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DELHI, KOLKATA ALSO SEE FALL IN DAILY CASES

Hope in Mumbai: City past peak, schools set to reopen Jan 27, says Commissioner

6,149 new cases reported, down from peak of 20,971 on January 7

YOGESH NAIK & SANDEEP SINGH
MUMBAI, JANUARY 18

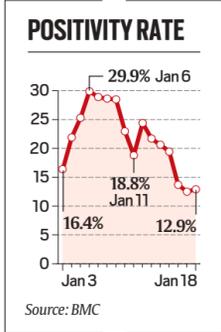
AMID THE ongoing third wave, driven by the highly infectious Omicron variant, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal said on Tuesday that Mumbai had moved past the peak and the daily Covid-19 case



BMC's Iqbal Singh Chahal

count was expected to fall further over the coming days. "We are planning to re-open schools on January 27," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



As testing numbers fall, govt gives states a nudge

AMITABH SINHA & KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
PUNE, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

THE UNION Health Ministry Tuesday told health departments in the country to increase testing, highlighting a decline in several states and Union Territories over the last few days.

Arvi Ahuja, without naming any state or Union Territory, reiterated to health secretaries the fresh ICMR guidelines issued after the emergence of the highly-transmissible Omicron variant.

The new ICMR guidelines had stated that all those who are symptomatic and at-risk contacts of laboratory-confirmed cases must be tested — while

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INSIDE



2 INDIANS KILLED IN ABU DHABI DRONE STRIKE IDENTIFIED
PAGE 8

Citing SC order, govt slams Cong, UPA on Antrix-Devas 'fraud' deal

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

A DAY after the Supreme Court upheld the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's order to wind up Devas Multimedia, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tore into the Congress, calling the 2005 Antrix-Devas agreement a "fraud of the Congress, by the Congress, for the Congress".

Accusing the then UPA government of undertaking a "fraud deal" and allocating the rare S-band spectrum for a "pittance", Sitharaman told a press conference that the government will use the Supreme Court ruling to

EXPLAINED The counter, dismissal

In its appeal before SC, Devas said the motive behind the wind-up move was to deprive it of the ICC Tribunal award. It said this would send a wrong message to investors. But the SC found no merit in the argument.

counter seizure of its properties overseas. She said "no country which respects rule of law will ignore

these facts" pointed out by the Supreme Court.

In 2005, Antrix Corporation, the government-owned commercial arm of ISRO, signed an agreement with Bangalore-based Devas Multimedia for a 12-year lease of 90% transponder space on two satellites, G-SAT6 and G-SAT6A that were yet to be launched.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

SIMPLY PUT
DEVAS DEAL & AFTERMATH
PAGE 9



CAPITAL MARCH

Rehearsals for Republic Day in New Delhi, Tuesday. Though there were plans to host about 24,000 guests, the final number could be between 5,000 and 8,000. Gajendra Yadav REPORT, P6

Three dead, 11 injured in explosion on board destroyer INS Ranvir

No major material damage to warship at dockyard, says Navy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

THREE NAVY personnel were killed and 11 injured in an explosion on board the aging destroyer INS Ranvir at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai Tuesday.

The Navy said "no major material damage has been reported" and a board of inquiry has been instituted into the incident.

INS Ranvir, among the oldest warships in the Navy, is a Soviet-era destroyer and was commissioned in April 1986.

The fourth destroyer of the



INS Ranvir is the oldest among Navy's warships

Rajput class, it is the first of the Ranvir class. The other Ranvir class destroyer is INS Ranvijay.

In a statement, the Navy said: "In an unfortunate incident today at Naval Dockyard Mumbai, three naval personnel

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

AAP names Mann as its Punjab CM face: 'People chose him'

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 18

THE AAM Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday announced Bhagwant Mann, its Punjab unit chief and Sangrur MP, as its chief ministerial candidate, saying that 93 per cent of the people who responded to its "Janata chunegi apna CM" drive named him as their choice.

On January 13, AAP had asked the people of



Kerjriwal and Mann in Mohali, Jasbir Malhi



Punjab to name their choice, via voice or text message, on a dedicated

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ED searches house of CM Channi's relative in sand mining case

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
JALANDHAR, JANUARY 18

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate Tuesday searched 10 places in election-bound Punjab, including those linked to the nephew of Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, over a 2018 sand mining case.

The searches were carried out in Ludhiana, Mohali and Pathankot districts.

ED officials, who were part of the raiding team, said Rs 6 crore



During the searches in Ludhiana, Gurmeet Singh

was seized during the raid — including Rs 4 crore from Channi's nephew Bhupinder Singh Honey.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNNY
Can't even do Zoom meetings. Internet is out off every weekend there.

Inside TMC, Abhishek puts his foot down and sets off a churn

ATRI MITRA & SOURAV ROY BARMAN
KOLKATA, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

BETWEEN ABHISHEK Banerjee's "Diamond Harbour Model" and Mamata Banerjee's Gangasagar Mela one, the Trinamool Congress can seem like speaking



Tension between Abhishek, Kalyan Banerjee

in different voices. However, more than a rift between the West Bengal Chief Minister and her heir apparent nephew, the tension reflects the friction within the TMC as the 34-year-old tries to find his feet, and the old guard resents his rise.

Appointed the unofficial No. 2 in the TMC after the party

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

A contest to watch out for: Couple in race for BJP ticket from same seat

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 18

A MINISTER and sitting MLA, a husband who fancies his chances, and both of them throwing their hat in the ring — this is a domestic fight that is fast capturing national attention.

Swati Singh, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Women's Welfare in the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, and her husband Dayashankar Singh, the BJP state vice-president, are both in the race for a party ticket to contest



Swati Singh (above) and her husband Dayashankar Singh.

the upcoming election from Sarojini Nagar in Lucknow district. Swati Singh is the sitting MLA from the seat that was on February 23, in the fourth phase of elections in UP.

Dayashankar was in the

news in 2016, when he allegedly made derogatory remarks against Mayawati. As BSP leaders protested and Mayawati raised the issue in Rajya Sabha, the BJP suspended Dayashankar and he was soon arrested from Mau.

However, Swati Singh lodged a counter complaint at the Hazratganj police station against BSP chief Mayawati and her then party colleagues Naseemuddin Siddiqui and Ram Achal Rajbhar (both have since been expelled from the BSP) over a protest they attended in Lucknow against Dayashankar's comments. In her complaint, she alleged that the BSP leaders had made derogatory comments against her, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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REMEMBERING NARAYAN DEBNATH, THE ILLUSTRATOR WHO GAVE BENGAL ITS FIRST SUPERHERO 'BANTUL'

The artist died today, January 18, after a prolonged illness at the age of 96

LIFESTYLE

'SMALL CHANGES CAN IMPROVE HEALTH'



Munmun Ganerwal on the importance of healthy gut function

TECH

ONEPLUS 9RT REVIEW: TICKS ALL BOXES



Among the best options for those looking for a flagship-level upgrade

EXPRESS AUDIO

What the deferment of polls means in the politics of Punjab

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Here, we discuss the growing influence of Ravidassia community in the politics of Punjab along with the latest updates on the upcoming elections in the state

FROM PAGE ONE

Three killed

succumbed to injuries caused by an explosion in an internal compartment on board INS Ranvir." The ship's crew, it said, responded immediately and the situation was quickly brought under control. "No major material damage has been reported," it said. The explosion took place between 4.30 and 5 pm while the ship was docked. The Navy said INS Ranvir was "on cross coast operational deployment from the Eastern Naval Command" since November 2021 and was due to return to base port shortly. Sources said the three personnel who died were all senior sailors but not officers. The Navy is in the process of reaching out to the families of the dead, and will release their names and details thereafter. The explosion, sources said, had nothing to do with ammunition or weapons. A senior officer said the explosion took place in an AC compartment and the three who died were in a compartment above it. This is the first major incident since June 2019 when a worker died in a fire on board the then under-construction Vizakhapatnam destroyer at Mazagon dockyard.

Punjab CM face
phone number, till 5 pm on January 17. Announcing the results on Tuesday, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said the party had received 21,59,437 votes. "93 per cent people voted for Bhagwant Mann as CM candidate. Some named me, so we rejected those votes. Navjot Singh Sidhu got 3.6 per cent votes," he said. Kejriwal had made clear last week that Mann was the party's choice. "We had decided that he should be our CM face. But Bhagwant said the CM face should not be chosen behind closed doors, and the people of Punjab should choose who should be the CM face," he had said. A comedian-turned-politician, Mann, 48, is a two-time MP from Sangrur. After Kejriwal announced his name in Mohali on Tuesday, an emotional Mann hugged him and could be seen wiping his tears. Mann said he now had a "double responsibility", as he had been named the CM candidate by his party and the people. "Earlier, when I used to meet people across Punjab, they would laugh (referring to his role as a comedian). But now, they weep and beg for Punjab's former glory to be restored," he said. He asked everyone to work towards a Punjab where its people would rule, not "chamchas". Mann said there are many sections of society who are sitting on protests atop mobile towers and water tanks, and their demands have to be addressed. The AAP is the first major political party to name its chief ministerial candidate for Punjab.

