it is important to follow up with social as well as environmental impact studies.

Public discussions have so far raised several questions and pointed to fears and anxieties that must be removed. Protests have also taken place across the state. It is, therefore, highly desirable to freeze the government of Kerala's decision and wait till the

feasibility reports are published and public opinions and expert comments are heard.

Some questions that we need to ask collectively are: Is this project the top priority in the attempt to build a New Kerala? Given the devastating floods of 2018 and 2019, as well as the continuing climate-related adverse events and the Covid-19 pandemic, shouldn't our efforts, energy and resources be primarily directed to environmental restoration and strengthening the natural capital (land, water and other bioresources) and the creation of a strong public health-care system? Given the perilous nature of Kerala's public finance system, shouldn't the government's top priority be to enhance tax collection efficiency, instead of increasing the public debt burden that will, in all likelihood, constrain future developmental and non-developmental expenditure?

There are also some issues in planning for the development of the transport system.

We have five modes of transportation now: Road, rail, air, inland waterways and sea-based coastal transport. There is, however, a disproportionate dependence on the road system. Despite having the highest road density among all the states, the poor condition of Kerala's roads calls for urgent attention. The state's water transport system is still underdeveloped and the once-active inland waterway transport system has steadily deteriorated (although efforts are underway to repair and rebuild parts of the inland waterways). It is, therefore, in the

fitness of things, especially from a development planning perspective, to take stock of the existing state of Kerala's transportation system, point out its shortcomings, find ways to address them and seek a balance among the five modes. I would, therefore, appeal to the chief minister to come out with a white paper on the state of the transportation system for wider discussion. The preparation and discussion on such a document could be completed within the next six months or so.

Many experts, as well as laypersons, have raised important questions about the K-Rail project. India's technological and managerial strength lies in its vast broad-gauge-based railway network that has a 160-year-old history. By opting for a different technological system — the standard gauge — are we not importing and planting an alien technology whose installation, operation and management will be entirely controlled by foreign corporate entities?

India has already demonstrated the feasibility of manufacturing and operating a new high-speed railway train system called Train 18 (Vande Bharat Express) that is being expanded to cover several routes. Shouldn't Kerala demand its due share of this new railway train system?

Given the projected ticket prices of SilverLine, the only competition will be with airfares or first-class train fares. However, going by Kerala's experience in implementing public projects in irrigation, electricity

generation and roads and bridges, I fear the cost of the project will go up several times. Some of the irrigation projects are still in the construction mode even after spending several times the initial cost estimate for 30 to 40 years.

Is the estimate of 80,000 people travelling per day a realistic one? It is important to know such crucial details from the feasibility reports.

I have not raised issues relating to social and environmental impacts. However, I feel they deserve to be studied in detail by independent experts. For example, how serious will the impact be on the natural flow of water courses and land masses that come in the way of the project? Given the massive nature of the construction, the demand for natural resources (such as granite, sand and soil) and manufactured high-carbon footprint materials (such as steel and cement) will be so enormous that they might trigger environmental adversities with long-term social and economic consequences. The project might also trigger a price rise for these resources that could, in all likelihood, upset the initial cost calculations besides adversely affecting the construction industry.

The writer is a development economist and an Honorary Fellow and former director of the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum. He was a member of the erstwhile National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHASM DEEPENS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Insecure state' (IE, January 12). The new counterinsurgency measures in Kashmir will have the effect of targeting thousands of people suspected of having aided terrorism in any non-violent manner, and will only deepen the chasm between the administration and the people. These measures, not being in the nature of armed action, will not be headline-grabbing, and will divert attention away from the problems of the erstwhile state, which will continue to fester. Attempts to force a solution to the Kashmir problem are not likely to work, as recent evidence shows. Its complexity requires discussions with all parties concerned and a willingness to make compromises if required.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

HARSH SYSTEM

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'After the assault' (IE, January 11). A number of special provisions have been incorporated in the POCSO Act, 2021 such as Section 39 and 43, which empower the state government to take assistance from the experts in the field and impart training on the matters relating to the implementation of the provisions of the Act. Despite such provisions, if cases like the one described by the author of a doctor casually remarking that an assault survivor is “too weak for abortion”, there is not

just a lack but a complete failure of the machinery put in place and of proper usage of the enabling provisions to the benefit of the victim. There can be no better example of the pursuit of justice as a burden, when the victim is harmed by both lawbreakers and law-makers.

Aerika Singh, Chandigarh

BURNING QUESTION

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Stalling PM's cavalcade' (IE, January 10). The real issue is why the SPG let the PM be a stationary target for more than 15 minutes, instead of immediately turning his cavalcade around and retreating (as was done later). Wasn't there a contingency plan? Surely, that is the elephant in the room.

VA Iyengar, Delhi

HOPE IN TRAGEDY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A small hope' (IE, January 11). The baby, Sohail Ahmadi, was just two months old when he went missing on August 19 as thousands of people rushed to leave Afghanistan as it fell to the Taliban. After more than seven weeks of negotiations and pleas, the child was back to his jubilant grandfather and other relatives in Kabul. The case highlights the plight of many parents separated from their children during the hasty evacuation effort and withdrawal of US forces.

SS Paul, Nadia

TOPOF THE WORLD



David Sassoli. Reuters

EUROPE

European Parliament chief Sassoli dies

Brussels: European Parliament president David Sassoli, an Italian socialist and former journalist, died early on Tuesday in hospital in Italy, his spokesperson said. He was 65. He had been president of the 705-seat parliament since July 2019 and his term in the predominantly ceremonial role had been due to end this month. Maltese lawmaker Roberta Metsola, from the conservative European People's Party (EPP), is widely expected to succeed him. "Sassoli was a symbol of balance, humanity and generosity. These qualities have always been recognised by all his colleagues, from every political quarter and every European country," said Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi. **REUTERS**

NEPAL

People defy curbs to pay homage to late King

Kathmandu: Hundreds of people turned up to pay homage to late King Prithvi Narayan Shah on his 300th birth anniversary on Tuesday. Led by Gyanendra Shah, the last monarch and 10th descendant of the dynasty, people defied restrictions imposed by the administration to assemble and garland the life-size statue of the "National Hero", who unified small kingdoms and fiefs to build a united Nepal during his tenure. Even President Bidhya Devi Bhandari chose to honour the late King. Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba or any of his predecessors however, chose not to attend the function. **ENS**

TALIBAN

Govt frees popular Afghan professor

Kabul: The Taliban has released a popular university professor and outspoken critic of successive Afghan governments who was arrested over the weekend, a family member said on Tuesday. Hasina Jalal, Faizullah Jalal's daughter, said her father was freed from Taliban custody. The group had accused him of "nonsense remarks on social media, which were provoking people against the government and playing with people's dignity". Jalal had been detained Sunday by the Taliban's intelligence arm. **AP**



People look at the city hall building in the central square blocked by Kazakhstan troops and police in Almaty. AP

Russian-led troops to start leaving in 2 days, says Kazakh President

DASHA LITVINOVA
MOSCOW, JANUARY 11

THE PRESIDENT of Kazakhstan announced Tuesday that a Russia-led security alliance will start pulling out its troops from the country in two days after completing its mission.

The mostly Russian troops were deployed to Kazakhstan last week by the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a military alliance of six former Soviet states, at the president's request amid the worst public unrest the former Soviet nation has faced since gaining independence 30 years ago.

Protests over soaring fuel prices erupted in the oil and gas-rich Central Asian nation of 19 million on January 2 and quickly spread across the country, with political slogans reflecting wider discontent over the authoritarian government. Over the next few days, the demonstrations turned extremely violent, with dozens of civilians and law enforcement officers killed.

In Almaty, Kazakhstan's former capital and largest city, protesters set government buildings on fire and briefly seized the airport. By the weekend, the unrest has been largely quelled.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has blamed the unrest on foreign-backed "terrorists" and insisted that his request for help to the CSTO was justified.

"When this decision was being made, we could have completely lost control over Almaty, which was being torn apart by terrorists. Had we lost Almaty, we would have lost the capital and the entire country," Tokayev told Kazakhstan's parliament Tuesday.

The president said that the CSTO has largely completed its mission in the country and will start withdrawing its troops in two days — a process that will take no longer than 10 days.

Tokayev also appointed a new prime minister, Alikhan Smailov, on Tuesday. Kazakhstan's Interior Ministry on Tuesday reported that a total of 9,900 people were detained in the country over the unrest. **AP**

Russia says not optimistic on US talks, won't let them drag on

REUTERS
MOSCOW, JANUARY 11

RUSSIA STAGED live-fire exercises with troops and tanks near the Ukrainian border on Tuesday while sounding a downbeat note over the prospects for talks with the United States that Washington hopes will remove the possible threat of an invasion of Ukraine.

A day after the US side urged Russia at talks in Geneva to pull back an estimated 100,000 troops from near the border, the defence ministry said about 3,000 servicemen had started combat training including mock battles in four regions of southwestern Russia.

The drills suggested that the Kremlin has no intention of easing the military pressure that has brought the US to the negotiating table, where Moscow has presented demands for sweeping security guarantees from the West.

Washington has said it cannot accept these demands, although it is willing to engage on other aspects of Russia's proposals by discussing missile deployments or limits on the size of military exercises.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday said Ukraine is ready to take the necessary decision to end the war in its eastern Donbass region at a new summit of the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany, Ukrainian. "It is time to agree on an end to the conflict, and we are ready for the necessary decisions during a new summit of the leaders of the four countries," Zelenskyy said. Zelenskyy's chief of staff Andriy Yermak said Ukraine wanted to agree on measures such as implementing a ceasefire and more prisoner swaps.

Biden will endorse changing Senate rules to pass voting rights legislation

KATIE ROGERS
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 11

PRESIDENT JOE Biden will endorse changing Senate rules to pass new voting rights protections during a speech in Atlanta on Tuesday, the most significant step he will have taken to pressure lawmakers to act on an issue he has called the biggest test of America's democracy since the Civil War.

Biden will not go so far as to call for full-scale elimination of the filibuster, a Senate tradition that allows the minority party to kill legislation that fails to garner 60 votes,



US President Joe Biden

according to a administration official who previewed the speech. But Biden will say he supports a filibuster "carve-out" in the case of voting rights, the official said.

Citing "repeated obstruction" by Republicans, Biden will endorse changing the Senate rules, the official said. The President will contend that the filibuster has protected "extreme attacks on the most basic constitutional right."

"This is one of those defining moments," Biden told reporters on Tuesday, before departing for Georgia. "People are going to be judged, where were they before and where were they after the vote. History is going to judge this. And so the risk is making sure people understand just how important this is."

Biden's visit to Georgia is intended to invigorate a Democratic-led effort to pass new voting rights protections in the 50-50 Senate in the coming days, although chances are slim that he will be able to rally the necessary votes. **NYT**

Trump lawyers cite immunity, want January 6 lawsuits tossed

ASHRAF KHALIL
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 11

ATTORNEYS FOR former President Donald Trump and his associates argued on Monday that incendiary statements by Trump and others last Jan. 6 prior to the Capitol riot were protected speech and in line with their official duties.

In response to civil suits running parallel to Congress' own January 6 inquiry, Trump's lawyers claimed he was acting within his official rights and had no intention to spark violence when he called on thousands of supporters to "march to the Capitol" and "fight like hell" to

disrupt the Senate's certification of the 2020 election results.

"There has never been an example of someone successfully being able to sue a President for something that happened during his term of office," said Trump lawyer Jesse Binnall. "That absolute immunity of the presidency is very important."

The five-hour hearing in Washington before US District Judge Amit Mehta concerned Trump's attempts to have the civil suits dismissed. Democratic Rep. Eric Swalwell of California brought one of the suits against Trump charging responsibility for the violent breach of the Capitol building by Trump supporters. **AP**

Amid stalled talks, North Korea fires possible missile into sea

KIM TONG-HYUNG
SEOUL, JANUARY 11

NORTH KOREA on Tuesday fired what appeared to be a ballistic missile into its eastern sea, its second launch in a week, following leader Kim Jong Un's calls to expand its nuclear weapons program in defiance of international opposition.

The launches follow a series of weapons tests in 2021 that underscored how North Korea is continuing to expand its military capabilities during a self-imposed lockdown and deadlocked nuclear talks with the US.

EXPLAINED
US, allies urge Kim to abandon nukes, missiles

THE US and five allies urged North Korea to abandon its prohibited nuclear and ballistic missile programmes and called on UNSC to oppose Pyongyang's "ongoing, destabilising actions," including missile launches. They condemned the Jan. 5 missile launch, calling it "a clear violation of UNSC resolutions."



Members of the surgical team show the pig heart for transplant into patient David Bennett in Baltimore. AP

scientific director of the Maryland university's animal-to-human transplant programme.

But prior attempts at such transplants — or xenotransplantation — have failed, largely be-

MEANWHILE,

PARTHENON MARBLE FRAGMENT RETURNS TO GREECE

A marble fragment of the Parthenon temple has been returned to Athens from a museum in Sicily, a move officials hope will advance efforts to have the British Museum send back ancient sculptures from Greece's most renowned ancient landmark. Athens' Acropolis Museum presented the "Fagan fragment" marble fragment showing the foot of the seated ancient Greek goddess Artemis brought home from the Antonio Salinas Archaeological Museum in Palermo.



Over half of Europe could be infected in next 2 months: WHO

West-to-east tidal wave sweeping across region: Official

THE NEW YORK TIMES
JANUARY 11

MORE THAN half of people in Europe could be infected with the coronavirus in the next six to eight weeks, World Health Organization warned on Tuesday, amid "a new west-to-east tidal wave sweeping across the region."

"The region saw over seven million cases of Covid-19 in the first week of 2022, more than doubling over a two-week period," Hans Kluge, the agency's regional director for Europe, said at a news conference.

In a remarkable demonstration of how fast the virus is spreading, he said that 26 countries in the European region were reporting that over 1 per cent of their populations were catching the virus every week.

Although the WHO has cautioned for months that booster shots could worsen vaccine equity around the world, Dr Kluge said that they would play an essential role in protecting the most vulnerable people from



Chicago schools will reopen on Wednesday after the teachers' union and the city struck a deal over Covid safeguards. AP

severe disease and should also be used to protect health workers and other essential employees, including teachers.

He said that a wave of infection spreading from west to east was starting to hit nations with lower vaccination rates in the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

Despite the widespread level of infection, Dr Kluge said coronavirus vaccines remained remarkably effective at preventing severe illness and death. "For countries not yet hit with the Omicron surge, there is a closing window to act now and plan for contingencies," he said.