ED searches
Honey's Mohali residence and one of his premises in Ludhiana were among the places searched. Tuesday's action was part of an ED investigation into the role of two companies in allegedly laundering proceeds of illegal sand mining. Channi's nephew is one of the three directors of the companies, sources said. These firms, Provider Overseas Services and Pinjor Realtors, were set up by one Kudrat Deep Singh, the main accused in the case — which is based on a March 7, 2018 FIR registered by the Punjab police. The ED had also registered an enforcement case report (ECR) in November 2021 against Kudrat Deep, who owns a quarry in Nawanshahr (Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar) district. Channi, meanwhile, said the searches were a "pressure tactic... a repeat of what happened with Mamata Banerjee's relatives during West Bengal elections". The searches were conducted in the presence of Honey, Kudrat Deep and the third director, Sandeep Kumar. Sources said the agency may make some arrests in this case. The illegal sand mining case was initially registered by the Punjab police at Rahon police station of Nawanshahr on the complaint of the mining officer under sections of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation of Development) Act, 1957, and the Indian Penal Code. During the probe, six more miners have come under the lens, including Sunil Joshi of Pathankot.

Antrix-Devas
Of the 150 MHz of space that ISRO owned in the S-band spectrum, Devas was allowed the use of 70 MHz to launch satellite-based applications on mobile devices. Devas, which had a few former ISRO scientists in its top management, was supposed to pay \$300 million to Antrix over the 12-year period. The agreement was cancelled by the then UPA government in 2011 after allegations of it being a quid pro quo "sweetheart deal" surfaced. In 2014, the CBI and Enforcement Directorate were asked to probe the deal. In its judgement Monday, the Supreme Court also upheld the liquidation of Devas Multimedia, and said the contention of Antrix that fraud had happened "stood established". It also dismissed Devas Multimedia's claim that the real motive of liquidating the company was to deprive it of the "unanimous awards" of the arbitral tribunals. "If the seeds of the commercial relationship between Antrix and Devas were a product of fraud perpetrated by Devas, every part of the plant that grew out of those seeds, such as the agreement, the disputes, arbitral awards etc., are all infected with the poison of fraud. A product of fraud is in conflict with the public policy of any country including India," the top court said in its ruling. Citing the judgement, Sitharaman said: "Antrix appeared in agreement with Devas in 2005 during the UPA government. It was a fraud deal. UPA government cancelled this deal in 2011. Devas went to international arbitration. The Government of India never appointed an arbitrator, was reminded to appoint an arbitrator within 21 days, but the government did not appoint."

As testing falls in key states, govt gives states a nudge
there was no need to do so for asymptomatic people. The Health Ministry nudge is not without reason. India is currently testing barely 60 per cent of what it was doing in the first week of June last year, when a roughly similar number of new Covid-19 cases were being discovered as now. On Monday, the country conducted 16.49 lakh tests. What's more, in several crucial states, the testing numbers are showing a decline over the last few days, which prompted the Health Ministry to write the letter on Tuesday. "As you are aware, the Omicron which has been designated... as variant of concern is currently spreading across the country... Testing remains a key and crucial component of the framework. However, it is seen from the data available on the ICMR portal that testing has declined in many states and union territories," Ahuja wrote. The key states include Delhi, Maharashtra, Bihar, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal. In all these states, the decline has continued for four or five days now, longer than the usual dip seen over the weekends. In many of these states, the daily case count is also going down, or seems to have stabilised. At the national level, however, the test numbers are rising steadily. On Monday, for example, the seven-day average of tests touched 17.5 lakh, the highest since the end of August last year. On individual days, the testing numbers have crossed 20 lakh as well. During the second wave, however, this number was more than 30 lakh for about a week towards the end of May and start of June. As a result, the positivity rate at the national level is way higher than that time, and rising. The current weekly positivity rate is 14.22 per cent, more than double of what it was in the first week of June. However, the crucial difference between then and now is that India's case count is currently on the upward trajectory, while in June it was going down after reaching the peak. The current positivity rate is still way below the peak it had seen during the height of the second wave in the first week of May. At that time, the positivity rate had been hovering around 22 per cent. The sudden arrest in the surge of cases in some states could be because of the reduction in the number of samples being tested. This could also be having an impact on the national case count, whose trajectory has flattened in the last few days. In fact, the 2.38 lakh cases detected on Monday was the lowest in the last six days. However, this could only be a temporary phenomenon, and the case count is likely to rise in the coming days. Since the trends in testing are not following a uniform pattern across states, the daily count of cases at the national level is not conveying a very accurate picture of how the infection is spreading during the third wave. The seeming slowdown being witnessed could only be because of the change in testing strategy in several states, and may not be reflective of how quickly the infection is spreading. The fact that the positivity rate is maintaining an upward trend supports the suggestion that, at the national level at least, the peak might still be some distance away. Party leaders say the new rift is the second chapter of the above. A senior leader close to Mamata says: "Only Abhishek can tell her what to do or not to do. So, if Abhishek did something and was successful, do not think this happened without Mamata's consent." The leader calls it "Track 2" politics. "Mamata cannot do many things being CM, but Abhishek easily can. So, all is happening with a pre-determined script." TMC sources say there is another angle to Kalyan's unhappiness — a gradual sidelining as the Bengal government's counsel-in-chief on legal matters. "Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who was elected to the Rajya Sabha with TMC support in 2018, now appears in many of the cases of the state government... apart from advocate Sanjay Ghosh, who is close to Abhishek," a senior TMC leader says. Meanwhile, in September, Kalyan's confidant Kishore Datta resigned as advocate general of West Bengal. Another leader says Kalyan is also smarting over candidates, allegedly handpicked by Abhishek, for the party in Hooghly district, where his Lok Sabha constituency Serampore falls. While Kalyan told leaders that most of them would lose, to his chagrin, the TMC did exceedingly well in the district. Kalyan could be next expecting the focus to move to him over the one man-one post drive spearheaded by Abhishek — "Kalyan is both the Chief Whip and the chairman of the Hooghly River Bridge Commissioners," points out a leader. A TMC leader, who has seen Abhishek hanging around Mamata since the time he was a college student, says Mamata is conscious of not rocking the boat — to a point. "After Abhishek was appointed the national general secretary, he made it a point to visit veteran leaders and touch their feet in front of TV cameras. That

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A glimmer from Mumbai: City past peak, hope to open schools Jan 27, says Commissioner

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Chahal said the third wave peaked around January 10. Over the last week, the city has reported a sharp fall in daily cases. "We expect the numbers to come down to levels of 1,000-2,000 by January 26, and we are now planning to re-open schools by January 27," said Chahal. Mumbai reported its highest single-day spike of 20,971 cases at 28.9 per cent positivity rate on January 7, past its second wave peak of 11,573 cases at 23 per cent positivity on April 3 last year. However, the number of deaths and patients needing hospitalisation was considerably lower this time. Over the last week, the city's daily case count has seen a steady fall. It dipped to 10,661 on Saturday; 7,895 on Sunday; and 5,956 on Monday. On Tuesday, 6,149 new cases were reported. The positivity rate has also fallen from a peak of 29.9 per cent on January 6 to 12.9 per cent on Tuesday. While Mumbai has seen the sharpest decline, it is not alone. A similar trend is visible in a few other cities as well, most notably in Delhi and Kolkata. These cities were the first ones to show a steep rise in cases during the third wave and are seemingly on a downward curve now. Just six days ago, Delhi had recorded a new all-time peak, detecting 28,867 cases. It has seen a steady and fast decline after that. The capital reported 11,684 cases on Tuesday. In Kolkata, the case count rose to more than double of its second wave peak — 8,712 cases on January 9 compared to 3,990 on May 23 last year. But it dropped quickly after that, and on Tuesday, the city reported only 2,205 cases. Chennai is also showing distinct signs of a slowdown, though the cases have not begun to decline. The city has been reporting between 8,000 and 9,000 cases for six days now. But there are also cities like Bengaluru and Pune that are seeing rapid rise in numbers. Bengaluru reported 25,595 cases on Tuesday, the highest so far in the third wave, and only marginally below its all-time peak of 26,756 recorded on April 30 last year. Similarly, Pune also reported the highest number of cases in this wave on Tuesday — its 11,784 cases on Tuesday is below the second wave peak of 12,825 cases. Though the daily case count in Mumbai has fallen, critics have pointed out that testing has declined over the last 10 days. From 72,442 samples on January 7, testing was down to 47,700 on Tuesday. However, Chahal said that tests are being conducted as per demand. "We are conducting tests for all the people coming for tests and that number itself has gone down," he said. Another senior official said only around 15 per cent of the beds at BMC-run hospitals and jumbo Covid facilities were currently occupied. While saying that the BMC was prepared to handle around 40,000-50,000 cases per day, Additional Municipal Commissioner Suresh Kakani said he was relieved that the daily count and positivity rate were showing a sharp fall over the last few days. Kakani too was confident that the third wave was under control now, but cautioned that people should not lower their guard. "People need to continue wearing masks and follow Covid appropriate behaviour at all times," he said. Schools in Maharashtra began offline classes for all grades from December 15 last year. Most schools began their Christmas vacation from December 23 and were set to resume classes on January 3. But, amid the rising cases, BMC asked all schools to return to online mode till January 31. On January 8, as the state government announced new restrictions, all schools were told not to hold offline classes till February 15. **WITH AMITABH SINHA IN PUNE**

liar been gung-ho about, and soon after, urged the State Election Commission to postpone the January 22 civic polls in light of Covid, as well as introduced other curbs. On Saturday, the SEC put off the polls for three weeks, a decision welcomed by Abhishek. In social media posts, TMC leaders have been fulsome in their praise of Abhishek. Many hailed him for the record Covid tests and "Diamond Harbour Model", while party mouthpiece Jago Bangla called Abhishek "a man of his words". Chandrima Bhattacharya, Minister of State in the Health portfolio held by Mamata, congratulated Abhishek, tweeting: "You are an inspiration for many." Kalyan Banerjee said Abhishek had breached party discipline. "What model? There is only one model, which Mamata Banerjee has come up with... Abhishek is basically lending an advantage to the BJP," he said, adding: "If Abhishek Banerjee can win Tripura and Goa, then I will accept him as a leader." As the Opposition fished in the troubled waters, wondering what was brewing between Abhishek and Mamata, TMC state secretary Kunal Ghosh hit back at Kalyan, saying: "If a leader like Abhishek says something, we as soldiers of the party should listen to it silently." Arambagh TMC MP Aparupa Poddar demanded that Kalyan step down as Chief Whip of the party in the Lok Sabha. Insiders say the writing actually lies between the lines. The TMC old guard, which has been with Mamata since she was a Congress streetfighter taking on the CPM, has never been comfortable with Abhishek's rise. One of the reasons for Mamata's then No. 2 Mukul Roy and senior leaders Suvendu Adhikari and Rajib Banerjee leaving the TMC was Mamata's support for the nephew, as he climbed the ladder from youth leader to MP, to all-India general secretary. (Roy is now back in the TMC.) Party leaders say the new rift is the second chapter of the above. A senior leader close to Mamata says: "Only Abhishek can tell her what to do or not to do. So, if Abhishek did something and was successful, do not think this happened without Mamata's consent." The leader calls it "Track 2" politics. "Mamata cannot do many things being CM, but Abhishek easily can. So, all is happening with a pre-determined script." TMC sources say there is another angle to Kalyan's unhappiness — a gradual sidelining as the Bengal government's counsel-in-chief on legal matters. "Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who was elected to the Rajya Sabha with TMC support in 2018, now appears in many of the cases of the state government... apart from advocate Sanjay Ghosh, who is close to Abhishek," a senior TMC leader says. Meanwhile, in September, Kalyan's confidant Kishore Datta resigned as advocate general of West Bengal. Another leader says Kalyan is also smarting over candidates, allegedly handpicked by Abhishek, for the party in Hooghly district, where his Lok Sabha constituency Serampore falls. While Kalyan told leaders that most of them would lose, to his chagrin, the TMC did exceedingly well in the district. Kalyan could be next expecting the focus to move to him over the one man-one post drive spearheaded by Abhishek — "Kalyan is both the Chief Whip and the chairman of the Hooghly River Bridge Commissioners," points out a leader. A TMC leader, who has seen Abhishek hanging around Mamata since the time he was a college student, says Mamata is conscious of not rocking the boat — to a point. "After Abhishek was appointed the national general secretary, he made it a point to visit veteran leaders and touch their feet in front of TV cameras. That

was an acknowledgement that his elevation needed to be handled delicately." But now, Abhishek doesn't just want the title, he also wants the respect. He knows many seniors are dismissive of him as "bachha chele (he is a kid)". As per insiders, that is why the repositioning — as a mature leader, capable of own decisions, more moderate than the TMC's usual rabble-rousers, more polished than its hardscrabble footsoldiers. A source says Abhishek's stand against gatherings was also aimed at preempting any criticism for a football tournament organised in his constituency just when Covid cases were rising. For now, the dust seems to be settling. Ghosh says: "Mamata Banerjee is the leader and Abhishek is her lieutenant. There is no fight between them. All is well." Adds veteran Madan Mitra: "The TMC follows two rules. One, that our leader is correct. Two, if the leader is wrong, follow rule one." **Couple in race**
couple's daughter and Dayashankar's sister. After Dayashankar came out on bail, he had dared Mayawati to contest the 2017 Assembly election against his wife Swati. With Swati being declared the BJP candidate from Sarojini Nagar for the election that year, the couple had jointly toured several districts where they raised the issue of the BSP leaders allegedly raising "obscene" slogans against the women of their family and calling the remarks a "disrespect to Kshatriyas". Days after BJP's landslide victory in the 2017 elections, the BJP revoked Dayashankar's suspension and inducted Swati into the Yogi Cabinet. As minister, Swati Singh had landed in a controversy when an audio recording, purportedly of her allegedly threatening a police officer for registering an FIR against a real-estate giant, became public. CM Yogi Adityanath had then summoned her. The first sign of Dayashankar's ticket aspiration became public when, earlier this month, he sent messages wishing people on Makar Sankranti, with his name and designation, along with the constituency name — "Vidhan Sabha-170 Sarojini Nagar". On Tuesday, when contacted by *The Indian Express*, Dayashankar said, "I will contest if the party gives me a ticket... I am a hardworking worker of the party." When asked if his wife, the sitting MLA, is also in the fray from the same seat, Singh said, "The party has seen our work. Let them decide." While Swati Singh was not available for comment, her staff who answered the phone said the minister was busy with door-to-door campaigning in the Sarojini Nagar Vidhan Sabha "as she is preparing to contest from there". A source close to her also shared a photograph of a flex board with the minister's photo and the name of the constituency. A BJP leader said, "Dayashankar's photograph is missing from posters of Swati Singh and similarly, her photographs are not on posters of Dayashankar. Ultimately, the party will take a decision based on winability. But if Swati Singh is denied a ticket, that may send a wrong message among women voters." Recently, the BJP had appointed Dayashankar as a member of the 'state jointing committee' that was formed to screen leaders from other parties who wished to cross over to the BJP. In 2007, Dayashankar had contested from Ballia Assembly seat, but stood fifth. He was students' union president of Lucknow University in 1999, after having been elected its general secretary the year before, both times as a nominee of the ABVP.

In DDA budget, focus on Dwarka, Narela and Rohini

New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority Tuesday presented its sustainable development-oriented budget in which allocation of Rs 2,922 crore has been made for the year 2022-23 with a focus on the development of Narela, Dwarka and Rohini.

The land-owning agency said it has signed a memorandum with the NHAI (National Highways Authority of India) for the construction of urban extension road-II (UER) as a national highway. This road will enhance the connectivity of the sub-cities of Dwarka, Rohini and Narela.

By connecting the major national highways, it will contribute significantly toward easing heavy traffic congestion on Delhi roads and improving the air quality, said a senior DDA official.

The DDA has also made provision of Rs. 47.49 crore for construction of sewage water drain at Sector-8, Dwarka, for the discharge of drain water from the airport, development and rehabilitation of trunk drain 2 and trunk drain 5, and for reusing the drain water for horticulture purposes.

Once completed, this project is expected to address the problem of waterlogging near IGI Airport during heavy rainfall.

The work for the development of Bharat Vandana Park in Dwarka sub-city is already in progress. **ENS**

FOLLOWING NCPCR NOTICE

Parents asked to supervise 'Desh ke mentor' phone calls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

FOLLOWING THE National Commission for Protection of Child Rights' (NCPCR) notice on safety issues with the Delhi government's 'Desh ke Mentor' programme, the education department has advised that parents be present whenever children speak to their mentors.