One of the central struggles of governments across Europe has

been trying to keep schools open, and Dr Kluge described those efforts as essential. "The numbers of infected people are going to be so high in many places that schools in many countries are going to be unable to keep all classes open" because of illness and staff shortages, he added.

While much of the public discussion has revolved around whether this was the moment when governments should shift policies and restrictions to treat the coronavirus as an endemic disease — removing most restrictions and allowing people to manage risk in a way similar to the way they do with influenza — the WHO said it was too early to call this virus endemic.

US Covid hospitalisations surpass last winter's peak

THE NEW YORK TIMES
JANUARY 11

THE NUMBER of Americans hospitalised with Covid-19 has surpassed last winter's peak, underscoring the severity of the threat the virus continues to pose as the contagious Omicron variant tears through the United States.

As of Sunday, 142,388 people with the virus were hospitalised nationwide, according to data from the US Department of Health and Human Services, surpassing the peak of 142,315 reported on January 14 of last year. The seven-day average of daily hospitalisations was 132,086, an increase of 83 per cent from two weeks ago.

The Omicron wave has overwhelmed hospitals and depleted staffs that were already worn out by the Delta variant. It has been driven in large part by people



As of Sunday, 142,388 people with the virus were hospitalised across US. Reuters

younger than 60. Among people older than 60, daily admissions are still lower than last winter.

The hospitalisation totals also include people who test positive for the virus incidentally after being admitted for conditions unrelated to Covid-19.

As cases soared over the past few weeks to an average of over 737,000 per day, far higher than last winter's peak, public health

officials have argued that case-loads were of limited significance because Omicron is less virulent than Delta and other variants, and that vaccines, and especially boosters, offered protection against severe illness.

But the surge's sheer volume has overwhelmed hospitals across the country. And outside cities like New York, where Omicron hit early and has pushed hospitals to the brink, it is unlikely to have peaked.

President Joe Biden on Tuesday, meanwhile, expressed confidence the US was on the right track in the fight against the pandemic, even as the country grapples with a surge in infections.

White House officials have said the situation is different from previous stages of the pandemic because more people are getting protection from vaccinations and booster shots.

Robert Durst, real estate scion convicted as killer, dies at 78

ROBERT D MCFADDEN
JANUARY 11

Robert A Durst, the scion of a New York real estate dynasty whose life dissolved in a calamity of suspicions over the unsolved disappearance of his first wife, the execution-style murder of a longtime confidante and the killing and dismemberment of an elderly neighbour, died early Monday as a prisoner in Stockton, Calif. He was 78.

His lawyer Chip Lewis confirmed his death, at the San Joaquin General Hospital, where Durst had been taken for testing. He then went into cardiac arrest



Robert A Durst

and could not be revived, Lewis said. Durst had been serving a life sentence at the California Health Care Facility in the killing of his confidante Susan Berman.

He was convicted of the murder last September and shortly afterward tested Covid positive and was briefly put on a ventilator. Lewis said the virus had worsened a host of existing medical problems. In a story made for supermarket tabloids, Durst was a cross-dressing fugitive from justice with \$100 million in assets. **NYT**

IT MARKS A STEP IN THE DECADES-LONG QUEST TO USE ANIMAL ORGANS FOR LIFE-SAVING TRANSPLANTS

In a first, US surgeons transplant pig heart into 57-year-old patient

CARLA K JOHNSON
JANUARY 11

IN A medical first, doctors transplanted a pig heart into a patient in a last-ditch effort to save his life and a Maryland hospital said Monday that he's doing well three days after the highly experimental surgery.

While it's too soon to know if the operation really will work, it marks a step in the decades-long quest to one day use animal organs for life-saving transplants. Doctors at the University of Maryland Medical Center say the transplant showed that a heart from a ge-

netically modified animal can function in the human body without immediate rejection.

The patient, David Bennett, a 57-year-old Maryland handyman, knew there was no guarantee the experiment would work but he was dying, ineligible for a human heart transplant and had no other option, his son told *The Associated Press*.

"It was either die or do this transplant. I want to live. I know it's a shot in the dark, but it's my last choice," Bennett said a day before the surgery, according to a statement provided by the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

On Monday, Bennett was breathing on his own while still

connected to a heart-lung machine to help his new heart. The next few weeks will be critical as Bennett recovers from the surgery and doctors carefully monitor how his heart is faring.

There's a huge shortage of human organs donated for transplant, driving scientists to try to figure out how to use animal organs instead. Last year, there were just over 3,800 heart transplants in the US, a record number, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, which oversees the nation's transplant system.

"If this works, there will be an endless supply of these organs for patients who are suffering," said Dr Muhammad Mohiuddin,

cause patients' bodies rapidly rejected the animal organ. Notably, in 1984, Baby Fae, a dying infant, lived 21 days with a baboon heart.

The difference this time: The Maryland surgeons used a heart from a pig that had undergone gene-editing to remove a sugar in its cells that's responsible for that hyper-fast organ rejection. Several biotech companies are developing pig organs for human transplant; the one used for Friday's operation came from Revivacor, a subsidiary of United Therapeutics.

"I think you can characterise it as a watershed event," Dr David Klassen, UNOS' chief medical officer, said of the Maryland transplant. Still, Klassen cautioned that

it's only a first tentative step into exploring whether this time around, xenotransplantation might finally work.

The Food and Drug Administration, which oversees such experiments, allowed the surgery under what's called a "compassionate use" emergency authorisation, available when a patient with a life-threatening condition has no other options.

It will be crucial to share the data gathered from this transplant before extending it to more patients, said Karen Maschke, a research scholar at the Hastings Center, who is helping develop ethics and policy recommendations for the first clinical trials un-

der a grant from the National Institutes of Health. "Rushing into animal-to-human transplants without this information would not be advisable," Maschke said.

Over the years, scientists have turned from primates to pigs, tinkering with their genes.

The Maryland transplant takes their experiment to the next level, said Dr Robert Montgomery, who led that work at NYU Langone Health. "This is a truly remarkable breakthrough," he said. "As a heart transplant recipient, myself with a genetic heart disorder, I am thrilled by this news and the hope it gives to my family and other patients who will eventually be saved by this breakthrough." **AP**

E-Tender Notice No. - 04 For 2021-22
Government Of Maharashtra
Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation, Thane
South Konkan Irrigation Circle, Oros
Minor Irrigation Division, Oros-Sindhudurgnagari
Main Portal : <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

ONLINE electronic bids in B-1 Form for belowmentioned work is invited by the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Oros-Sindhudurgnagari from eligible and capable Tender Documents will be available on the web site <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. Main Tender Documents are available for online bid preparation & submission on web site from Dt. 12.01.2022 To Dt. 28.01.2022 & Opening bid from Dt. 31.01.2022. Right to reject any or all tenders is reserved by the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Oros-Sindhudurgnagari. Any conditional tender will be summarily rejected.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost Rs.	Earnest Money Rs.	Time Limit for Completion	Cost of blank tender form Rs.	Class of Contractor
1	Repairing And Renovation of Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Oros And Office of the Superintending Engineer, S.K.I.P.C., Oros.	154,30,598/-	1,50,000/-	12 Months	2,360/-	N.A.

The information regarding Online electronic bids are below :


- <https://www.mahatenders.gov.in> (If any change in tender notice will be intimated on above web site).
- Copy to notice board in the office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Oros-Sindhudurgnagari.
- GR dated 30.11.2018 of WRD and its correction dated 12.12.2018, Dt. 13.09.2019, Dt. 23.06.2020 will be follow fully.
- Contact Details :** Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Oros-Sindhudurgnagari Main Administrative Building, 'C' Wing, 2nd Floor, Block No. 312, Tal.- Kudal, Dist.- Sindhudurg, PIN Code-416812. E-mail Address : cemido@gmail.com cemid.sndhurg@wrd.maharashtra.gov.in Telephone No. : 02362-228717
- The department is not liable for any expenditure incurred by the bidder to participate in the tender process. Right to reject any or all the bids/ tender is reserved by tender accepting authority.


Geo-Tagging :

- A) As per Govt. of Maharashtra Water Resources Department G.R. dt. 08.04.2021
- As per the G.R. it is Mandatory for the bidder to Visit the work Site, in order to know the Condition of the site, before bidding for the tender.
 - 5 (Five) working days will be specified for the Site visit Dt. 19.01.2022 to Dt. 25.01.2022 (Excluding Holidays). Refer to Tender Notice for the same.
 - Geo Tagging is to be done by contractor or his authorised representative only. An "Authority Letter" (Form I) regarding this should be submitted at the time of site visit.
 - Duly filled Authority letter should be dropped in the "Drop Box" set up for this purpose.
 - A photo copy of I.D. Card of Contractor or his authorised representative should submitted to officer receiving the tender or his representative.

Above Geo Tagging must be submitted in envelope No. 1 otherwise Tender will be rejected. Geo Tagging Location Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Oros Sindhudurgnagari.

No. MIDO/AB-1/45/2022 Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, (M. S. Kadam)
Oros-Sindhudurgnagari. Executive Engineer
Date : 06.01.2022 Minor Irrigation Division, Oros-Sindhudurgnahari.
DGIPR/2021-2022/3625

**Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (PuVVNL)**
(A subsidiary of UP Power Corporation limited) **Purvanchal Vidyut Bhavan, Vidyut Nagar, P.O.- D.L.W., Varanasi - 221004, Website: <http://www.etender.up.nic.in> Ref: No. 99/PuVVNL(V)/MM-I Date: 11.01.2022 Tender Date Extension** The date of submission & opening of e-tender no. EAV-31/2021-22 is here by extended up to 27.01.2022 (15.00 PM) & 28.01.2022 (15.00 PM) respectively. Further details can be seen at website www.etender.up.nic.in. Other terms and conditions shall remain same. Sd/-(Rajesh Kumar) Superintending Engineer (MM-I) "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" पत्रांक ९९ /पू.वि.दि.नि.लि. (वा.)/सा.प्र.-1//अअ/विज्ञापन दिनांक 11.01.2022

**The Tata Power Company Limited**
Registered Office : Bombay House, 24, Horni Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001, Tel: 91 22 6665 8282 Fax: 91 22 6665 8801 CN: L28320MH1919PLC000567 Email : info@tatapower.com Website: www.tatapower.com

NOTICE OF RECORD DATE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 that:

A. Saturday, 5th February 2022 has been fixed as the Record Date for the purpose of payment of annual interest to the holders of:

- 9% Series I Unsecured Non-Convertible Redeemable Taxable Listed Rated Securities in the form of Non-Convertible Debentures (ISIN: INE245A08141);
- 8.84% Series III Unsecured Non-Convertible Redeemable Taxable Listed Rated Securities in the form of Non-Convertible Debentures (ISIN: INE245A08166), both due on 21st February 2022.

B. Tuesday, 8th February 2022 has been fixed as the Record Date for the purpose of payment of annual interest to the holders of:


- 6.18% Series I Unsecured Redeemable Rated Listed Taxable Non-Convertible Securities in the form of Non-Convertible Debentures (ISIN: INE245A08208);
- 7.05% Series II Unsecured Redeemable Rated Listed Taxable Non-Convertible Securities in the form of Non-Convertible Debentures (ISIN: INE245A08216), both due on 23rd February 2022.

For The Tata Power Company Limited
H. M. Mistry
Company Secretary (FCS: 3606)

Place : Mumbai
Dated : 11th January 2022

"IMPORTANT"

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**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**

E-Tender Notice No. TMC/CPDH/PRYJ/21-22/09 Date: 07.01.2022

E-Tender Notice

CWM/CPDH/North Central Railway/Prayagraj for and on behalf of the President of India, invites "Open" E- Tender on prescribed form for the following work up to 15:00 Hrs. on 10.02.2022. The details of the Tender are as under:-

Tender No.	TMC-CPDH-PRYJ- 11-21-22
Name of work	Repairing of General Mechanical Items (Pneumatic Hose & components, Gear Boxes etc.) for POH of Machines as per schedules of Works
Approx. Cost (Rs)	₹7673793.15
Completion Period	24 Month
Date of Opening of tender	10.02.2022
EMD	₹ 153500.00
Tender Document cost	₹ 5000.00
Similar Nature of Work	Any type of Pneumatic repair works or mechanical repair work on Track Machines.

Note:-1.The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.irops.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form / letter had if attached by vendors shall be straightaway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. The tenders shall submit a notarized affidavit on an non judicial stamp paper of Rs. 100/- as given in tender document in standard format, without which their tender will not be considered and may be rejected. 5. The supplier/contractor of goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. 6. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 7. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 8. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 9. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 10. Tender online can be submitted upto to 15:00 hrs. on 10.02.2022.

25/2022 V
f North Central Railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

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
1.	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MANESAR	CONSTRUCTION/ DEVELOPMENT OF PARK IN VILLAGE SEHRAVAN IN MC MANESAR	10.01.2022 25.01.2022	49.99 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
6833/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in					

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION NCT OF DELHI**
OLD HINDU COLLEGE BLDG., NIGAM BHAWAN KASHMERE GATE, DELHI
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

State Election Commission invites online tender through Delhi Government e-procurement portal for Supply of Polling Kit Material/Stationary/Store and Computer consumable Items for General Elections to three Municipal Corporation of Delhi-2022. The details are as under, -

Last date and time of Tender submission 24.01.2022 1.00 P.M.
Opening of Technical Bid date and time 24.01. 2022 3.00 P.M.
Financial Bid will be opened after scrutiny of documents of Technical Bids submitted by the firms. Detailed NIT along with Terms & Conditions, specifications can be downloaded from the website: <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
For further detail vendors may visit help desk at 6th Floor, C-Wing, Vikas Bhavan-II (Near Metcalfe House), Civil Lines, Delhi-110054.
Phone 011-23813523 (Monday-Friday, 09:30 A.M to 06:00 P M)
Tender ID: 2022_STELC_214462_1

Sd/-
HEAD OF OFFICE

DIP/Shabdarth/0570/21-22

**भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.**
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
(A Navratna Company)

NSIC New MDBP Building, 2nd Floor, Okhla Ind. Estate (Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station), New Delhi-110020

TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode Only)
Online E-Bids are invited for PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF SURVEY OF CONTAINERS/CARGO AT PPT SUKHPUR (SCPL), Gujarat for 04 years through e-tendering mode.