The NCPCR had written to the Delhi government last week asking it to suspend this flagship programme until "all the loopholes pertaining to the safety of the children are overhauled". It had raised concerns over the possibility of children being exposed to abuse by people designated as mentors to them, who they are supposed to speak with regularly on the phone. It had raised concerns over the lack of police verification of the mentors, and questioned the 'psychometric test' that applicants are supposed to take before being enrolled as mentors.

Launched in October 2021, the programme aims at providing voluntary mentors to students in classes IX to XII in these schools. People between the ages of 18 and 35 can sign up to be



The CM, Deputy CM had earlier lashed out at the BJP over the issue. *Archive*

mentors through an app created by a team at Delhi Technological University and will be connected with students based on mutual interests. The mentorship entails regular phone calls for a minimum of two months, which can be carried on for four more months optionally.

The idea is for the young mentors to guide students through higher education and career options, preparation for higher education entrances, and dealing with the pressure of it all.

According to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, 44,000 people have signed up as mentors so far. He said that of these, 500 are IIT graduates, 500 are

IIT graduates, 15,600 are studying - from graduation to PhDs - and 15,600 are working. They have been working with 1.76 lakh children.

The education department has not suspended the programme but has now asked that parents supervise these calls.

"To make the existing programme of mentoring more secure and safe for the children enrolled as mentees under 'Desh ke Mentor' program, all parents of such members are hereby advised to ensure the presence of any adult member of the family during the conversation between mentors and mentees, done time to time through App under 'Desh ke Mentor' programme," read a circular issued to all heads of government schools by the education department.

Earlier, the Delhi government had lashed out against the Centre and the NCPCR for asking that the programme be suspended, saying that safeguards had been kept in mind when it was designed.

The Deputy CM had said mentors of the same gender were assigned to students and consent was taken from parents before the programme was started.

Gurgaon multi-crore theft: 'Source of stored money not traced', court displeased with STF

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 18

EXPRESSING ITS displeasure over investigators being unable to trace the source of crores of rupees stolen from Gurgaon's Sector 82 in August 2021, a Gurgaon court has said "further failure to do so shall be viewed seriously".

A month ago, the court had asked the Special Task Force (STF) to trace the source of money along with the purpose for which it was stored. Additional Sessions

Judge Jasbir Singh had also directed investigators to examine the role of all police officers who were dealing with this case, either in a supervisory capacity or involved in the investigation.

The court had also issued arrest warrants for suspended IPS officer Dheeraj Setia, the then Gurgaon DCP, and four others at the request of the prosecution.

After perusing the status report of the STF and the police file, the court on January 17 observed: "From the perusal, it is revealed that roles of police officials/officers who remained associated

with the investigation of present case have been examined, but there is complete silence with regard to the examination of roles of police officers who remained associated with the supervision/superintendence/control of the investigation of this case or otherwise. This is so despite the fact that this Court, in its previous order, has deprecated the approach of investigating agency..."

"The court further stated, "The source of money as well as the purpose for which it was stored has also not been traced. In this scenario, it is relevant to men-

tion that lawful orders passed by the judicial authority are required to be scrupulously enforced by the police in terms of its statutory duty. This Court's power for ensuring a proper investigation stemmed from the power given under Section 156(3) CrPc. Further failure to do so shall be viewed seriously."

Sources in the STF told *The Indian Express* that the source of money is being probed by the Income Tax department. When asked about the observations of the court, an official said they would submit a reply accordingly.

HC grants bail to six in murder case during Delhi riots

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Tuesday granted bail to six accused in a murder case, registered to probe after a burnt body was found during the Northeast Delhi riots.

On February 26, 2020, a mob had burnt down a building, Anil Sweet Corner, at Main Brijpuri Road. Police later recovered the body of Dilbar Singh Negi, a waiter, from the building and registered a case of murder.

Justice Subramonium Prasad pronounced the bail orders on Tuesday and said the bail has been granted in all six applications listed for pronouncement.

The accused include Mohd Tahir, Shahrukh, Mohd Faisal, Mohd Shoab, Parvez and Rashid. The copies of the bail orders were not immediately available. During the hearing, police had opposed the grant of bail and submitted that whoever was part of the mob can be held responsible under IPC section 149 (unlawful assembly). **ENS**

80% of Questions in following IAS Main GS Subjects came from Disha Books!

8/8

4/4

3/4

4/6

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Two BSF personnel dead after ambulance overturns near footbridge in Shastri Park

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

TWO BORDER Security Force personnel died after an ambulance carrying six personnel rammed into a divider and overturned near Shastri Park Metro station early Monday. Police said the two men were thrown out of the ambulance and died at the spot.

The deceased were identified as constable Manoj Paswan (32) and head constable Yesbir Singh (52). They were being taken to IHBAS and Safdarjung hospital for a regular medical check-up and treatment when the accident happened.

Due to the sudden impact,

Paswan and Singh fell on the road and were mowed down by the ambulance. Locals and police helped pull out all the six men and took them to different hospitals.

Police received a call around 7.30 am. Sanjay Sain, DCP (Northeast) said, "Paswan was declared dead at GTB hospital while Singh succumbed to injuries at Jag Parvesh Chandra hospital. They were being taken to IHBAS and Safdarjung hospital for treatment but there were some issues with a tyre, causing the crash."

A case of rash driving and causing death by negligence has been registered against unknown persons.

Meanwhile, the families of

the deceased, both hailing from UP's Shamli, were called to Delhi after autopsy.

Singh's family said he was a heart patient and had undergone an operation recently. He was going from his Rohini camp to the hospital for medicines

when the accident took place.

BSF officials said ASI Arun Kumar Pal and HC K S Gupta, who were also in the ambulance, are undergoing treatment. HC Rajneesh Kumar and Ct Praveen Kumar are stable and have been discharged.

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(A Govt. of India Society, Ministry of Power)
Post Box No.8066, Prof. Sir. C.V.Raman Road
Sadashivnagar Post Office, Bangalore - 560 080

EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR ADVERTISEMENT NO. CPRI/ 38/2021

The last date for submission of application for the position of Project Associate on purely temporary basis is extended up to **02.02.2022**. Interested candidates may refer CPRI website <https://cpri.res.in> for details regarding eligibility criteria, educational qualification etc. and submit their application as per the prescribed format posted in website with all relevant copies of documents by post latest by **02.02.2022**. Applications received after the due date will not be considered.

Chief Administrative Officer

DDC to work with youth on civic issues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

THE DIALOGUE and Development Commission (DDC) will soon welcome young volunteers to work with the Delhi government on civic issues and in the field of environment, vice-chairperson Jasmine Shah said Tuesday.

Speaking at the Delhi Volunteering Summit organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry under its India@75 initiative, Shah said young people were eager to volunteer and find solutions with governments.

"Until now, the emphasis of civic duties and democratic engagement of citizens has been only on electoral participation. The governments across India have failed to create any formal platforms to engage volunteers on neighbourhood issues such as schools, hospitals, the environment and civic amenities. Aiming to create a movement of youth volunteers, CM Arvind Kejriwal launched 'Desh Ke Mentor' programme. Young volunteers act as guides for lakhs of students, many of whom are first-generation learners..."

This demonstrates the desire within the youth to volunteer, which can be channelised if the government creates opportunities and designs tools for engagement," he said.

"In its first phase, the DDC has collaborated with private sector and philanthropic organisations on projects such as the City of Lakes and school health clinics. In the next phase, the DDC will soon launch a platform with well-designed roles for young volunteers to participate in environmental and local civic issues," Shah said.

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI

Sector 14, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078

Website: <https://nationallawuniversitydelhi.in>, <https://www.nlu.edu.in>
Helpline: 011-40787555, Email: aliet@nlu.edu.in

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT 2022-23

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS (Online) : Thursday, April 7, 2022
ISSUE OF ADMIT CARD (Online) : Thursday, April 21, 2022
DATE OF AILET (to be conducted offline, subject to revision) : Sunday, May 1, 2022 (10.00-11.30 AM)

The National Law University Delhi, established in 2008 by Act No. 1 of 2008 of Delhi is a premier Law University in the capital city of India. The University invites online applications for admission to **B.A.LL.B. (Hons.)**, **LL.M.** and **Ph.D. Programmes** for the Academic Year 2022-23.

B.A.LL.B. (HONS.) [FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME]

Eligibility: Senior Secondary School Examination (10+2 system) or an equivalent examination with 45% marks (40% in case of SC/ST/Persons with Disabilities). Candidates appearing for the 12th standard annual examination in 2022 are eligible to apply.