Tender No.	CON/Area 2/SCLS/Survey/2021
Name of Work	PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF SURVEY OF CONTAINERS/ CARGO AT PPT SUKHPUR (SCPL)
Estimated Cost	Rs.1,67,19,939/- (Inclusive of GST)
Period of the contract	Four (4) years
Earnest Money Deposit*	Rs.83,600/- (Inclusive of GST)
Cost of Document*	Rs.1,000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment
Tender Processing Fee*	Rs.4,720/- inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) through e-payment
Date of Sale (On Line)	From 12.01.2022 at 15:00 hrs. to 25.01.2022 (upto14:00 hrs.)
Last Date & Time of submission	On 25.01.2022 upto 17:00 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening	On 27.01.2022 at 15:00 Hrs.

* Through e-Payment For eligibility criteria and other details please log on to www.concorindia.com or eprocure.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL. Bidders are requested to visit the websites regularly. CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. For complete details log on to www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL. Executive Director/Area-2

CORRIGENDUM

A walk in Interview is advertised for Engagement of contract Medical Practitioners/Specialist on contract basis in Divisional Railway Hospital/NR/DLI for a period of 03 months wherein fixed monthly remuneration was shown as ₹1,25,000/- for GDMO and ₹1,40,000/- for specialist. The said rates has erroneously been indicated and the correct rates are ₹75,000/- and ₹95,000/- for GDMO & Specialist respectively.

Visit RailMadad website www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad app.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 Please join us on    **NORTHERN RAILWAY** Your Convenience-Our Concern 63/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work:

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

1	Name of work with its location	1. Supply of potable drinking water through tankers at L-xings and colonies under ADEN/ROK. (NIT 30-W/IV-21-22)
2	Approx. cost of work	(1) Rs. 35,43,602.43
3	Earnest money	Rs. 70,900.00
4	Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Bidding Start date for work no. Up to 15:00 hrs. on 21.01.2022 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs. on 04.02.2022
5	Website particulars, published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.irops.gov.in

No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/NIT 30/W/IV/21-22 Date: 10.01.2022 56/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 03/2021-22 Date: 10.01.2022

Sr. Divisional Material Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur-152001 for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S.N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Estimate Value	Closing Time
1.	94225030	Design Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 11 KV /3-Phase, 25 KV, Single Phase, 2000 KVA Traction Transformer as per attached specification and special conditions	01 No.	45,55,500/-	03.02.2022

NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.irops.gov.in for details. 2.No Manual offer will be entertained.

57/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)
Email id: cemah-phe-cg@nic.in Telephone:- 07723-223731

निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना

इस कार्यालय का निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक 336 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 87263), 409 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88178), 411 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88180), 404 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88170) 397 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88159) 406 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88175) 420 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88191)जी. नं. 65886, 419 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 87265) 401 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88165) 405 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88174) जी.नं. 65766 को एकत्र निविदा हो जाने के कारण निरस्त किया जाता है। शीघ्र ही पुनः निविदा आमंत्रण की कार्यवाही की जावगी।

हस्ता/-
कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)

66645

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum No. 01
NIT No.: 230-TRS-GZB-2021-22-02 dt. 03.01.2022

Name of Work: "Hiring of Truck model Tata-407 or similar vehicle like Mahindra Road king or canter or Ishar for 24 months".

The above mentioned NIT No. 230-TRS-GZB-2021-22-02 dt. 03.01.2022 was published on 04.01.2022 in the leading News paper, should be treated as postpone and the above tender will not open on 27.01.2022.

No.: 230-TRS-GZB-2021-22-02 Dated: 10.01.2022 55/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

**महाराणा प्रताप बागवानी विश्वविद्यालय, करनाल (हरियाणा)-132001**
MAHARANA PRATAP HORTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, KARNAL (HARYANA)-132001
(A State University Established vide Haryana Act No. 32 of 1961)
CORRIGENDUM OF ADVT. NO. 04/2021

It is hereby notified that the University has advertised various teaching posts against the Advt. No. 04/2021. Now, the last date of receipt of applications for said posts is extended upto **07.02.2022 at 05.00 PM**. The candidates are also requested to visit University website, www.mhu.ac.in regularly for update/corrigendum if any with respect to this advertisement.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

6811/HRY

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


TENDER NOTICE NO: D-32/2021-22

Tenders are invited online from reputed Manufacturers / formulator/ direct importers for Purchase of **Dolutegravir 50mg Tablet On quantity contract basis** and details of specification, quantity is available on, <http://gmscl.gujarat.gov.in> All tender documents can be downloaded free on the website: <http://gmscl.nprocure.com> Interested bidders are request-ed ro submit the tender through e-tender process.

Duration of downloading of tender document (online):- 11/01/2022 to 20/01/2022 up to 18.00 Hrs.
Last date for Submission (online): 20/01/2022 up to 18-00 HRS
Last date for submission of physical document: 21/01/2022 upto12:00 HRS
Opening of Teennical Bid-Date (online) 21/01/2022 At 13-00 HRS.

INF/1956/21-22 MANAGING DIRECTOR

APEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male **Age** : Approx. 45 years, **Height** : 165cm approx., **Complexion** : Fair, **Build** : Normal, **Face** : Oval, wearing black colour trouser, sky blue shirt/sweater, was found dead on 03.01.2022 at Kamal T-point, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 24A dated 03.01.2022 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23691106, 8750870133

DP/1872/N/22

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is here by informed that this girl **Namely:** Chandni, **D/o** Vinod Kumar, **R/o** H. No. 170, Rithala Village, Delhi, **Age:** 22 Years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Grey Colour Pant & Sweater and Brown Colour Shawl and Red Color Slippers in feet, has been missing since 10.12.2021 from the area of PS Budh Vihar, Delhi.


In this regard a DD No. 67-A dated 10.12.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far.

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

SHO
PS. Budh Vihar, Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/1247/RD/2021

APEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION




General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Unknown S/o Unknown** R/o **Unknown** Age about 48 years, Height 5'6", Complexion Wheatish, Long Face, Thin Built, Wearing Blue colour T-shirt, grey colour pant, Adidas mungliya colour jacket and bare footed was found dead at Jama Masjid Hathi Khana Near Balaji Mandir, Jama Masjid, Delhi on 08.01.2022. In this regard a DD No. 28-A dated 08.01.2022 has been lodged at PS Jama Masjid, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in Maulana Azad Medical Hospital Mortuary for 72 hrs. for identification.

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: Jama Masjid, Delhi
Ph. 011-23269777, 23261625

DP/1197/CD/2022

APEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Unknown S/o Unknown** R/o **Unknown** Age about 48 years, Height 5'6", Complexion Wheatish, Long Face, Thin Built, Wearing Blue colour T-shirt, grey colour pant, Adidas mungliya colour jacket and bare footed was found dead at Jama Masjid Hathi Khana Near Balaji Mandir, Jama Masjid, Delhi on 08.01.2022. In this regard a DD No. 28-A dated 08.01.2022 has been lodged at PS Jama Masjid, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in Maulana Azad Medical Hospital Mortuary for 72 hrs. for identification.

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PS: Jama Masjid, Delhi
Ph. 011-23269777, 23261625

DP/1197/CD/2022

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)
Phone No.:- 07723-223731 Email : cephe-mah-cg@nic.in

निविदा संशोधन सूचना क्र. 1

इस कार्यालय का निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक 413 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88182), 407 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88176), 403 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88169), 400 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88163) जी.नं 65766, 416 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88185) 418 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88191)जी. नं. 65886, 419 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 88193) 422 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 87604) जी.नं. 65909 में किसी भी निविदाकार के भाग न लेने के कारण से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

Bid Due Date	18 January, 2022 17:30:00 PM IST
Physical Doc Submission End Date	24 January, 2022 17:30:00 AM IST
Bid Open Date for Envelope "A" & "B" (Scheduled)	25 January, 2022 10:30:00 AM IST

निविदा की शेष नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

हस्ता/-
कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)

66646

ⓂNORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

Dy. CME/Repair for Chief Workshop Manager, N.E. Railway, Mechanical workshop, Gorakhpur, for and on behalf of President of India invites open tenders through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work :- S.No. (1), E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the work: IREPS Tender No-37-GKP-MWS-2021-22 "Comprehensive AMC of CNC ATC (Model SBCNC 60, VTL-504) Make-HMT & VTL-09 & VTL-10 Make-HYT of Wheel Shop, Qty.- 04 Nos." Estimated cost (In Rs.) : 69.54,384.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 1.39,100.00, Last date of tender submission : Date 11.02.2022 Upto 11.00 hrs., Cost of the Tender forms: 0.00, Period of Contract : 24 Month. The details of above tender are also available on Indian Railway Website www.irops.gov.in

Chief Workshop Manager, Mechanical Workshop, CPRO/Mech.- 65 N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,hitherto known as Pintoo,S/o Sh.Richpal, R/o-House.No.145, Y-Block,Mangoli Puri,North West Delhi,Delhi-110083,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aditya.

0040598978-4

I,hitherto known as Amit Gupta,S/o-Jugal Kishore Gupta,R/o-D-142,Mansarover-Garden Ramesh-Nagar,New-Delhi-110015,have changed my name and hereafter shall be known as Amyit Gupta.

0040598995-7

I,Vishal Thakur S/o Lt.Sh.Rakesh Thakur R/o-A-6,Street-no.22, Mahindra Park,Delhi-110033, inform that Rakesh Thakur and Rajesh Thakur, are the names of same and one person,i.e.-father.

0040598983-11

I,Varsha Rani D/o,Hari Chand Gulati W/o,Nirmal Parkash Kukreja R/o-40-A, DG-2, Vikasपुरी, Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Varsha Rani Kukreja.

0040598995-10

I,Vipin Vagish S/O Suresh Chand Vagish R/O H.No.C-39-40 Third-Floor,Block-C, Gali.No-62, Arya-Samaj Road Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-110059,have changed my name to Vipin Kumar Vagish.

0040598983-6

I,VINOD SETHI/VINOD KUMAR S/O HEMRAJ R/O GH-13, FLATNO.178,FIRST-FLOOR, PASCHIM-VIHAR,DELHI-110087. CHANGED MY NAME TO VINOD KUMAR SETHI.

0040598983-1

I,Surraiya Amir,W/o-Abdul Amir Amiro,R/o-1711, Gali Takhat Wali Suwalan, Daryaganj, Delhi-110002, have changed my name to Suraiya Amir,for all purposes.

0040598999-3

I,Sahada Begum,W/o- Zahid Ahmed,R/o-F-A 37/A, Abul-Fazal-Enclave-2, Shaheen Bagh,Jamia Nagar,ND- 25,have changed my name to Sahada Begum, to Sahada Begum

0040598999-2

I,SUNITA AGGARWAL W/O MUKESH AGGARWAL,R/o A-5 SWASTHYA VIHAR DELHI-110092,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNITA AGARWAL TO SUNITA AGGARWAL.

0040598978-1

I,SHEIKH IMRAN UZ ZANMAN, S/O.MOHAMMAD SHARIF,H.NO-2344, TOP-FLOOR, Gali-Moh MADARI,ROD GRAN, FARASH-KHANA,CENTRAL-DELHI-110006.Changed my name toSHEIKH IMRAN UZ ZAMAN, Permanently.

0040598995-4

I,SEEMA DHAWAN,W/O SANJEEV DHAWAN,R/O-KH.NO.14/21, GALI NO.19,CHANDAN-VIHAR, SANT NAGAR,,DELHI-110081. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SEEMA DHAWAN,W/O-DALJIT SINGH, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040598983-4

My name Yogyata and Date-of-birth 1990, have been entered in my bank account as-per my voter card, whereas my correct name as-per my Aadhar, & Pan Card is Yogita and date-of-birth is 10.6.1988,. In the future for all purposes I Shall be known-as Yogita D/o Suresh Chandra Dixit resident of Sharifabad, Kannauj, Chhilibramau, UP.

70768383-1

It is for general information that I,Hafri Taj Mohammad,S/o Suleman,R/O-C-21/4-A,Okhla-Vihar,Jamia-Nagar,New Delhi-110025,declare that name of my father has been wrongly-written as Mohd Suleman in my Gan-Licence The actual-name of my father is Suleman, which may be amended accordingly.

0040598999-1

I,RAHIS S/O Ahmad sayeed,R/o 1/334shri Ram-Nagar near-kamam masjid Shahdara Delhi-32,inform that name of my has been wrongly-written as Mohd Rahis in my Bank account-number 601510510001765 the correct my name is Rahis.Both are the same person,for all, future purposes.

40598990-7

I,Meenu Rajak, aged about 35 years, W/o Sri Ajay Kumar Shrivras R/o Nadipar, Katra Station Road, Mauranipur Jhansi, U.P. hereby declared that I have changed my name from Meenu Rajak to Meenu Rajak Mansi and henceforth I shall be known and recognized as Meenu Rajak Mansi for all purposes.

0060087429-1

I,Mr. Sunny Kumar, Son of Shri Jai Prakash R/o House No.A-39, Gali No.3, Sharma Market, pul Pehlادpur, New Delhi-110044. Inform that in my all documents my father name is wrongly written as Jai Prakash instead of Jayprakash Narayan Pandey. Both names are of one & same person.

0040598983-1

I,Kuldeep Singh,S/o Jung Singh,R/o K-Ist-35/18,VTc, Sangam-Vihar,South,Delhi-62 have been wrongly-written my father's name Jang Singh instead of Jung Singh & mother's name Paramjeet Kaur instead of Param Jeet Kaur in my School-Leaving Certificate.

0040598997-8

I,Dharmendra Mishra S/o Sh. Ram Ujagar Mishra, current resident of 4227 Cloybourne Lane, Jacksonville, Florida-32216, USA & permanent Indian address of G-231, Sector-23, Rajnagar, Ghaziabad, UP-201002 is also known as Daniel Dharmendra Mishra belong only to Hindu religion. Both names are of one and the same person.

0040598978-8

I,Poonam Datta,D/o R.L.Datta W/o Narendar Sharan R/o-H-4/1 Krishna Nagar,Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Poonam Lao,for all purposes

0040598978-8

I,Raju V.K. S/o Gopal Bahadur Vishwakarma R/o-160-E-2, Ist-Floor, Munirka-Village, Munirka, Delhi-110067,have changed my name to Raju Vishwakarma for-all-purposes.

0040598995-9

I,ANGURI W/O RAM KUMAR R/O JANDHERA SAMASPUR, DEOBAND,SAHARANPUR,UTTA R PRADESH-247451.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANGURI DEVI.