Total Seats: 110+10 (110 seats on AILET merit; 5 seats each for Foreign Nationals and OCI/PIO for direct admission on merit). Foreign Nationals/OCI/PIO are exempted from AILET, but should have 65% marks in the qualifying examination.

Additional Supernumerary Seats: One seat for Kashmiri Migrants and two seats for residents of Jammu & Kashmir.

LL.M. [ONE YEAR PROGRAMME]

Eligibility: LL.B. or an equivalent law degree with 50% marks (45% in case of SC/ST/ Persons with Disabilities). Candidates appearing for final year LL.B. annual examination in 2022 are eligible to apply.

Total Seats: 70+10 (70 seats on AILET merit; 5 seats each for Foreign Nationals and OCI/PIO for direct admission on merit). Foreign Nationals/OCI/PIO are exempted from AILET.

Additional Supernumerary Seats: One seat for Kashmiri Migrants.

Ph.D. PROGRAMME

Eligibility: LL.M. or an equivalent law degree with 55% marks (50% in case of SC/ST/ Persons with Disabilities).

Total Seats: 18+2 (18 seats on AILET merit and 2 seats for direct admission to Foreign Nationals on merit of Research Proposals). Foreign Nationals are exempted from AILET.

TEST CITIES

AILET-2022 will be conducted at the following cities:
Bengaluru, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin, Cuttack, Dehradun, Delhi, Gandhinagar, Greater Noida, Gurugram, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Jodhpur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Varanasi and Visakhapatnam.

ONLINE APPLICATION FEE

Interested candidates should apply online on payment of application fee of Rs.3,050/- (Rupees Three Thousand Fifty Only). Application fee in case of SC/ST and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) is Rs.1,050/- (Rupees One thousand Fifty Only). **Below Poverty Line (BPL) applicants of SC/ST category are exempted from application fee.**

For category wise reservation, seat matrix and other details relating to Online Application Forms, Admit Cards, Eligibility Criteria, Pattern of Test etc., please visit <https://nationallawuniversitydelhi.in>.

Note: National Law University Delhi has not authorized any agent/ agency for admission. No payment should be made to any unauthorized person. Any complaint of this kind should be intimated to the University on admission@nlu.edu.in.

PROF. (DR.) ANUPAMA GOEL
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भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India						
सं.जी.-जी.एल.-अ.-12012022-232603 CG-DL-E-12012022-232603						
असाधारण EXTRAORDINARY						
भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (II) PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)						
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY						
सं. 158]	नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, जनवरी 12, 2022/पौष 22, 1943					
सं. 158]	NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022/PAUSHA 22, 1943					
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION						
New Delhi, the 12th JANUARY, 2022						
S.O. 162(E).—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building, maintenance, management and operation of Four Lane Connector from Km. 50.000 of Delhi Meerut Expressway to Km. 8.520 of NH 235 in the District Ghaziabad in the State of Uttar Pradesh, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.						
Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said Act.						
Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Additional District Magistrate (L.A.) Ghaziabad in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.						
Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.						
The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.						
SCHEDULE						
Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling Four Lane Connector from Km. 50.000 of Delhi Meerut Expressway to Km. 8.520 of NH 235 in the District Ghaziabad in the State of Uttar Pradesh.						
District: GHAZIABAD	State: UTTAR PRADESH					
Sl. No.	Survey/ Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in SQ. Meter)	Area (in Hectare)	
Village: Chudiyala Taluk: Modinagar						
1	1433	Private	Agriculture	50.00	0.00500000	
2	1465/ 1872	Private	Agriculture	560.00	0.05600000	
3	1468	Private	Agriculture	95.00	0.00950000	
4	1510	Government	Non- Agriculture (Chhuiya)	100.00	0.01000000	
5	1648	Private	Agriculture	124.00	0.01240000	
6	1739	Private	Agriculture	102.00	0.01020000	
7	1743	Private	Agriculture	95.00	0.00950000	
8	1763	Government	Chak Marg	450.00	0.04500000	
Village: Jainuddinpur urf Gajal						
1	164	Government	Non-Agriculture	50.00	0.00500000	
2	165	Government	Chak Marg	100.00	0.01000000	
3	167	Private	Agriculture	181.00	0.01810000	
4	169	Private	Agriculture	152.00	0.01520000	
5	170	Private	Agriculture	81.00	0.00810000	
6	171	Private	Agriculture	55.00	0.00550000	
7	172	Private	Agriculture	250.00	0.02500000	
8	173	Private	Agriculture	100.00	0.01000000	
9	182	Private	Agriculture	295.00	0.02950000	
10	186	Private	Agriculture	250.00	0.02500000	
11	193	Private	Agriculture	250.00	0.02500000	
12	194	Private	Agriculture	120.00	0.01200000	
13	203	Private	Agriculture	1305.00	0.13050000	
14	204	Private	Agriculture	1457.00	0.14570000	
15	205	Private	Agriculture	120.00	0.01200000	
16	213	Private	Agriculture	474.00	0.04740000	
17	339	Private	Agriculture	700.00	0.07000000	
18	340	Private	Agriculture/ Non - Agriculture	6000.00	0.60000000	
19	341	Private	Agriculture	2000.00	0.20000000	
20	342	Private	Agriculture	760.00	0.07600000	
Village: Talheta						
1	109	Private	Agriculture/ Non- Agriculture	9000.00	0.90000000	
2	327	Government	Nali	50.00	0.00500000	
3	58	Private	Agriculture	6882.00	0.68820000	
4	60	Private	Agriculture	3230.00	0.32300000	
				Total	105903.00	10.5903

[F. No. NHAI/11013/2010-LA/Notif./PIU-Meerut/3A/2] RAJESH GUPTA, Director


**VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS**
1,51,314

**OMICRON
CASES**
549

**DELHI: TOTAL
CASES**
17,34,181

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	15,611	12,866
ICU BEDS	4,481	3,633

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 2,730
OXYGEN SUPPORT 732
VENTILATOR SUPPORT 139

	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Jan 17	12,527	18,340	24	44,762
Jan 18	11,684	17,516	38	52,002
Total	78,112*	16,30,644	25,425	3,41,56,827

*Total active cases in Delhi
NOIDA

	Jan 17	Jan 18
Cases	2,154	1,262
Deaths	0	0

GURGAON

Cases	3,448	3,141
Deaths	2	0

No vaccine, no entry: Push to get staffers and shopkeepers vaccinated at markets

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

DISTRICT AUTHORITIES have advised all traders, market associations, shopkeepers, hawkers, vendors and workers to mandatorily get vaccinated, saying those who are unvaccinated will not be allowed in markets.

The sub-district magistrates (SDM) of all 11 revenue districts have asked markets to submit a list of vaccinated staff, and those who are yet to receive the first dose will have to get immunised. After all traders, workers and shopkeepers are vaccinated, the district magistrate will give the market a certificate saying "all eligible staff of this market are vaccinated", and a display board will also be installed at the entrance and exit saying "fully vaccinated market".

Currently, some markets and malls such as Sarojini Nagar, Select City Walk, and DLF Mall at Saket have received the certificate.

"It is an exercise to ensure the safety of customers and vendors. Market associations have also been directed that any new staff



Delhi reported 11,684 Covid cases on Tuesday. Tashi Tobgyal

member joining would have to be fully vaccinated," said an official.

Special enforcement teams and mobile teams deployed to implement the guidelines of the Delhi District Management Authority (DDMA) are also spreading awareness about this. They are checking with people if they are vaccinated, and in case they aren't, they are being advised to go to a nearby vaccination centre or get vaccinated by the mobile team.

Currently, there are 466 enforcement teams authorised to

issue challans over Covid violations, and about 1,300 civil defence volunteers have been deployed across the city.

"The teams are conducting enforcement drives at markets, malls, ISBTs, railway stations and implementing Covid-appropriate behaviour. Earlier, the teams were asking people to show vaccination certificates on phones but now we are making announcements to encourage vaccination and inform the public about nearby centres," said a senior district official. He added,

"Vaccination has been made mandatory for staff of all markets." During one such drive, 288 market staffers at Lajpat Nagar were motivated to get vaccinated by the mobile team.

"A strict vigil is underway at markets. All staff are directed mandatorily to get vaccinated, otherwise they are not allowed to open shops or go inside markets. There are about 700 shops at Sarojini Nagar market and all the staff are fully vaccinated. It is a good initiative for safety of people," said Ashok Randhawa, Mini Market Association, Sarojini Nagar market.

Paramjeet Singh Pamma, vice-chairman of Federation of Sadar Bazaar, said, "A camp was organised and many staffers and vendors were administered vaccines by the mobile team and at camps. But we request the government to... remove the odd-even restrictions. It is hitting our business and many employees have lost earnings."