0040598983-3

I,Rajiv Kumar Narang,S/o Mushadi Lal Narang R/o- G-112, Pushkar-Enclave, Paschim-Vihar Delhi-63,have changed my name to Rajiv Narang.

0040598978-6

I,Raj Kumar S/o Madan Lal Batra R/o Flat No.107, Mukudi Apartment, Sector-1A, Dwarka, Delhi-110045,have changed my name to Raj Kumar Batra.

0040598995-2

I,Rahisan W/O-Aas Mohd R/O-Village-Sonkh PO-Tapka,Tehsil-Nuh,Distt-Mewat,Haryana-122107,HAVE CHANGED MY Name To Rahishan,For All, Future Purposes.

40598995-5

I,Mohmood Hanif Khan,S/O Kalana Khan,R/O Ek Minara-Masjid Ashok-vihar Loni Dehaat,Ghaziabad,up-201102, have changed my name to Mohd Hanif Khan,permanently.

0040598983-10

I,Mohammad Faizan S/O Mohammad Rais R/o 579,O-Block, Sundar-Nagri, Delhi-110093,have changed my name to Mohammad Faizan.

0040598995-3

I,Manoj Jain S/o Kulbhushan Kumar Jain R/o-A-18, Upper-Ground Floor,Ashok Vihar-3, Delhi-110052,changed my name to Manoj Kumar Jain.

0040598995-8

I,MAHAVIR DAS S/O-Sh.RAM NARAYAN DASS,R/O-RZ-2/230, J-BLOCK,WEST SAGAR PUR,NANGAL RAYA,SOUTH WEST DELHI-110046, have changed my name to MAHABIR KUMAR DASS for all, future purpose.

0040598983-8

I,M SUDHASHINI, SPOUSE OF, THANARAJA MURALIDHARAN R/O,D-245, MANGALPURI VILLAGE, PALAM,NEW DELHI-110045.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROMM SUDHASHINI TO T SUDHASHINI,VIDE-AFFIDAVIT, DATED-11-JAN-2022.

0040598990-6

I,LALTA PRASAD,S/o Sh.Chandra Pal,R/o.H.No.H-208,Nanakpura, Moti-Bagh-2, New-Delhi-110021,have changed the name of my minor son,from SIDDHARTHA KUMAR MEENA to SIDDHARTH KUMAR MEENA,for all,future purposes.

0040598978-7

I,INDU CHAUDHARY,W/O ASHWANI CHAUDHARY, R/O H.NO.409, BRIJ-VIHAR COLONY, MURADNAGAR, GHAZIABAD, U.P.-201001,CHANGED my name to SONALI GUPTA.

0040598978-10

I,Faiz Mohmood Khan Mohmood,S/o Mohd.Hanif Khan,R/O-C-354 Dakshin puri Dr.Ambedkar-Nagar,sec-5 New-Delhi-110062,have changed my name to Faiz Mohd Khan, permanently.

0040598983-9

I,DEEPAK DHAWAN,S/O-SANJEEV DHAWAN,R/O.KH.NO. 14/21, GALI NO.19, CHANDAN-VIHAR, SANT-NAGAR, DELHI-110081,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DEEPAK DHAWAN, S/O-DALJIT SINGH,FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040598983-5

I,Chehak D/O Raj Kumar Batra R/o Flat No.107, Mukudi Apartment, Sector-1A, Dwarka, Delhi-110045 have changed my name to Chehak Batra.

0040598995-1

I,Ass Mohmmad S/O-Samand Khan R/O-Village-Sonkh PO-Tapka,Tehsil-Nuh, Distt-Mewat,Haryana-122107,HAVE CHANGED MY Name To Aas Mohd,For All,Future Purposes.

0040598995-6

I,Anupriya D/o Hem Kumar Sharma,R/O A31/125C-Gali No.2, Maujpur,Delhi-53, have changed my name to Anupriya Sharma, permanently

0040598978-5

I,Amarjeet Singh Nagi,S/O Surat Singh Nagi,R/O M-134,Uday-Vihar Nilothi-Extn. Delhi-110041,have changed my name to Amarjeet Singh.

0040598978-9

I,Aman Bamotra S/o Satnam Singh R/o-4/2232 Gali.No.2, Bihari Colony,Shahdara Delhi-110032,have changed my name to Aman Singh,for all purposes

0040598983-7

I,Alexander KL,S/o Late Shri G Lukose,R/O Charuvilla Puthen Veedu,Valakom PO-Kottarakkara-691532, Kerala, have changed my name to Baba Alexander,for all purposes.

0040598999-7

I, Yogesh Arya & Yogesh Kumar Arya, S/O Hari Narain Arya are same & one person, R/O 1039, Sector-29, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar 201301, Would now be known as Yogesh Arya

0040598942-1

I, Virender Sehgal S/o-Sh.Ram Nath R/o-16/140, Street No.5, Joshi Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110056 do hereby declares that in my daughter Smedha Sehgal's School Certificate myname is mentioned as V K Sehgal. The V K Sehgal and Virender Sehgal are one and the same person.

0040599003-1

I, Munna Vishkarma, S/o Siyaram Vishkarma R/O 36/96, Block-36, Trilok Puri Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Mayank Sharma.

0070768379-1

I,Subhash Chandra Malik, S/o Sukhvir Singh, R/o C6/2301, Cleo County, Sector 121, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, have changed my name to Subhash Malik.

0070768318-1

I, Siddhi Rathaur D/o Sri Kushal Pal Singh Rathaur R/o 424, Sec-14, Vasundhara Ghaziabad, (U.P)-201012 born on 10/09/2002 have changed my name from Aayushi Rathaur.

0040598941-1

I, Shikha, W/o Harsh Gupta, R/o D-1033, Gaur Green City, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, have changed my name from Shikha to Shikha Bansal for all purpose.

0070768331-1

I, Sandeep Dabla S/o Om Parkash R/o H859-L,behind Ravindra Hospital, Model Town, Panipat-132103, have declared that Sandeep Kumar and Sandeep Dabla both names are mine

0040598968-1

I, Ravinder Singh Motharoo S/o-Rajwant Singh Motharoo R/O-A-353, Shastri Nagar, New Delhi-52, Have Changed My Name to Ravinder Singh.

0070768380-1

I Dilwar Khan S/o Riyajuddin R/o R-535, Jil Colony, Raghubir Nagar, Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Dilawar Khan

0040598960-1

I, Rakesh Kumar Das, R/O-Flat-19/429,Shivam Khand,Sector-19, Vasundhara,Ghaziabad, UP-201012,have changed my son's name from Kshitiij Kumar Das To Kshitiiz Kumar Das for all purposes.

0040598967-1

I, Priyanka, W/o Mr. Mudit Sharma R/o 15-C, Jia Sarai, IIT Gate, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016, have changed my name to Priyanka Sharma.

0040598969-1

I, Popat Uttam Salunke R/O Flat No-10, 70A, Ber Sarai, South West Delhi-110016 have changed my name to Popat Uttamrao Salunke.

0070768316-1

I, Poonam Sharma, W/O Mayank Kumar Sharma R/o 254 Dabki Gujjar, Dabki Guzzar, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh-247001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Poonam Devi

0070768350-1

I, Nitin Baloni S/O Shankar Prasad Baloni, R/o Plot No-6 206/A, Street No-5, Road No-D, Shyam Vihar Phase-1, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Nitten S Baloni.

0070768370-1

I, Nishant Singh Rajput S/o Sh. Pramod Kumar Singh R/o H.N.1, Bhairon Mandir, Nehru Park, Vinay Marg, Chanakya-puri, ND-21, have changed my name from Nishant Singh to Nishant Singh Rajput for all purposes in future.

0070768381-1

I, Monu S/O Hanuman, R/o Hansi Road, Tosham (Lrual) (33), Bhiwani, Haryana-127040, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Amrit Chaudhary.

0070768351-1

I, CHAND, S/O-NARESH PAL, R/O-KH NO-17/14 GALI NO-15, SWAROOP NAGAR, DELHI-110042, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KARAN SINGH SOOD FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

0070768351-1

I, BHARTI BAHRI, W/o-SAHAJ SHARMA R/o- H.NO-29-30, BLOCK-C-1, RAMA PARK, UTTAM NAGAR DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BHARTI BAHRI SHARMA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

0070768341-1

I, BHARTI BAHRI, W/o-SAHAJ SHARMA R/o- H.NO-29-30, BLOCK-C-1, RAMA PARK, UTTAM NAGAR DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BHARTI BAHRI SHARMA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

0070768341-1

I have changed my Name from Samadritra ghosh to Samadritra Pal for all future purposes. Samadritra Pal D/o Samuitra Kumar Pal R/O 159, Gali No 15, pratap Nagar, Mayur Vihar phase-I, Delhi-110091

0040598957-1

I, Priyanka Singh D/o Sh. Gopal Ram Singhal W/o Sh. Abhishek Singh R/O G-84, First Floor, Vikas Puri,Tilak Nagar S.O., West Delhi, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Priyanka Singhal for all purposes.

0040598972-9

I,Jai Hind Maurya S/o Shiv Kumar Maurya R/o Village Odra Jhagarauva, Post Shahgarh, Rautamau, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh-276406, have changed my name to Jai Singh Maurya

0070768382-1

I,SEEMA DEVI W/O NAVEEN KUMAR R/O 23.IST FLOOR, POCKET-13,SECTOR-20, ROHINI,DELHI-110086. CHANGED MY CHILD NAME ALINA TO ALINA CHHOKAR.

0040598983-2

I,Anita W/o Sh. Vinod Singh R/o House No.A-596/37, Durga Chowk, Bhalswa Dairy,North West Delhi-110042 is also known as Nithu. Both the names i.e. Anita and Nithu are of one and the same person.

0040598972-10

I,RAVINDER KUMAR,S/O GOKAL DEV KOTHARI,ADD-D2A/87D JANAKPURI,WEST DELHI-110058,CHANGED my name toRAVINDER KUMAR KOTHARI, permanently.

0040598978-2

I,DEVENDER BANSAL,S/O. SHYAM BANSAL,HOUSE.No.35 GALI.NO.1,KHERI AWIRWADA MOHALLA AHEW KALANT, FARIDABAD HARYANA-121002. CHANGED my name to DAVENDER BANSAL, permanently.

0040598978-3

LOST & FOUND

I,Harish Chander Arora,S/o Late.Manohar Lal,R/o-130,Bhai Parmanand-Colony, Delhi-110009,have lost my Allotment Letter,Possision-Letter, Demand Note, Bank-Challan And other-documents of 130,Bhai Parmanand-Colony, Delhi-110009. 0040598990-10

I,Revati Nandan,Son of,Late. Tara Dutt,resident of,A-138, Street.No.8,West Vinod-Nagar, Delhi-110092,have lost my original previous property-documents executed at delhi on-20/06/1974 in respect of Property.No.A-138,West Vinod Nagar,Delhi-110092,executed by Ram ji Dass in favour of my father Shri.Tara Dutt,finder-may contact.Mo.9891942272.

0040598990-11

WE, Reena Narayan, W/o Sh. Dipendra Narayan & Dipendra Narayan, S/o Sh. M Narayan, both R/o of D-89-Sector-20, Noida, UP-201304, have lost M.I.G. housing map, HPTA dt.-08/Jun/1982, Reservation of house dt. 16/Mar/1981 Doc. No. 2296/DAO/MIG/455, Deposit of Allotment Money dt.-01/Jan/1982 Doc. No. 130/ADM/MIG/20-D-89/80 and Allotment Letter dt.-11/Feb/1982 Doc. No. 302/ADM(H)/MIG/20-D-89/82 documents.Finder pls contact-9810613055/8800562222.

0070768334-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of the General Public that my client Sh. Ram Karan Goel S/o Late Shri Banwari Lal, R/O E2-112, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-52, hereby debar and disown his son and daughters namely Pawan Karan Goel, R/O A-880, Near Udhani Singh School, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-52, Suman W/o Late Sh. Satish Kumar, R/O E2-38, Gali No. 2, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-52 & Kusum Gupta W/o Sh. Hari Raj Gali No B-1038/1, Near Jain Mandir, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-52, with their children from his movable and immovable properties like as Bank account, building & plot allotted to him measuring 200 sq. mtr. by DSIDIC on application No. 8159 on lease basis in Sector-5, Pocket-F, Constructed Plot No. 16, in Bawana Industrial Area. Delhi-39. My client will not be responsible for any act committed by them and if any one deals with them, shall be responsible at his/her own cost and risk.

SATISH KUMAR JAIN
ADVOCATE
Chamber No. 52, Civil Wing,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my client Mr. Ashok Jain S/o Sh. Bimal Parshad Jain, Ro 13/27, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007 intends to buy the property bearing No. 5767, Ward No VI, At Jogiwara, Main Sarak, Delhi-110006.

That property is owned and in possession of the following persons namely:-

1. Mr. Pawan Ram Kishan Aggarwal S/o Ram Kishan Aggarwal
2. Dr. Vipin Ram Kishan Aggarwal S/o Ram Kishan Aggarwal
That the above said persons/owners have agreed to sell the above mentioned property to my client and it is hereby allegedly declared that the title of the said property is free from all sorts of encumbrances, charges, lien, mortgage, gift etc. All persons claiming an interest in the said property or any part thereof by way of sale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, possession, easement, attachment or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned at his office at 439-440, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054 within 15 days from the date hereof, failing which the said sale will be completed in the favour of Sh. Ashok Jain And his Nominees without any reference to such claim right/interest and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived.

Sd/- **AYUSH SHARMA** (Advocate)
E.No.D/4096/17
439-440, Civil Side,
Tis Hazari, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the notice of the public at large that my client Shri Gauri Shankar, son of Shri Leela Ram permanent residence at 843, Mandala, Paharganj, Swami Ram Tirath Nagar, Delhi presently at B-79, 3rd Avenue, Sector-44, Noida, U.P. had executed a registered general power of attorneys in the office of sub registrar-IVB, Vivek Vihar, New Delhi vide (1) registration No. 747 book No. IV volume no. 238 on page 119 to 125 dated 23.04.2019 in the favour of Anil Kumar Bansal, (2) registration No. 746 book No.IV volume no.238 on page 112 to 118 dated 23.04.2019 in the favour of Harvinder Basist, Reeta Basist, Naman Basist and Divyansh Basist, (3) registration No.1657 book No. IV volume no. 263 on page 61 to 66 dated 05.09.2019 in the favour of Mahesh Kumar, (4) registration No.552 book No. IV volume no. 233 on page 114 to 119 dated 27.03.2019 in the favour of Anil Kumar Bansal and Anil Kumar in respect of properties vide khasras No. 347(4-16), 348(1-15), 355(2-15), 356(4-16), 365(4-16), 366(2(1-5) and khasra No. 348/2(1-18), 356/1(2(1-8), 357(2(1-16), 357/2 (1-4) situated in the revenue estate Village Ghitorni, New Delhi. The said general power of attorneys have been cancelled and revoked. Any person dealing with above named general power of attorney holders in respect to the above properties of my client then he/she shall do at their/their own cost and risk and my client shall not be responsible at all. Any information about any transaction, third party interest may be contacted to the undersigned within 7 days of receipt of this notice.

Sd/-

(AMARJIT SINGH) Advocate
Khasra No. 374, M.G. Road
Sultanpur, New Delhi-30
M.No.: 987178545



MARY SIMON
devoted Wife of
Wg. Cdr. SAMUEL SIMON
VSM
passed away peacefully
on **11 Jan.**

SECTOR WATCH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Behind Vi's equity conversion move: Mounting debt, eye on the long run

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

VI ON Tuesday informed the exchanges it would be opting for the government's offer of paying interest for the 4 years of deferment on the spectrum instalments and adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues by way of conversion into equity of the net present value of such interest amount.

The company also said on conversion of the said interest to equity, the government would own 35.8 per cent of the total outstanding shares of the company.

What is the government's offer on conversion of pending interest and dues to equity?

In the telecom reforms approved by the Union Cabinet in September last year, one of the major decisions, aimed at providing immediate relief to debt-laden companies such as Vi, was to provide a four-year moratorium on payment of all dues arising due to the Supreme Court's September 1, 2020 judgment on AGR.

This meant that telecom companies could opt to pay the principal, interest, and all other penalties, as decided by the apex court, after four years, instead of paying it then. The government had then also given all the telcos a one-time opportunity to convert the interest on this deferred payment into equity at the end of the four-year period.

Why is Vi opting to convert the interest on deferred payment to equity?

Vi, which is reeling under debt in excess of Rs 2 lakh crore, has been looking to raise funds from investors for quite some time. The government's offer of deferred payment of adjusted gross revenue dues came as a major breather for Vi, which owed the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) more than Rs 58,000 crore just as AGR.

Though the company has managed to raise some short-term loans, it has so far not been able to get fresh long-term funds, which may help the company sustain in the long run. By opting to convert

POWER TO DECIDE

■ Both Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group will continue to hold rights to make important decisions about the company, such as appointment of directors and other key officials

the interest on deferred payment, the company will look to invest the freed funds into building long term capabilities and invest in newer technologies such as 5G.

Will Vi become a government-owned company now?

Vi has said that the net present value of the interest related to spectrum auction dues and AGR would come to around Rs 16,000 crore as on date. Since the average price of Vi's shares on August 14, which the Supreme Court decided would be the cut-off date, was below par value, the company would issue shares to the government at par value of Rs 10 per share.

This would, therefore, mean that the DoT would become the largest shareholder with 35.8 per cent holding in the company, while the holding of the Vodafone Group would be reduced to 28.5 per cent and that of the Aditya Birla Group would be cut down to 17.8 per cent.

This, however, does not mean that government will be able to take any executive decisions about the company. By another resolution, the current promoters have also agreed to amend the shareholder agreement and have brought down the minimum qualifying shareholding threshold from 21 per cent to 13 per cent.

This means that both Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group will continue to hold rights to make important decisions about the company, such as appointment of directors and other key officials. The government will continue to remain the largest shareholder without the ability to exercise executive rights.

ROADS, RAILWAYS SECTORS & NAL SE JAL SCHEME TO RECEIVE FUNDING BOOST

To run economy engine at full power, Budget to focus on infra, raise capex

BUILD UP TO BUDGET 2022-23

SUNNY VERMA & ANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

A CONTINUED push on capital expenditure and roll out of infra projects under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) will be central to the Union Budget 2022-23 as the Central government looks to hold and build on the recovery in the economy. Projects in roads and railways sectors and Nal se Jal scheme are expected to receive funding boost as the government targets to increase capex spending by around 30 per cent next year, government officials said.

"We have seen the economic recovery this year, but there is a need to hold on it and not let it (the momentum) fizzle out. The Centre is also in discussions with the states to see that the infra projects

get rolled out on the ground," the official said. Bidding of projects under the NIP is expected to gather pace next year. Even as the capital expenditure has been less than anticipated so far, the government expects it come close to Rs 5.54 lakh crore budgeted for 2021-22 by March-end.

"The thrust of the Budget is to maintain a fiscal stance that is contractionary but with the required push on spending where it's required, especially infra projects, which can be done through re-prioritising expenditure," another government official said, indicating that the government may opt for milder fiscal consolidation from the current level of 6.8 per cent of Gross Domestic Product.

As a key step to boost private sector capex in infra sector, the government is expected to remove the guideline of seeking bank guarantees for infra projects and possibly replace them with surety bonds. This has been one of the key demands from the industry chambers ahead of the Budget. With typically 20 per cent of funds getting locked up in bank guarantees, this move could possibly free up nearly



The government is expected to remove the guideline of seeking bank guarantees for infra projects and replace them with surety bonds. File

Rs 8 lakh crore of private sector funds over the entire spread of NIP projects, as per industry estimates. "Among our various Budget suggestions) we have said is have surety bonds instead of bank guarantees because as you spend more on infrastructure, and if you want those kinds of jobs and you have to furnish bank guarantees, that's a lot of unnecessary cost in the system. The US and in places like that they have the surety bonds, just

like an insurance that you have, which can be kept in case somebody's reneges on contracts," CII president T V Narendran told *The Indian Express*.

Bank guarantees are "adding unnecessarily to project costs and will be the single biggest obstacle to rapidly completing construction under NIP ... It is time to go for revolving bank guarantees or insurance surety bonds," Ficci has said in its list of Budget suggestions to the Finance Ministry.

Some of the key reform measures of this year's Budget, especially relating to privatisation of two state-owned banks and some key government companies, will spill over to the next year.

Capital expenditure by the Centre has been slower than the targeted pace outlined in the Budget. During April-November, the first eight months of this fiscal, the government has incurred 49.4 per cent, or Rs 2.73 lakh crore of its total Budget target of capital expenditure.

With the nominal GDP coming in at a higher level of 17.6 per cent in the first advance estimates, released on Friday, than the FY22

India to allow imports of US pork, its products: Taiwan

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 11

INDIA HAS agreed to allow imports of US pork and pork products into the country, removing a longstanding barrier to US agricultural trade, United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said on Monday. "India's agreement to allow US pork imports for the first time is great news for US producers and for Indian consumers," Tai said in a statement.

Vilsack said the US was working to ensure its pork industry could start shipping products to India as soon as possible. He said the deal marked the culmination of two decades of seeking market access for US pork to India. In 2020, the US was the world's third-largest pork producer and second-largest exporter, with global sales of pork and pork products valued at \$7.7 billion. In FY21, it exported over \$1.6 billion of agricultural products to India.

Meanwhile, according to a *PTI* report, the Commerce Ministry said India has secured approval of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the export of domestic mangoes to America in the new season.

'Covid impact: More cyber threats amid rising digital dependence'

As the world enters the third year of the pandemic, a growing dependence on digital systems has heightened the risks posed by cybersecurity threats globally, a WEF survey said

The Global Risks Report 2022 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) said climate-related risks dominate the list of biggest concerns by impact and likelihood

Top risks for Indian economy identified by WEF's Executive Opinion Survey (EOS):

- Fracture of interstate relations
- Debt crises in large economies



■ Widespread youth disillusionment
■ Failure of technology governance
■ Digital inequality

Source: WEF/PTI

Economic fallout of the pandemic and diverging recoveries also continue to threaten cooperation on other global challenges — at a time when climate and environmental risks loom large

India, Korea agree to 'impart fresh momentum' to bilateral trade pact

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

INDIA AND South Korea are set to accelerate discussions on upgrading their bilateral trade agreement signed in 2009, said a joint statement released by both countries.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met with Yeo Han-Koo, Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea, on Tuesday for discussions on trade and investments between the two countries.

India has a large trade deficit with South Korea and is aiming to address issues of market access and non-tariff barriers faced by Indian exporters. "The ministers



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal with Korean Trade Minister Yeo Han-Koo in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

agreed to impart fresh momentum to the discussions on CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) up-gradation negotiations and also promote extensive B2B interactions on trade and investment between the Industry leaders of the two countries," the joint statement said.

India's total exports to South Korea in FY21 were about \$4.68 billion against imports of \$12.77 billion. Microphones and cameras are key imports from South Korea. Key exports to South Korea are aluminium and mineral fuels.

Powell vows to stop inflation from becoming 'entrenched'

Washington: US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell vowed to fight inflation in testimony on Tuesday.

In opening testimony to the Senate Banking Committee, Powell said the economy's fast-paced recovery from the coronavirus pandemic was "giving rise to persistent supply and demand imbalances and bottlenecks, and thus to elevated inflation."

"We know that high inflation exacts a toll," he added, pledging to use the central bank's full suite of policy tools "to prevent higher inflation from becoming entrenched." **REUTERS**

In S Korea, Apple lays out plans to allow 3rd party payment systems

REUTERS
SEOUL, JANUARY 11

SOUTH KOREA'S telecommunications regulator said on Tuesday Apple Inc had submitted plans to allow third-party payment systems on its App Store to comply with a law banning major app store operators from forcing software developers to use their payment systems.

The Korea Communications Commission (KCC) had requested Apple and Alphabet's Google to submit compliance plans after the

bill was passed in August last year and went into effect in September.

Google announced its plans to allow alternative payment systems in South Korea in November to comply with the amended Telecommunication Business Act, dubbed the "anti-Google law".

"We look forward to working with the KCC and our developer community on a solution that benefits our Korean users," Apple said in a statement, but did not provide details such as timeline of when the new payment systems will take effect or commission fee rates.

BRIEFLY
WTO appeal

New Delhi: India has appealed against a ruling of WTO's trade dispute settlement panel on domestic sugar subsidies, stating the panel has committed "certain errors of law" in its report.

DoT petition

New Delhi: The NCLAT disposed of a petition by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) challenging the Rs 2,962-crore takeover bid by Anil Agarwal's Twin Star Technologies for Videocon Industries.

SC, Futurecos

New Delhi: The Supreme Court reserved verdict on pleas filed by Future group firms against a Delhi High Court order declining stay on an arbitration tribunal decision refusing to interfere with the Emergency Award of the Singapore arbitrator. **PTI**

WB, economy

Washington: The World Bank is downgrading its outlook for the global economy, blaming continuing outbreaks of Covid. **AP**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU - PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT				
Building Operation - Form of Contract : Lumpsum				
Tender Notice No.11 / VLR - CLE / 2021 - 2022 / Dated : 11.01.2022				
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu Sealed Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Vellore - 1 for the following works from the eligible Contractors registered in Public works Department of Government of Tamil Nadu, upto 3.00 pm as per office clock on 15.02.2022 under Two cover system (Pre qualification and Price tender). The Prequalification cover (Cover) alone will be opened on 15.02.2022 at 3.30 PM by the Superintending Engineer in presence of the Tenderers or their authorised agents.				
Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate value of work including GST (Rs.in lakhs)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (in Rupees)	Period of Completion (including Monsoon period)
1.	Construction of Circuit House at Ranipet in Ranipet District.	553.75	2,87,000/-	11 Months
2.	Construction of Circuit House at Thiruppathur in Thiruppathur District.	552.45	2,86,500/-	11 Months
The E.M.D. remittance and other details can also be available from the Govt. designated website (http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Vellore - 632 001. The tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost from the above website, upto 14.02.2022 - 5.45 pm.				
Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Vellore-1, DIPR/ 230 /TENDER/2022				
"தேர்தல் அறிவிப்பு" கட்டிடப் பணிகளுக்கான துவக்கப் பணிகள், அரசுப் பணிகள் பற்றிய அறிவிப்புகள் பண்பு. பண்பு.				

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹46,606	₹73.94	\$80.82	₹59,700

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

Winding up order: HC dismisses SpiceJet plea

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
CHENNAI, JANUARY 11

THE MADRAS High court on Tuesday dismissed the appeal by SpiceJet against a single-judge order to wind up the low-cost airline on a Credit Suisse AG's petition relating to non-payment of \$24 million to SR Technics, a maintenance and repair company.

A division bench of Justice Paresh Upadhyay and Justice Sathi Kumar Sukumara Kurup extended the suspension of the order till January 28, to enable the airline to move a further appeal before the Supreme Court. "Since we have not entertained these appeals, there is nothing to be stayed so far this order is concerned. However, with a view to see that challenge if any to this order remains meaningful to the appellant, the stay granted by the company court which is in force till today shall stand extended till January 28," the bench said.

The HC had on December 6 ordered the winding up of SpiceJet on a petition filed by Credit Suisse, to whom SR Technics had given the right to collect all payments. The order was subsequently stayed for three weeks. **FE**

'Difficulties' in filing: Some ITR deadlines for FY21 extended

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

CITING DIFFICULTIES being reported by taxpayers in filing of returns, the government on Tuesday extended deadlines for income tax returns filing for corporates for the financial year 2020-21 till March 15. The deadline to file tax audit report and transfer pricing audit report for 2020-21 fiscal has also been extended till February 15.

This is the third extension for filing income tax returns for 2020-21 fiscal for corporates. The original deadline for filing ITR for corporates was October 31 and those with transfer pricing transactions was November 30. "On consideration of difficulties reported by the taxpayers and other stakeholders due to COVID and in electronic filing of various reports of audit under the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (the Act), the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has decided to further extend the due dates for filing of Income Tax Returns and various reports of audit for the Assessment Year 2021-22," an official statement said.

The last date for filing 2020-21

THIRD EXTENSION

■ This is the third extension for filing income tax returns for 2020-21 fiscal for corporates. The original deadline for filing ITR for corporates was October 31 and those with transfer pricing transactions was November 30

ITRs without penalty for individual taxpayers ended on December 31, 2021, and nearly 5.89 crore ITRs were filed by the due date.

Nangia & Co LLP partner Shailesh Kumar said considering the difficulty of taxpayers in light of fresh surge of Covid cases in the country and also technical glitches being faced in filing Tax Audit Report and other compliances related to filing ITR, the extension of around 1 month granted by the Government to taxpayers for filing their Tax Audit Report and extension of 15 days for cases covered by Transfer Pricing compliances is definitely a welcome move and will grant relief to taxpayers.