Manish, a hawker, at Sarojini Nagar said, "I got my first shot after they counselled me and told me about the importance of vaccination, especially since I interact with thousands of people."

Covid cases dip, so does daily positivity rate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

COVID POSITIVITY rate in Delhi dropped below the 25% mark for the first time since January 9, on Tuesday, indicating that the rate of the growth of Covid cases had slowed in the city.

Delhi reported 11,684 Covid cases on Tuesday and the positivity rate stood at 22.47%.

The positivity rate on Monday was 27.99%. Around 52,000 people were tested in a day.

However, deaths continued to remain high at 38.

While there are over 78,000 active cases in the city, only 2,730 people are admitted in hospitals.

Of these, 140 people are suspected to have Covid and their test results are awaited. 937 people are in the ICU and 871 are on oxygen support. Only 139 patients, with very

serious symptoms, are on ventilators.

The national capital has over 15,600 beds set aside for Covid patients but hospitalisation rates have remained low in this wave of the pandemic.

The Delhi government, meanwhile, has decided to deploy senior nursing officers in private hospitals to monitor the treatment being given to Covid patients and to monitor the vaccination process.

A total of 1.5 lakh people were vaccinated on Tuesday. Of these, over 48,000 were children belonging to the 15-17 age group, while over 18,000 received their precautionary (third) dose.

Around 1.19 crore people have got the second dose of the vaccine so far in the city, while 1.4 lakh people have been given the third dose.

Over 6 lakh children in the 15-17 age group have received their first dose.

BRIEFLY

Man shot dead, 2 held

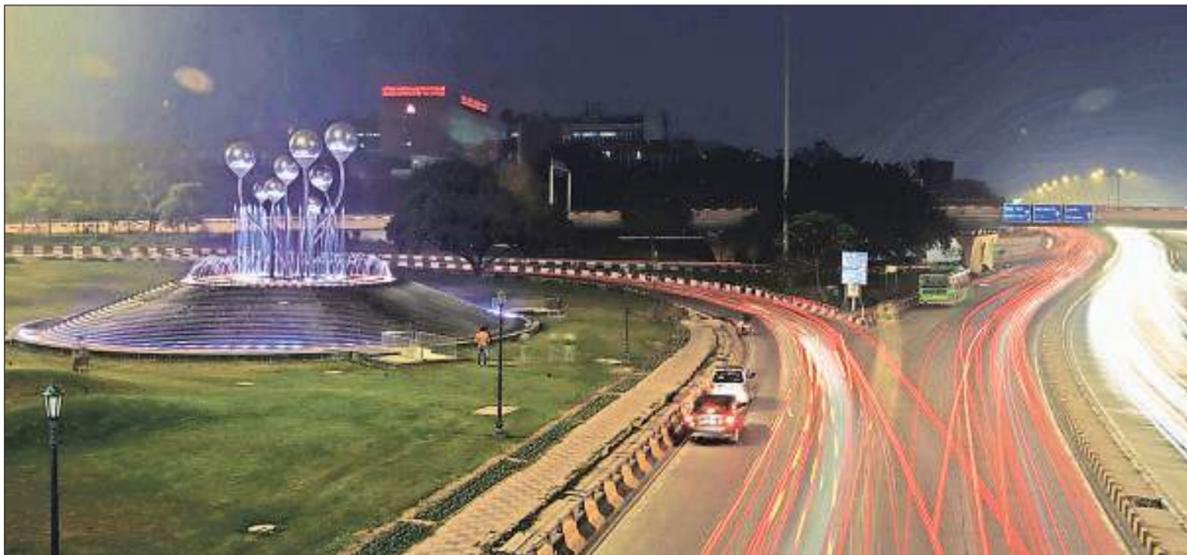
New Delhi: A 38-year-old man was shot dead, allegedly by a person who was earlier arrested for raping the victim's niece. DCP (Outer district) Parvinder Singh said, "We rushed to the hospital where it was found that one of the injured persons was declared brought dead, while the other was injured. Two accused, Irfan and his brother Mohammad Shaan, have been arrested."

5-year-old killed by uncle

New Delhi: A five-year-old boy was kidnapped and killed, allegedly by his uncle, in Delhi's Ghazipur. Police said the boy's body was recovered from Etah district in Uttar Pradesh. Priyanka Kashyap, DCP (East), said the police arrested the accused and the body of the child was recovered based on information he provided on Monday.

NDMC to redevelop 57 parks

New Delhi: In a bid to increase green spaces and promote physical activities and yoga among the public, NDMC has proposed to redevelop 27 small residential parks at Laxmi Bai Nagar and 30 parks at Gole market. The redevelopment, beautification and modernisation of parks will be completed by March 2023, said NDMC officials. **ENS**



A GALAXY FAR FAR AWAY

The steel pods near AIIMS flyover have been redesigned, with a fountain coming up around the structure. Tashi Tobgyal

Elopement case: UP Police committed forgery, can't pick up from one place and show arrest elsewhere, says HC

SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

OBSERVING THAT the police cannot pick up a person from one place and show their arrest wherever they want, the Delhi High Court Tuesday said that personnel of the Uttar Pradesh Police committed forgery by entering false information into official records on the arrest of two men from Delhi in September 2021.

The two persons had been arrested in connection with a woman from UP eloping and marrying a man living in Delhi in July 2021. The family of the UP woman, who opposed the mar-

riage, had approached police in Shamli and got an FIR registered under Section 366 IPC against the man and his family members.

The UP police had taken into custody the father and brother of the man from Delhi on September 6, but when the couple approached the Delhi High Court in October, it was claimed by the police that the two men were arrested from Kudana bus stand in Shamli on September 8.

"It is not that the investigation is not conducted properly. Investigation may be callous but you cannot fudge the documents. Take away somebody, pick up from one place, take there illegally and then show his

arrest there. Laxity and forgery of documents are two different things. Laxity is not an offence but you forge documents... this is a clear case of forging documents by the investigating officer," said Justice Mukta Gupta.

Justice Gupta, who had passed strictures against the UP Police in October 2021 for submitting false information with regard to the place of arrest and asked for CCTV footage to be checked, was told on Tuesday that the SIT set up to inquire into the matter has found that three police officials from UP had raided the residence of the Delhi family on September 6, and had taken the two men to Shamli.

The police officials had been accompanied by the family members of the UP woman. Since the talks between the families had failed, the two men were shown to be arrested on September 8 from the bus stand and sent to jail, the court was told. Observing that the two men remained in illegal custody for two days before being formally arrested, Justice Gupta said that the FIR itself stated that the girl was major, but the police made no efforts to talk to her. "It is not an offence if a major goes of her free will and marries, it is not even an offence of kidnapping, much less abetment of kidnapping," said the court.

On November 18, after facing

strictures from the court, the UP government told court that a cancellation report has been filed in the kidnapping case against the Delhi family and the two men have been released. Additional Advocate General and senior advocate Garima, representing the UP government, Tuesday told the court that further necessary action will be taken against the officers concerned, who not only misled the court but also created false documents and even during inquiry did not state correct facts.

The court also said that the Delhi family would be at liberty to take any civil or criminal action as warranted against persons concerned, if they so desire.

'Derogatory remarks about Muslim women' on Clubhouse group, Delhi Police file FIR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

THE DELHI Commission for Women (DCW) has sent a notice to the Delhi Police seeking an FIR against people who allegedly made derogatory remarks against Muslim women during a session on the Clubhouse app, where people interact in groups via audio.

This comes after several people recorded the discussion and shared it online, raising objections to comments allegedly made by the participants.

KPS Malhotra, DCP (Cyber Cell), said an FIR has been registered under IPC sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on the ground of religion), 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion) and 354 A (sexual harassment).

This comes less than a month after an app, hosted on software platform GitHub, used photos of Muslim women without their permission alongside derogatory comments meant to imply they were being "auctioned". The Delhi Police has arrested two men, from Assam and Indore, in connection with the case. And six months ago, another GitHub app held a similar "auction".

The DCW said they took suo motu cognizance of the latest

matter as participants in the recording can be heard making "obscene, vulgar and derogatory" remarks targeting Muslim women and girls.

It sent a notice asking the Delhi Police to register a case against the persons allegedly involved, and take strict action. "This is a very serious matter and merits strict action. The Delhi Police has been given five days to submit a detailed action taken report to the Commission," reads the notice.

DCW Chairperson, Swati Maliwal told *The Indian Express*, "Someone tagged me on Twitter (highlighting) the detailed audio conversation on the Clubhouse app, which targeted Muslim women and girls and made disgusting sexual comments against them. I feel outraged over the fact that such incidents are going on increasing in the country. Strongest action needs to be taken against the culprits and that's why I have issued a notice to the Delhi Police seeking an immediate FIR and arrests in the matter."

Senior Delhi Police officials confirmed that they had received the notice. "We saw the notice and the recordings posted online. A probe will be conducted," said a senior police officer.

Officials at Clubhouse did not respond to messages and an email seeking a response on the DCW notice.

Taking stroll on the campus, JNU student molested by biker, accused absconding

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

A PhD student of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has alleged that a motorist tried to molest her on the campus when she was taking a stroll around 11.45 pm Monday, police said Tuesday. While an FIR has been lodged, police said an initial investigation has revealed that the accused came from within the campus and after the woman raised the alarm, he managed to get away within the university itself.

DCP (South-west) Gaurav Sharma said they received a call late Monday night about the incident.

"We immediately rushed to the spot and found that around 11.45 pm, one of the students was taking a stroll on the campus. When she was walking on the East Gate Road, a biker came from within the campus and tried to molest her. When she raised the alarm, the accused managed to escape and disappeared within the campus," he added.

Sharma said a case of outraging the modesty of a woman has been registered and efforts are on to nab him.

On Tuesday evening, some students from the campus

attempted to march to the Vasant Kunj police station and protest, but were stopped at the East Gate.

"While the woman was walking on the ring road, a man aged 24-25 riding a motorcycle came towards her. He tried to drag her towards the forest and attempted to rape her. When she started screaming and sounded the alarm, the accused ran away but snatched her mobile phone. The Cyclops QRT, (the private agency which is responsible for security at JNU) who reached there only after 10-15 minutes for regular patrolling was informed about the incident and police were also called," the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) claimed in a statement.

A JNU official said no statement had been issued by the administration since the matter had been taken over by police.

"All night there were attempts to find the accused, both by police and by the security. Police have taken over and we have handed over all the CCTV footage to them. It was an unfortunate incident, but it is under police investigation now, so there is nothing for us to say more than that," the official said.

PLAN TO BOLSTER FLEET BY APRIL

On board Delhi's first electric bus: 'Noise-free, easy to drive, futuristic'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

TILAK RAJ (48) has been driving on city roads for 25 years. He started with blue line buses, and until recently was driving private cluster buses. Now, Raj is the driver of Delhi's first electric bus.

Bus E-44 was operational between IP Depot and Pragati Maidan Monday. It will be a circular bus service from DTC's (Delhi Transport Corporation) Indraprastha depot via ITO, AGCR, Tilak Marg, Mandi House, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, Janpath, Rajesh Pilot Marg,

Prithvi Raj Road, Aurobindo Marg, AIIMS, Ring Road, South Extension, Ashram, Bhogal, Jangpura, India Gate, High Court, Pragati Maidan and will terminate at IP depot.

On Monday, Raj made two complete trips on the route, an experience very different from driving ordinary buses. "The best thing is, it is completely noise-free, and it is incredibly easy to drive. It does not require as much effort, and one can drive for many more hours without feeling tired. On top of that, it's emission-free," he said.

Amit Kumar (31), a DTC conductor of two years, who is now assigned to the electric bus, also



said the electric bus was much better. "Earlier, there used to be too much sound because of the engine at the back. And there was also heat from the engine. On this bus, there is no such issue. And of course, these buses are the future since it will counter pollution," he said.

On Tuesday, a passenger who boarded from IP Metro station appreciated the facilities on the vehicle. "It looks good and has very comfortable seats. The bus doesn't make any sound and the best part is that it's totally pollution-free," he said.

Abroad the capital's first electric bus, Tuesday. *Express*

tion-free," he said.

The E-44 service will be available from 5.30 am to 8.20 pm every day. The bus charges from a 240 KW fast charger, and takes between 1 and 1.5 hours for a complete charge. As of now, there is only one charger at IP depot but there are plans to install more at each depot once more buses are added to the fleet.

At most, two buses can charge from one charger but the time to charge doubles, resulting in a charging time of around 2-3 hours, a DTC official said.

While there is only one electric bus plying right now, the government plans to acquire 300 more by April, Chief

Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said Monday. The ultimate plan is to purchase 2,000 e-buses in the coming years.

The buses have kneeling ramps for differently abled and special pink seats for women. They are equipped with CCTV cameras, connected to a 2-way central command and control centre at Kashmere Gate along with 10 panic buttons on each bus and a hooper. There are 'stop' buttons, which alert driver when passengers want to alight. The bus also has a provision whereby the kneeling ramp lowers by 60 millimetres to open more effectively for physically challenged passengers.



HASHTAG POLITICS



● AAP's filmy swipe at Cong

Soon after declaring Bhagwant Mann as its CM face for Punjab elections, the Aam Aadmi Party released a spoof video mocking the Congress through the song dil da mamlai hai dilbar from Heyy Baby. With #AAPdaCM, @AamAadmiParty tweeted, "Punjab's next CM is in the House." With this Bollywood tinge, AAP tried to send across the message that the Congress was still confused over its CM candidate.

11.9K LIKES, 2.7K RETWEETS IN 11 HOURS

● Poll heat intensifies in Uttarakhand

Political heat in Uttarakhand intensified on Tuesday with the Congress and the BJP launching counterattacks against each other on Twitter. The Congress (@INC Uttarakhand), in a series of tweets laced with posters, tried to woo the youth and 'exposed' the BJP government's misgovernance. The BJP @BJP4UK, on the other hand, claimed #UttarakhandWithBJP.

BALLOTIN

PM Modi God incarnate, born to end despair, says MP minister

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Agriculture Minister and BJP leader Kamal Patel termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi an "incarnation of God". He said Modi was born to end the atmosphere of despair, like Lord Ram and Lord Krishna, created due to the rise in "atrocities" by Congress. Speaking to reporters in Harda on Monday, Patel said under Modi's leadership India was becoming 'Vishwa Guru' (world leader), and that his other "accomplishments" such as ridding the country of corruption and ensuring public welfare wouldn't have been accomplished by an ordinary person. **PTI**

Mamata to campaign for SP

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will campaign for the Samajwadi Party and her party, the Trinamool Congress, will not contest the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, SP vice-president Kiranmay Nanda said on Tuesday. "Mamata Banerjee will hold virtual campaigns along with SP president Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow and Varanasi. She will be in Lucknow on February 8 and attend a virtual campaign. She will then hold a joint press conference with Akhileshji," Nanda told reporters. Banerjee will also visit Varanasi later in February for a virtual meeting but the date is yet to be fixed, he said. During the high octane West Bengal assembly polls, the SP had decided against contesting in the state and supported the ruling TMC. **PTI**

I HEREBY DECLARE

MOHD YUNUS RLD candidate Sadar (Bulandshahr)

TOTAL ASSETS:	₹1,15,00,000
₹4,55,45,249	Self: ₹1,10,00,000
MOVABLE ASSETS:	Wife: ₹5,00,000
₹3,40,45,249	LIABILITIES: Nil
Self: ₹1,62,15,385	CRIMINAL CASES
Wife: ₹1,78,29,864	Pending cases: 6
IMMOVABLE ASSETS:	Convicted: Nil

Comedian to a CM face in Punjab: Bhagwant Mann has the last laugh

AAP's poor show in the 2017 Assembly polls was attributed to its not having a CM candidate; all eyes are now on Mann, who is popular among youths in rural areas

MAN AMAN SINGH CHINNA
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 18

IT TOOK barely 10 years for Bhagwant Mann to undertake his remarkable journey from being a professional comedian to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s chief ministerial candidate for the upcoming Punjab Assembly elections.

A well known film and TV comedian of Punjab, Mann had brought out numerous entertainment cassettes before the advent of the digital and video era. Widely known for having played many comic roles in his satirical shows on various channels setting the society, Mann has been popular in Punjab for one of his characters, "Jugnu", and for his earliest shows like "Kulfi gamma garam".

Mann began his political journey by joining the People's Party of Punjab (PPP) in 2011, which had been formed by Manpreet Badal, who had broken away from the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD). Manpreet joined the Congress after his party failed to win any seats in the 2012 Assembly polls. Mann contested that election as a PPP candidate from the Lehra constituency but came third.

He joined the AAP in March 2014 and fought the 2014 Lok Sabha elections from Sangrur where he defeated Akali stalwart Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa by more than 2 lakh votes. He retained that



Kerjriwal and Mann in Mohali, Tuesday. Jasbir Malhi

seat in the 2019 elections by a margin of more than one lakh votes and was the only AAP MP to be re-elected from Punjab from among the four party MPs who were elected in the 2014 elections.