राजस्थान स्वास्थ्य विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय
Rajasthan University of Health Sciences
Sector-18, Kumbha Murg, Pratap Nagar, Tonk Road, Jaipur - 302033
Website : www.rubhsr.org

क्रमांक :- एक () प्रवेश परीक्षा शाखा/राज.स्वा.वि.वि. /2022/27217 विनांक :- 10/01/2022

विज्ञापित
सहायक औषधि विश्लेषक भर्ती परीक्षा - 2022

राजस्थान सरकार, चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य (यूप-2) विभाग के आदेश क्रमांक P17(1) (M&H)/2018 dated 14.09.2020 की अनुपालना में राजस्थान स्वास्थ्य विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय जयपुर द्वारा सहायक औषधि विश्लेषक के 11 पदों को भरने हेतु योग्य अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा ऑन-लाइन आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। आवेदन पत्र विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 12.01.2022 से 02.02.2022 तक उपलब्ध रहेंगे। विज्ञापित से संबंधित विस्तृत अर्चना, योग्यताएं, आवेदन शुल्क एवं अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट www.rubhsr.org पर उपलब्ध है। वेबसाइट www.rubhsr.org का निरन्तर अवलोकन करते रहें। आवेदक के द्वारा सचुतम अनिवार्य योग्यता, आयु सीमा की शर्तें एवं पात्रता ऑन-लाइन परीक्षा दिनांक 10/02/2022 तक पूरा किया जाना अनिवार्य है।

राज.संवा/सी/21/10370 सहायक औषधि विश्लेषक भर्ती परीक्षा-2022

GUJARAT METRO RAIL CORPORATION (GMRC) LIMITED
(SPV of Govt. of India and Govt. of Gujarat)
Block No.1, First Floor, Karmayogi Bhavan, Sector 10/A, Gandhinagar, 382010, Gujarat. (CIN): U60200GJ2010SGC059407

IFB No.: GMRC/Track-1/Surat/Ph-1/2022
Date : 12.01.2022

Bids are invited from reputed and experienced Contractor for the following tender:

Tender Name	Tender Fees
Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Ballastless Track from Sarthana to Dream City in Elevated and Underground Sections Including Connecting Lines to Depot along with Ballasted / Ballastless / Embedded Standard Gauge Track For Corridor-I, Surat Metro Rail Project, Phase 1	INR 25,000/-

Interested bidders are requested to visit <https://gmrc.procure.com>, www.gujaratmetro.com and <http://afd.dgmarket.com> for eligibility criteria, applying/ downloading the Bid document. Last date and time for Bid Submissions is 15:00 Hrs. on 28.02.2022.

Any alterations in Eligibility Criteria cum Qualification Requirements, and terms of the Tender Document, or any amendment to the Tender Document, etc., will be uploaded on <https://gmrc.procure.com> and GMRC's Website www.gujaratmetro.com without any obligation or press notification or other proclamation.

Sd/-
Managing Director,
GMRC, Gandhinagar

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Martyr of CISF on 12th January
HC/GD CHHEDI LAL, BSP BHILAI, 12-01-1983
CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this braveheart. On this day he laid down his life at the altar of duty. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for this noblest deed.

In the remembrance of Late Sep Shangara Singh and Late Sep Bakshish Singh who left us for their heavenly abode on 12 Jan 1991. May Wahe Guru Ji give strength to CHHE SIKH fraternity and their family to bear this loss with courage and fortitude. He will continue to be a source of inspiration and strength for us. Let us pray for them in our heartfelt remembrance a life lived so wonderfully in the service of the nation.
CO & All Ranks 6 SIKH

SEP SHANGARA SINGH, 12 MAY 1962 TO 12 JAN 1991

SEP BAKSHISH SINGH 10 FEB 1966 TO 12 JAN 1991

भारतीय अन्तर्देशीय जलमार्ग प्राधिकरण
INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)
Head Office, A-13, Sector -1, Noida - 201301 (U.P.) Phone: 0120 - 2544036 & 2574050

Notice Inviting Tender
e-Bids are invited from interested bidders for "Procurement of FRP Boats". The Tender Documents and other relevant details are available at Iwai website www.iwai.nic.in and e-procurement site <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

Sd/-
Hydrographic Chief

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
A-11, Sector -24, Noida-201301, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.
Phone No. : 0120-2412294, Fax No. : 0120-2412397

APPOINTMENT OF COAL HANDLING AGENT
National Fertilizers Limited intends to appoint Coal Handling Agent for Coal Supplied from BCCL to NFL Units situated at Nangal, Bathinda & Panipat. The mode of tendering is e-tender (ID:2022_NFL_101722_1). For eligibility criteria & other details please visit <https://etender.gov.in/eprocure/app> or our website : www.nationalfertilizers.com. Last date for submission of online bids is **24.01.2022 up to 10:00 AM**. Corrigendum (if any) will be displayed on our website only.

GM (Materials)
@NFL_Kisan @nationalfertilizers National Fertilizers Limited

INDCOSERVE
No. 35, Church Road, Concor, 110076, The Nilgiris
Ph: + 91-423-223181 / www.indcoserve.com

"TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF TEA MACHINERIES, CIVIL & ELECTRICAL WORKS AND ECO-RESTORATION WORKS IN 10 INDCOSERVE TEA FACTORIES"
Tender Ref No : 587/C/2021 dt : 12.01.2022

INDCOSERVE invites sealed Tenders in Two Bid Systems i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of various Tea Processing Machineries, Civil & Electrical Works and Eco-Restoration works (18 Packages) at the 10 INDCOSERVE Tea Factories in the Nilgiris District. Completed Tender Forms and relevant documents should be submitted on or before 10.02.2022 by 01:30 PM. Technical Bids will be opened on 10.02.2022 from 03.00 PM onwards. **Tenders shall submit their bids separately for each package.**

Details and Tender documents can be downloaded from INDCOSERVE website: www.indcoserve.com & www.tenders.in. Further details can be obtained by contacting the General Manager, INDCOSERVE, Concor, Telephone No:-91-423-2231821 / email: gm@indcoserve.com

Concor, 12.01.2022

DIPR/260/TENDER/2022
General Manager, INDCOSERVE, Concor, 12.01.2022

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-Procurement Tender Notice 01/2022 dated: 07.01.2022
Tender Opening on 27.01.2022

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	EMD (₹)	Tender Opening Date
1	13215523	AG Marker LED Signal Lighting unit 110V AC Retrofit.	75 Nos	₹ 10505/-	27.01.2022
2	13215524	W Marker LED Signal Lighting unit 110V AC Retrofit.	115 Nos	₹ 15870/-	27.01.2022

Note: 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement tender are available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Class-III Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act -2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form (letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Documents being attached should be signed on their body. 5. Allocation for "Cost of Drawing" is 2-650 and for "Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)" is Deposit Msc. scores-00844517. The above tender notice has been uploaded on <http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in> & www.tenders.gov.in, in case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the IREPS website may be approached.

2022 FA
North Central Railway, www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in North Central Railway, Prayagraj

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL (APS), NEW CANTT, ALLAHABAD
Tele No : 0532-2420772, email : armyschoolallid@gmail.com
School website : armypublicschoolallid.org

Sealed tenders for Purchase of equipments for Robotics lab/Atal Tinkering Lab, Furniture (Modular) for labs and equipments for resource room are invited by on or before 01 Feb 2022. Details of tenders are at school website.

PRINCIPAL

Government of Jharkhand
Water Resources Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Water Ways Division, Ranchi.
(Damside, Dhurwa)

e-Procurement Notice PR-253677
Re e-Tender Inviting Notice no.- WRD/WWD/RANCHI - 05/2021-22
Date- 10.01.2022

Sl. No.	Item	Details
1	Name of work	Demarcation of Boundary with RCC Pillaring & fencing at encroached area at acquired land of Getalsud Dam Project.
2	Estimated Cost	Rs. 1,29,64,700=00
3	Cost of B.O.Q.	Rs. 10,000=00
4	E.M.D.	Rs. 2,60,000=00
5	Period for completion of work	18 (Eighteen) Months
6	Date of publication of e-tender on website	18.01.2022 at 11:00 AM
7	Period for downloading bid documents from website	18.01.2022 to 08.02.2022 up to 5:00 PM
8	Last date of submission of bid	08.02.2022 up to 5:00 PM
9	Date and Time of opening of bid	10.02.2022 at 11:00 AM
10	Office of inviting e-tender	Executive Engineer, Water Ways Division, Dhurwa, Ranchi.
11	Date and Time for submission of cost of B.O.Q, E.M.D. and other documents in the office of the Executive Engineer, Water Ways Division, Ranchi.	09.02.2022 (5:00PM)
12	Telephone No. of e-Procurement cell	0651- 2481716 Mob- 8507119333

Note:- (1) Cost of B.O.Q. will be in the form of demand draft issued from S.B.I. in favour of Executive Engineer, Water Ways Division, Ranchi payable at Ranchi, which is non refundable.
(2) Only e-tender will be accepted. Details available on website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer,
PR 261508 Water Resource (21-22)_D Water Ways Division, Ranchi

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Directorate of Libraries & Research, J&K
Srinagar Jammu

Sub: Corrigendum to Order No: 111 DLR of 2021 dated: 04.01.2022 and Endorsement Nos: DL/Gen/(203)/2021/1397-1406 dated: 04.01.2022, DL/Gen/(203)/2021/1407-08 dated: 04.01.2022. & DL/Gen/(203)/2021/1409-12 dated: 04.01.2022.

CORRIGENDUM
In reference to above quoted order Nos and Endorsement Nos. Please read as "Order No: 01 DLR of 2022 and Endorsement Nos: DL/Gen/(203)/2022/01-10, No: DL/Gen/(203)/11-12 & DL/Gen/(203)/2022/13-16.

Sd/-
Director
Libraries and Research, J&K
Dated 05.01.2022

No: DL/Gen/(203)/2022/18-30
Date: 05.01.2022
DIPJ-11648

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer(Ele), South Zone, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru.

No: BBMP/EE/ELE/S/PR/229/21-22 Date: 11.01.2022

CORRIGENDUM
Ref. : Tender Notification No.:EE/ELE/S/TND/12/2021-22 dated:06.01.2022, with reference to the above tender notification, the calendar of events for the tender process has been modified as follows due to technical reasons . All other conditions remain unchanged.

Scheduled Date	Modified Date
Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16:00 Hrs on 14.01.2022 and Technical Bid shall be opened on 17.01.2022 and Financial Bid shall be opened on 20.01.2022 at 16:00 Hrs.	Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16:00 Hrs on 17.01.2022 and Technical Bid shall be opened on 19.01.2022 and Financial Bid shall be opened on 21.01.2022 at 16:00 Hrs.
Scheduled place of pre bid meeting at O/o Superintending Engineer(Ele), 23rd Floor, MG Road, Bangalore - 560 001 on 12.01.2022 at 11.30 a.m.	The modified pre bid meeting place is scheduled at Meeting Hall-1, BBMP Head office on 12.01.2022 at 11.30 a.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, South Zone

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय,
उपग्रह प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
जे-1, ज्ञानसरोवर कालोनी, अलीगढ़ (उप्र)

पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु आयोजित की जाने वाली लोक सुनवाई की सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मै. वण्डर सीएनए लि. द्वारा ग्राम सोना, तहसील गहना, जनपद अलीगढ़ में क्लिकर गाइडिंग यूनिट (उत्पाद क्षमता 4.0 मिलियन टन वर्ष) हेतु लोक सुनवाई के सम्बन्ध में पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति सम्पन्नो परताव उपग्रह प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, लखनऊ के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किये गये हैं।

बोर्ड द्वारा पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी अधिसूचना संख्या-1533 दिनांक 14.09.2006 यथासंशोधित एसओ-3067 (ई) दिनांक 01.12.2009 एवं अन्य के अनुपालन में उपरोक्त परियोजना की लोक सुनवाई जिलाधिकारी महोदय, अलीगढ़ की अध्यक्षता में दिनांक 16.02.2022 को समय अपराह्न 12:00 बजे कलेक्ट्रेट सभागार, अलीगढ़ में आयोजित की जायेगी। उपर परियोजना की लोक सुनवाई हेतु जनता के सुझाव, विचार, टीका एवं टिप्पणियाँ आदि आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। परियोजना से सम्बन्धित ई.आई.ए. एवं संक्षिप्त अभिलेख निम्नांकित कार्यालय में उपलब्ध हैं।

(अ) जिलाधिकारी, जनपद अलीगढ़।
(ब) कार्यालय उपायुक्त, जिला उद्योग एवं उद्यम प्रोत्साहन केन्द्र, अलीगढ़।
(स) क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, उपग्रह प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, जे-1, ज्ञानसरोवर कालोनी, अलीगढ़।
(द) उपग्रह प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, टी.सी.-12वीं, विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ (उप्र)।
(य) क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, मध्य क्षेत्र, पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, पंचम तल, सेक्टर-एच, अलीगढ़, लखनऊ।

अतः समस्त सर्व साधारण को इस आम सूचना के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि उक्त प्रस्तावित परियोजना क्लिकर गाइडिंग यूनिट (उत्पाद क्षमता 4.0 मिलियन टन वर्ष) की पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति से सम्बन्धित प्रकरण के निस्तारण हेतु उपरोक्त बर्णित स्थान, दिनांक एवं समय के अनुसार आयोजित लोक सुनवाई में उपस्थित होकर अपने आक्षेप, सुझाव प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं अथवा सुझाव एवं आपत्तियाँ आदि लिखित रूप से प्रकाशन की तिथि से 30 दिन के अन्दर समस्त सम्बन्धित को प्रेषित कर सकते हैं।

क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
NEW ENGINEERING COMPLEX, SILK FACTORY ROAD RAJ BAGH, SRINAGAR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT (PHE) KASHMIR
NEW ENGINEERING COMPLEX, SILK FACTORY ROAD RAJ BAGH, SRINAGAR
TELE: 0194-2311832. TELE FAX: 0194-2311835, E-Mail: kmrphed@gmail.com, kashmirphe@yahoo.com

CORRIGENDUM III
AMENDMENT-I

Subject:- Supply of ISI marked Galvanized Mild Steel tubes conforming to IS: 1239(Part-I) 2004 read with subsequent amendments, in random length ranging from '4.00 Mts to 7.00 Mts' screwed on both ends in assorted sizes of nominal bore ranging from 15mm NB up-to and including 100mm NB Light Class and 125mm and 150mm NB Medium Class, for execution of works under Jal Jeevan Mission.

References:-
1. This office e-NIT No: CE/PHE/KMR/USD/09 of 2021-22 Dated:- 29-11-2021 issued under endorsement No:-CE/PHE/KMR/USD/28741-50 Dated:- 29-11-2021.
2. Minutes of pre-bid meeting convened on 14-12-2021 and 15-12-2021 uploaded on www.kjtenders.gov.in against tender ID: PHE_150682_1.
3. Meetings of the UT Level Committee convened on 27-12-2021 and 05-01-2022 in view of the representations received from various intending bidders, minutes of pre bid meeting referred above and decisions taken during the meeting of UT Level Committee convened under the chairmanship of Development Commissioner (Works) PW Department J&K on 27-12-2021 and 05-01-2022, the following amendments to the Bidding Document are hereby made.

Sr No	Clause of e-NIT No 09 of 2021-22	Description	To be read as
01	Pre-qualification 3.1 (vi) Page 9 and Eligibility and Qualification criteria 14 (vi) at Page No. 12.	Copy of Supply order/Experience Certificate / Performance Statements from Govt. Department/Semi Govt./PSU/Corporations/State or National level only for the financial year i.e. 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. The bidder should have manufactured and supplied not less than 20% (twenty percent) of the total advertised quantity of GMS tubes for all NBs in the last five years i.e. 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 ending March 2021.	Copy of Supply order/Experience Certificate / Performance Statements from Govt. Department/Semi Govt./PSU/Corporations/State or National level only for the financial year i.e. 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. The bidder should have manufactured and supplied not less than 16% (sixteen percent) of the total advertised quantity of GMS tubes for all NBs in the last five years i.e. 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 ending March 2021.
02	Terms of Delivery Clause No. 27 at page No. 19 & 20.	The delivery will have to be made at the Consignee's stores located at Anantnag, Srinagar & Baramulla in Kashmir province. The supplier shall adhere strictly to the delivery schedule to be communicated by the Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Department Kashmir immediately after placement of Supply order. In case of any ordered supply is made beyond the delivery schedule, the supplier shall not claim from the Department any financial benefit on account of increase in raw material prices as well as any increase in the statutory taxes/duties, for the supplies made beyond the delivery schedule. However, any decrease in raw material prices as well as the statutory taxes/duties shall be passed on to the Department. The Department reserves the right to impose Liquidated Damages, on account of delayed supplies. However, in the event of any eventuality beyond the control of the supplier, as per the Force Majeure clause and the supplier satisfies the Department with the sufficient documentary proof, reasonable extension in the delivery period shall be granted without any extra financial involvement to Department. The department shall, however, be entitled to the benefit of any decrease in price of raw material or on account of reduction in GST/ tax structure. The tenderer shall also intimate in "Section V" the tentative quantity diameter which can be supplied by them within a period of 45 days.	The delivery will have to be made at the Consignee's stores located at Districts Anantnag, Srinagar & Baramulla in Kashmir province. The supplier shall adhere strictly to the delivery schedule to be communicated by the Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Department Kashmir immediately after placement of Supply order. In case of any ordered supply is made beyond the delivery schedule, the supplier shall not claim from the Department any financial benefit on account of increase in raw material prices as well as any increase in the statutory taxes/duties, for the supplies made beyond the delivery schedule. However, any decrease in raw material prices as well as the statutory taxes/duties shall be passed on to the Department. The Department reserves the right to impose Liquidated Damages, on account of delayed supplies. However, in the event of any eventuality beyond the control of the supplier, as per the Force Majeure clause and the supplier satisfies the Department with the sufficient documentary proof, reasonable extension in the delivery period shall be granted without any extra financial involvement to Department. The department shall, however, be entitled to the benefit of any decrease in price of raw material or on account of reduction in GST/ tax structure. The tenderer shall also intimate in "Section V" the tentative quantity dia, wise which can be supplied by them within a period of 60 days.
03	Price Fall Clause Sr No. 30 (i) at Page No. 20	The price offered for the item to be supplied under the contract by the supplier shall in no event exceed the lowest price at which the supplier sells the item or offers to sell the item to the purchaser or to any person, organization, (s) including the purchaser or any department of the Central Govt. Or State/UT Govt. Or any statutory undertaking of the Central or a State Government as the case may be, during the period till performance/currency of the contract.	If the Supplier reduces its price or sells or even offers to sell the item(s) following conditions of sale similar to those of the rate contract, at a price lower than the rate contract price, to any person or organization during the currency of the rate contract, the rate contract price will be automatically reduced with effect from that date for all the subsequent supplies under the rate contract and the rate contract amended accordingly.
04	Mode of Payment S. No. 17 & 18	A 90% (Ninety percent) payment shall be released against delivery of the material in the consignee's stores located at District/Divisional headquarters as listed in Para 16 (iii), with pre-dispatch inspection by the 3 rd party Inspection Agency (to be nominated by the Deptt.) at factory and subsequent verification thereof by the departmental verification Board Constituted vide Govt. Order No. 128-PW (Hyd.) of 2013 dated 16-04-2013 concerned State officer/ in charge of the designed District / Divisional headquarters as listed in Para 16 (ii) above and Third-Party Inspection and Quality Monitor in line with JMM guidelines. The payment shall be centralized and made by Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Quality Control & Procurement Division Jammu. The documents, among other required details, shall include all original inspection and verification certificates and all test reports/certificates issued by third party inspection agencies during the testing of the material etc.	A 90% (Ninety percent) payment shall be released against delivery of the material in the consignee's stores located at District/Divisional headquarters as listed in Para 16 (iii), with pre-dispatch inspection by the 3 rd party Inspection Agency (to be nominated by the Deptt.) at factory and subsequent verification thereof by the departmental verification Board Constituted vide Govt. Order No. 128-PW (Hyd.) of 2013 dated 16-04-2013 concerned State officer/ in charge of the designed District / Divisional headquarters as listed in Para 16 (ii) above and Third-Party Inspection and Quality Monitor in line with JMM guidelines. The payment shall be centralized and made by Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Quality Control & Procurement Division HMT Srinagar. The documents, among other required details, shall include all original inspection and verification certificates and all test reports/certificates issued by third party inspection agencies during the testing of the material etc.
05	Pre-qualification S. No. 3.1 (v) at page No. 38 and Eligibility and Qualification S.NO. 14 (v) at page No. 12	Scanned copy of Annual Report (Profit & Statement along with Balance sheet) with annual Turnover Statement for the tendered item during last five financial years (2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21) with supporting documents duly authenticated by a Chartered Accountant/Cost Accountant in India. (the average annual financial turn over must not be less than Rs 200 Crore.	The average annual financial turnover of the bidder during the last five years (2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 & 2020-21), should not be less than Rs. 200 Crore as per the annual report (audited balance sheet and profit & loss account) of the relevant period, duly authenticated by a Chartered Accountant/Cost Accountant based in India.
06	Engraving stamping on GMS Tube Clause 5 at page 28/24 Section - III	Each GMS Tube shall be engraved with the following words over the barrel of each pipe equidistantly at 01 Meter distance. a) Manufacturers name on each pipe. b) Standard ISI certification mark. c) Class or pipe. d) Each pipe to be Engraved with Department Name as 'Jal Shakti PHE JMM (J)' & Date of manufacture in DDMMYY format equidistantly on tube barrel. e) Different classes of the tubes shall be distinguished by colour bands as under: i. Light Class - Yellow-Band ii. Medium Class - Blue Band	Each GMS Tube shall be supplied with the following identification marks, engraved over the barrel of each pipe. a) Manufacturers brand name. b) Standard ISI certification mark. c) Class of pipe. d) Department Name as "JSD-JUMK" after every 01 Meter. e) Date of manufacture in DDMMYY format. f) Different classes of the tubes shall be distinguished/identified by colour bands as under: i. Light Class - Yellow-Band ii. Medium Class - Blue Band The clause shall remain the same i.e. as detailed in the tender document.
07	FORCE MAJEURE clause Page 17	If at any time during the pendency of this contract, the performance in whole or in part within the consent of purchaser or any obligation under this contract is prevented or delayed by the reasons of any war, sabotage, fires, floods, strikes lock-out, explosion epidemics, quarantine restriction or to other Act of God, Government or ruler (hereinafter referred as eventually) but not including negligence or wrong doing predictable/ seasonal rain and any other.....	
07	Commercial Terms and Condition Section "V" at page 34/30 (Supply of material within 45 days)	Quantities (in MTs) of each GMS Tubes that can be supplied by firm within a period of 45 Days from the date of placement of supply order.	Quantities (in MTs) of each GMS Tubes that can be supplied by firm within a period of 60 Days from the date of placement of supply order.
08	Clause-2 Page No. 27	Conversion Factor for metres/ tube tonne 40mm L : 327 80mm L : 145	Conversion Factor for metres/ tube tonne shall be 40mm (L) : 305.81 80mm (L) : 145.13

Besides with regards to the purchase and price preference for local SSI units, it is hereby clarified that "If the price quoted by any participant MSE is within price band of L1+15%, he shall be allowed to supply a portion of requirement by bringing down their price L1 price, in a situation where L1 price is from some other than MSE and such MSE shall be allowed to supply up to 20% of the total tendered value. In case of more than one such MSE the supply shall be shared proportionately to tendered quantity."

In such a scenario as detailed above, the balance quantity after deducting the share of MSE(S) shall be distributed as detailed in clause 8, section III "Special Conditions of Contract" of the bid document."

All other terms and conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

Chief Engineer,
Jal Shakti, (PHE) Department, Kashmir

No:- CE/PHE/KMR/USD/36454-66 Date:-08-01-2022 DIPK-16445

OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (CIVIL) PLANT WW C/o CE(WW)
DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. DELHI
CHANDRAWAL: WATER WORKS NO.II CIVIL LINES : DELHI-54
Office Telephone No.-23815504
E-mail:- eeplantww.djb02@gmail.com

PRESS NIT No. 32 (Item No.1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)/(2021-22)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money (Fresh) > As per the clause of additional information of NIT Para No. IV(c)	Tender Processing Fee (Fresh)	Publication date of tender in e-procurement Solution	Last date & time for receipt of tender from e-procurement solution
1.	Construction of Sump near Raw Water Pump House at Haidepur WW Phase-I, (Tender ID: 2022_DJB_214430_I)	5212289/-	104300/-	1000/-	10.01.2022	24.01.2022
2.	Special repair and renovation of administrative building at Haidepur Water Works, (Tender ID: 2022_DJB_214435_I)	4703920/-	94100/-	500/-	10.01.2022	24.01.2022
3.	Special repair/renovation of Automation Building and Store Room at Haidepur WW-II, (Tender ID: 2022_DJB_214437_I)	3266367/-	65500/-	500/-	10.01.2022	24.01.2022
4.	Development of Auditorium/ Conference Hall/ Training Centre in place of Alum Storage House at Haidepur WW-II, (Tender ID: 2022_DJB_214439_I)	4420788/-	88500/-	500/-	10.01.2022	24.01.2022
5.	Special repair/renovation of Administrative Block at Bawana Water Treatment Plant, (Tender ID: 2022_DJB_214442_I)	3791691/-	75900/-	500/-	10.01.2022	24.01.2022

The more detail required above can be seen on website www.delhi.govtprocurement.com

Sd/-
EX. ENGINEER(C) PLANT, WW
C/o ACE(P)-2
ADVT. No. J.S.V. 990 (2021-22)
"STOP CORANA; WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
(Telefax: 0194-2496089, E-mail ID: xennhchchk@yahoo.in)
(Short Term)

GIST of E - NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/273/e-tendering Dated:-10-01-2022
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost. (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rupees)	Time of Completion (in Days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No.	Earnest Money (in Rs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Complete Servicing/ repairs/ replacement to CPC-40 Air Compressor of 350 LPM Oxygen Generation installed at GMC Anantnag.	2.50	200	05	GMCA/Pig/ 115/2626-31, Dt: 28.09.2020	MHCHD/TS/ 193 Dated 01/22	5000

- The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.kjtenders.gov.in from 10-01-2022 (18.00 hrs).
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 11-01-2022(10.00 hrs) to 17-01-2022(14.00 hrs) in two (02) cover.
- The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 17-01-2022(16.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

DIPK-16491

कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, गढ़वा
सहिजना मोड़, गढ़वा (झारखण्ड) पिन नं० 822114, Email : eedwsd.garhwal@gmail.com

शुद्धि-पत्र
एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, गढ़वा अन्तर्गत आमंत्रित ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट (1st Call) निविदा सूचना संख्या-DWSG/GAR/SVS(JJM)-04/2021-22, जो PR No. 2060608 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 21-22-D द्वारा प्रकाशित है जिसमें अपरिहार्य कारणों से लिथि एवं समय में निम्न प्रकार संशोधित किया जाता है :-

निविदा की तिथि एवं समय :-

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित	संशोधित कर प्रकाशित	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	Date & time of Tender Uploading on Website		03.01.2022/12:30 P.M.	12.01.2022/12:30 P.M.	
2	Date & time of Document Download and Bid Submission start date		03.01.2022/12:35 P.M.	12.01.2022/12:35 P.M.	
3	Date & time of Pre bid Meeting	(1) Garbandh Group of SVS Scheme under Nagar Untari Block (Group No. 50)	07.01.2022/12:30 P.M. Office of the Regional Chief Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Deptt. Ranchi Zone, Ranchi.	17.01.2022/12:30 P.M. Office of the Regional Chief Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Deptt. Ranchi Zone, Ranchi.	
4	Last date & time of Bid Submission	(1) Garbandh Group of SVS Scheme under Nagar Untari Block (Group No. 50)	15.01.2025/05:00 P.M.	22.01.2022/05:00 P.M.	
5	Last date & time of Submission Cost of BOQ and EMD (in Hard copy)	(2) Kalyanpur Group of SVS Scheme under Garhwa Block (Group No. 55)	17.01.2022/10:30 AM to 04:00 P.M. (i) Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Garhwa. (ii) Office of the Superintending Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Circle, Medinipur (iii) Regional Chief Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Deptt. Ranchi Zone, Ranchi.	24.01.2022/10:30 AM to 04:00 P.M. (i) Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Garhwa. (ii) Office of the Superintending Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Circle, Medinipur (iii) Regional Chief Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Deptt. Ranchi Zone, Ranchi.	12 माह
6	Date & time of Opening Tender		18.01.2022/04:30 P.M.	25.01.2022/04:30 P.M.	

Calm New Zealand beat Bangladesh to tie series

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JANUARY 11

A COURAGEOUS century by wicketkeeper Liton Das made Bangladesh a hard nut to crack but New Zealand finally broke through on Tuesday to win the second Test by an innings and 117 runs to tie the series.

Das batted almost one-handed for much of his innings after being struck on the glove. He weathered a barrage of short-pitched bowling from New Zealand to post his second Test century from only 106 balls. Bangladesh rallied around his resilient example to force a match which many thought would be over quickly on Tuesday into the final session of the third day before the last wicket fell 20 minutes from scheduled stumps.

Das finally was out for 102 and the end came swiftly afterwards with Bangladesh losing its last wickets in dimming light at Hagley Oval. When the ninth wicket fell the crowd began baying for the veteran batsman Ross Taylor who will retire from Test cricket after his 112th Test to be given a chance to bowl. When the light became too poor for the quicks to continue, captain Tom Latham bowed to the crowd's demand and Taylor's third ball of gentle off breaks brought a false shot from Ebadot Hossain who skied the ball to Latham. That brought the curtain down on Taylor's 15-year Test career in the most unusual fashion and to the reverberating cheers of the crowd.

Taylor had bowled only 16 overs in all of his previous Tests for two wickets, the last time eight years ago. But fate conspired to bring his career to an extraordinary end. First mobbed by his teammates and presented the match ball, he walked from the field through a honour guard formed by



Talismanic batter Ross Taylor played his last Test after a fulfilling 15-year-career. AP

Bangladesh, providing one last rich memory of an outstanding career. "We needed to win this game to stay in the series and I thought we played fantastically well," Taylor said. "Bangladesh put us under pressure at various times and that was probably a fair reflection of where the series was at. "I wanted to finish with a win and the guys obviously gave that to me."

It was significant that the final catch was taken by Latham as the New Zealand captain had an outsized influence on this match. He scored 252, his second Test double century, in New Zealand's first innings of 521-6 declared, then took six catches as New Zealand bowled out Bangladesh for 126 and 278 after enforcing the follow-on. In doing so, Latham became the first player in Test history to score 250 and take six catches in the same match. "We came here 1-0 down after losing the first test and putting a performance like this on the board was very pleasing," Latham said. "We talked about it in the days before the match that we had to improve on a number of areas and I thought we did that well. I guess getting put in on day one on a wicket we know does a little bit on day one, to get through that first session, to build partnerships throughout the innings was ideal. I guess we know first innings scores here are very important."

The tourists struggled to recover in the second Test after New Zealand's mammoth first-innings total. "I'm really happy with the first Test but the first innings of the second Test was disappointing," Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque said. **BRIEF SCORES:** New Zealand 521 for 6 dec (Latham 252, Conway 109, Blundell 57*, Shoriful 2-79) bt Bangladesh 126 (Yasir 55, Boulton 5-43, Southee 3-28, Jamieson 2-32) and 278 (Liton 102, Mominul 37, Jamieson 4-82, Wagner 3-77) by an innings and 117 runs.

Finding ignition spark after false starts

Ashmita Chaliha's 24-22, 21-16 win over 5th seed Kosetskaya at India Open could kick her career into next gear

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, JANUARY 11

ASHMITA CHALIHA has an ambitious full-fledged jump smash. As a southpaw, it's her decisive weapon. But her live-by-the-sword-die-by-the-sword approach has also made her terribly prone to injuries. Two years since that shot created a buzz around the Assamese World No. 84, Chaliha showed she can retrace her precarious steps - like rewinding a tape two clicks back, frame by patient frame - and be more than a one-trick pony.

In beating World No. 28 Evgeniya Kosetskaya 24-22, 21-16 in 31 minutes in Round 1 of the India Open, Chaliha displayed maturity that has eluded her these last few years. She led the tall Russian 11-5 in the opener, and then 19-16, before freezing to gift her opponent two game points. Then in an alchemic mix of what Chaliha calls "safe and attacking" trailing 21-22, she would get the job done with three of her most important points of the last two years.

A 21-16 scoreline in Game 2 was a dressing of the same confidence in her game - something that she could carry further into this season.

Chaliha's early coach Suranjan recalls his reticent ward crying copiously once after losing from a 20-19 situation. "She could go blank earlier at the crunch. And play negative. But today, she seemed to have crossed that hurdle," he said from Guwahati, adding that Indonesian coach Erwin had worked on keeping the shuttle in the middle of the court and not hitting out wildly at crucial junctures. In juniors typically, where shuttlers played 2-3 matches a day, Chaliha was prone to playing rash shots in evening matches - pointing to a mental brittleness that comes from sub-par fitness. On Tuesday at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, Chaliha refused to self-destruct.

"In 20-20 situations, my only strategy was to play safe and continue with the rally until my opponent gives up. And I'm happy that I could pull it off," she would say later, adding that her attacking game had helped when tempered with mindful discretion.

Kosetskaya had won their earlier face-off in Russia, in straight games, back in July 2019. The 23-year-old Indian, playing sharper on home turf, burst out of the blocks, to upset the fifth seed, in the first big event after pandemic-mangled two years.

Lockdown Blues

Once tipped to be the natural successor to PV Sindhu owing to her unique southpaw game and blazing bouts of attack, Chaliha had lost out on two seasons, starved of competition, and nervous in the few times she travelled out to play smaller international events. "It was a tough time and torturous,"



Ashmita Chaliha was playing her first big tournament after a long absence due to Covid, injuries and tournament cancellations. BAI

she would explain her state of mind as her transition from juniors to seniors overlapped with the savagery of the virus bringing life to a standstill in Guwahati. "It's been tough, more so because there were lockdowns and curfews imposed and as such practice a lot of times became irregular," she says.

Her father, Dhruva Jyoti Chaliha dubs it a 24-month wipe-out. "It was really tough because two years just got wasted. But nevertheless, we told her that just keep practising and don't lose hope. Work more on your weak points," he recalls. She would work on her dribbles and attacks. "I did a lot of specific standing strokes at the net," Chaliha added. "I also did different kinds of agility, mostly for speed and movements."

Yet, the forced time away might've chiselled the sharpest muscle needing sharpening: the heart. For long considered a little laidback in her hunger to win - or in working up the fitness for it at any rate - Chaliha might well find the spark plug in this win. "Yes, she's ambitious. Also stubborn," her father attests, adding that she frequently goes to Bengaluru for sparring with top players.

Start in Guwahati

Dipankar Bhattacharyya was the local shuttle legend in Guwahati. But it was Krishna Dekaraja two decades ago who was considered India's most promising shuttler, right before Saina Nehwal emerged. That career would fade out, but Suranjan, a Railways shuttler and her contemporary, would firm

KEY RESULTS ROUND 1

WS: 1-PV Sindhu bt Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli 21-5, 21-16; **MS:** 1-K Srikanth bt Siril Verma 21-17, 21-10; 5-Loh Kean Yew bt Xiaodong Sheng 16-21, 21-4, 21-13. **WD:** 7-Treesa Jolly/Gayatri Gopichand bt Anastasiya Prozorova/Valeriya Rudakova 21-12, 21-10; Simran Singh/Ritika Thaker bt Mariia Stoliarenko/Yelyzaveta Zharka 14-21, 22-20, 21-19. **XD:** 7-Dhruv Kapila/N Sikki Reddy bt Chirag Arora/Nishu Rapria 21-11, 21-11.

up his mind to take up coaching.

Chaliha Sr, a tennis player, remembers, "There was no provision for any tennis courts near where we were situated. Whatever tennis one could play, had to travel a really long distance. Since we wanted Ashmita to play some sport and be active, badminton was the only racquet sport available."

A massive fan of Lee Chong Wei, Chaliha would start jump-smashing well before she got to 5ft-6. "Her grip and strokes were natural. Even the jump smash was her own. She realised it could make her 'extraordinary' in her group and learnt it with the boys I guess," Suranjan recalls.

Still with little knowledge of a fitness base, injuries continued to stall progress. "We

had no social life when we were players, and barely met families, such was the obsession. Injuries due to bad courts would invariably end careers. With Ashmita, we are trying to improve," the coach says.

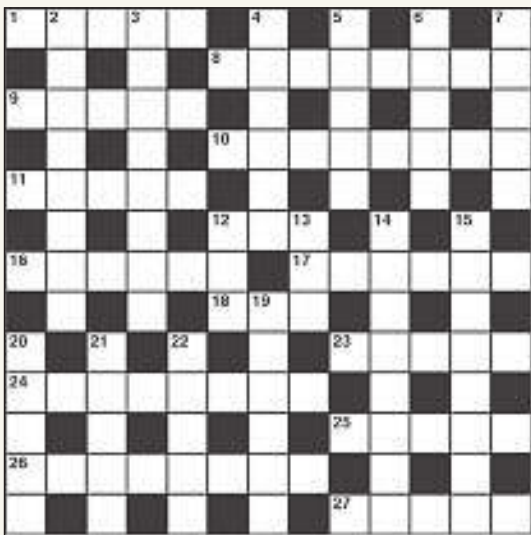
Yet, it was a nasty bout of Covid plus a bunch of injuries that muddled her return to action in 2021. Chaliha has decent deception on her forehand cross-courts and her backhand pickups at the net have the blitz as she intercepts the shuttle high. But staying fit remains a concern.

Her body language needs bolstering at the clutch, especially. "She's not much of a rebel. Listens to everything she's told. But yes, maybe the aggression can come with being assertive," he says. The one thing that Chaliha could learn from Carolina Marin, though the two southpaws have distinct games.

Mostly introverted, Chaliha has her close-knit friends, and enjoys photography. "She and her friends click really candid ugly pictures of us coaches and make memes out of them. And even if we're the butt of the joke, we can't help laughing. She's very funny that way," Suranjan says.

There's a fine balance Chaliha needs to strike between the fun-n-jokes and getting serious about badminton. "We don't want her to take pressure. Best she enjoys when she plays because competition is intense. If she plays Sindhu (they might in quarters), I want her to create a happy memory irrespective of the result and play freely," the coach ends.

CROSSWORD 4635



ACROSS

- Sort of mistake that could make one late (5)
- Noted French-speaking union (8)
- Hazards of drivers and divers (5)
- Tees should be made with sand - agreed? (8)
- Refuse to wither away (5)
- Twelve inches behind (3)
- Anything but happy with my new logo (6)
- More ideal state (6)
- Fall in the sea (3)
- What a thief may do is a hit (5)
- Worker I surpass as a matter of course (8)
- National condition? (5)
- See 4 Down
- Youthful love of being in a crowd (5)

DOWN

- The morning help is easily won over (8)
- Increase in work for the summer (8)
- and 26: Explorers go to extremes to reach them (4,2,3,5)
- Points out a woman with an odd figure (5)
- Encourages a beast in distress (5)
- A call for narrow margins (5)
- Once always included in prayers (3)
- It floats but overturns (3)
- One has a lot of trouble getting into this (3,5)
- They put sides at variance (8)
- Takes excessive pride in bats so well turned out (6)
- Reports it's very warm on board (5)
- Range and directions (5)
- He made very valuable contacts (5)

Solutions Crossword 4634: Across: 1 Bottom gear, 6 Chop, 10 Tempi, 11 Parachute, 12 Linguish, 13 Oasis, 15 Coyotes, 17 Platoon, 19 Inroads, 21 Creator, 22 Endue, 24 Carolina, 27 Topiarist, 28 Ivory, 29 List, 30 Aggregates. Down: 1 Bits, 2 Tom Sawyer, 3 Owling, 4 Gypsies, 5 Airship, 7 Hours, 8 Plesantry, 9 Accolade, 14 Accidental, 16 Trade gap, 18 Out-and-out, 20 Sacking, 21 Curator, 23 Dupes, 25 Lying, 26 Eyes.

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.

Menviwwllr___what they___ - Julius Caesar (7..4)

LMEEE



EITBHL



FNIIIS



EELTVW



Answer: When willingly believe what they wish - Julius Caesar

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4712

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4711



DAY TODAY

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ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You're definitely on to a winner. The odds are stacked in your favour, so if you can possibly ease yourself into a strong position, please do. Domestic affairs seem to be dominant, and even at work you will need to feel part of one large, happy family.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

A financial loss or crisis should now be in the past, and, while you may not have a chance to make up for it until next year, at least you'll be able to put yourself on a better footing by the end of the week. Your best move will be to line up some useful allies.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You're probably now coming under the shadow of the next major lunar alignment, and day-to-day ups and downs will only make sense when you look back with hindsight. This is a moment for casual companionship rather than raw passion, so don't expect what's not on offer.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Busy stars will certainly keep you on your toes, but a measure of uncertainty is clouding the issues. You may have to accept that one particular course of action is a dead end in the short run, but could have welcome spin-offs next year. But what these will be, nobody can say.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You're in charge. This means that not only could you be the cause of a minor dispute, but also that you have the means to restore peace. Overseas and long-distance contacts should be cultivated, partly because it's people from backgrounds very different from yours who offer the greatest stimulation.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You should continue to believe that you are in the right. Spending plans should proceed as normal, but if you can possibly veer towards the imaginative and romantic end of the spectrum, so much the better. It's just that a day-dream could open your eyes to practical solutions and advantage.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

All things must pass, as the song says. That's one of the laws of astrology. The final round in a long, drawn-out battle is on the way, but as we're talking in years rather than weeks, you must maintain your grasp on the future. Important discussions should soon be completed.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

You must now learn to be more discriminating in your choice of friends. At work, you may distinguish between people who are genuinely helpful and those who can put over a flashy presentation but totally lack the sort of meaning and substance which you bring.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

The fact is that you have the best ideas, and you are in control. You need not fear people who harbour angry resentments or have sharp tongues and bitter words. You can also avoid contributing to tense situations, and count to ten before delivering any home truths.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

It's your right not to be tied down, but colleagues and close associates are tearing their hair out at the moment. In about four or five days, you'll be ready to explain yourself and offer a few answers. But by the time that partners have caught up with where you are now, you'll have moved on.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You may finalise a number of social arrangements, or put a new friendship on firm ground, before the next phase in your personal affairs commences. The answer to any difficulties with children or younger relations may lie in the past. It's all a matter of knowing where to draw the line.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The past few weeks seem to have coincided with tense situations at work, but the origin of any strain probably lies deep within your private affairs. Decisive action may not be enough. Patience is essential, but that has been one of your major qualities.