Mann was appointed the AAP's Punjab unit president in May 2017 following the Assembly polls after Gurbhag Singh resigned from the post. Guggi also raised serious concerns over Mann's "drinking problem" which resounded within the AAP for a long time.

In March 2018, soon after AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal apologised to Akali leader Bikram Singh Majithia for making false allegations of drug trade against him, Mann resigned as the state party chief in protest. No action on his

resignation was however taken by the AAP leadership for ten months, following which Mann was again made party unit chief ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

At a rally in Bamala in January 2019, Kejriwal had taken up the matter of Mann's drinking problem and announced that the latter had given up drinking for the sake of Punjab. Mann echoed the AAP chief's remarks in the presence of his mother on the stage. Later, however, there were again allegations that Mann had gone back on his word, even as the matter has been regularly raked up against him by his opponents within and outside the AAP.

The AAP leadership had reportedly dithered over naming Mann as the CM face for a long time and was actively looking at

other options but failed to find one. It also could not ignore the fact that Mann is a big draw among the youths of Punjab, especially in rural areas.

On Tuesday, when the 48-year-old Mann was named AAP's CM face for the 20 February polls after he got a thumping majority in a phone-in poll conducted by the party, he could not hold back his tears as Kejriwal hugged him.

Making an emotional speech on the occasion, Mann said there will be hard work in the party's bid to form the government, but he urged party supporters not to be disheartened by any developments. Quoting Punjabi poet Surjit Patar, Professor Mohan Singh and South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, Mann urged party activists to work for a better Punjab. He recited the verses of Patar: "Je aayi patihar ta pher ki hai / Tu agli rutt te yaqeen rakh / Main labb ke layona kalman kiron / Tu phullan jogi zameen rakh" (It does not matter if autumn comes, you keep hope for the coming spring, I will bring new plants, you keep some land for flowers).

One of the major reasons for the AAP's lacklustre performance in the 2017 Punjab elections was considered to be its lack of a CM candidate. With the AAP now emerging as a key contender in the upcoming polls, all eyes will be now on Mann if he can lead the party to victory.

VOTING ON FEBRUARY 20

'Usurpers like Channi can only make claims'

Newly declared CM face of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab **Bhagwant Mann** tells **Man Aman Singh Chhinna** the people of Punjab have declared their choice of CM and the onus is now on other political parties to show their winning cards. Excerpts:

Do you think that AAP has rectified its mistake of not making you CM candidate during 2017 assembly polls?

Sometimes new parties make mistakes. But we did not do too badly in 2017 having contested the elections here for the first time. Now that AAP has declared its CM face, other parties must also come clean. Like we say in Delhi, 'After Kejriwal, who?' the other parties must also inform in Punjab 'After Bhagwant Mann, who?' They should inform whom

they are asking the people of Punjab to repose their faith in.

CM Channi has taken over the mantle of 'aam aadmi' by saying he is the one running an 'aam aadmi ki sarkar'. How will you counter that?

Channi has a habit of putting up hoardings of his announcements even before pronouncing those. Have you ever seen ED raids taking place in houses of aam aadmi? I keep talking against BJP so much in the Lok Sabha but I have not been raided ever. Why? Because they will not find anything wrong that I have done. AAP is the only party

which can deliver on parameters of 'aam aadmi' and usurpers like Channi can only make claims.

After AAP MLAs, now AAP candidates are being encouraged to defect by Congress. Do you foresee more such defection?

Congress and BJP are two sides of one coin. In Ferozepur, they ignored their sitting MLA Satkar Kaur and wooed our candidate thereby accepting that our candidate was better. Satkar Kaur 'da kivein satkar karange (how will they honour Satkar Kaur) whose ticket they have cut? Congress also inducted our MLA



THE EXPRESS

INTERVIEW

WITH

BHAGWANT MANN

AAP CM CANDIDATE

Nazar Singh Manshahia from Mansa. Look what he has been reduced to. He was writing to Rahul Gandhi that he should be given a ticket from Mansa on compassionate grounds.

What was the reason for making public percentage of votes Navjot Singh Sidhu got in the opinion poll to select AAP CM?

You see there are people who feel that Navjot Singh Sidhu has no future in Congress because he has been sidelined there and say that he should be inducted into AAP. He says his statements every day. So the figures pertaining to Sidhu were a reality check. In fact, I would say Sidhu should ask Congress to get a similar opinion poll done for CMs face and find out who is ahead.



UTTAR PRADESH

Deaths 22,984

Deaths Today 12

Cases 7,680

14,701

PUNJAB

Deaths 16,817

Deaths Today 27

Cases 3,883

6,487

UTTARAKHAND

Deaths 7,450

Deaths Today 6

Cases 1,413

4,482

GOA

Deaths 3,569

Deaths Today 6

Cases 1,922

2,522

MANIPUR

Deaths 2,015

Deaths Today 0

Cases 68

380

POLITICS & RELIGION

In Punjab makeover, BJP gets some panthic faces

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 18

LAST WEEK, Prime Minister Narendra Modi found an unlikely ally in Harnam Singh Dhumma, chief of the Damdami Taksal, a Sikh seminary once headed by Khalistani extremist Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who was killed in Operation Blue Star. While others like the SGPC questioned Modi's announcement of December 26 as Vir Bal Divas to honour the two younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh killed by the Mughals, Dhumma commended him.

Arguably the most vocal chief of the Taksal after Bhindranwale, Dhumma said: "There are very few who fulfill their duty and the PM has done this. He should be thanked. He has told the entire world about the martyrdom of the two younger sons and mother of Guru Gobind Singh."

Soon after Dhumma's comment, his spokesperson, Sarchand

Singh, once the president of the Sikh Students' Federation, an organisation marshalled by Bhindranwale during the 1980s, joined the BJP. Singh, a professor of Punjabi, was followed by Kanwarveer Singh Tohra, grandson of the late Gurcharan Singh Tohra, who remained president of SGPC for 27 years and was popularly called the pope of the Sikhs.

The BJP, which till a few months ago was struggling to find Sikh faces in Punjab, now has new members with strong Panthic credentials apart from disgruntled Akali and Congress leaders.

But the BJP-Taksal association is curious for both sides. The BJP has been talking of a Khalistani hand since the farm protests started, and has raised the pitch after the blockade that prevented Modi from addressing a rally earlier this month in Punjab. BJP ally Amarinder Singh routinely talks of the "threat" posed by Khalistani elements in the border state.

Taksal though is closely associated with Punjab's militancy years. In the 1980s, extremists



Harnam Singh Dhumma (right) is the vocal chief of the Damdami Taksal seminary

commanded by Bhindranwale had made their base at the Taksal's headquarters at Chowk Mehta, 40 km from Amritsar. As recently as 2016, there were allegations that the Taksal was involved in a bid to kill a Patiala-based preacher opposed to it, Ranjit Singh Dhadrianwale.

Defending his entry into the BJP, Sarchand said when regional parties fail to resolve issues pertaining to the panth, an individual is forced to look for alternatives. "The state leadership has failed to get its demands met by the Centre.

The BJP at the Centre can resolve long-pending issues such as the release of Sikh political prisoners and others pertaining to gurdwaras outside the state."

Sarchand also said the PM had demonstrated his sincerity by trying to bring justice to victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and by opening the Kartarpur Corridor to allow pilgrims visa-free access to one of the Sikh holy shrines. "The Congress attacked our religion, the holiest of our shrines (Golden Temple, during Operation Blue Star). The BJP stood by us, the PM celebrates Gurburab, why shouldn't we support it?" On the labelling of farmer protesters as "Khalistanis", Sarchand said the PM had never called them that. "These are mischievous elements," he said.

Tohra, a political greenhorn whose father was a minister in the Akali Dal Cabinet led by Badal Senior, said an old friend told him the RSS was very fond of Sikhs, and that the PM's actions demonstrated it. After he joined the BJP, Tohra said, its leaders asked him

what he would do for the well-being of Sikhs. "Even the Akalis no longer ask this question."

On the bitterness caused by the farmer agitation, Tohra, an engineer-turned farmer whose actor wife Mahreen Kaleka has been supporting the farm agitation, shot back: "Has a Congress PM ever apologised for Operation Blue Star? But the PM (Modi) sought forgiveness for the three farm laws."

While the BJP said the developments show Punjabis are having a change of heart towards it, other parties see "rank opportunism". Senior Akali leader and former minister Dr Daljeet Cheema said: "People are joining the BJP for their personal gains, and the 'panthic soch (thinking)' will not condone it."

Prof Amanjit Singh, director of Guru Granth Sahib Studies at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, said only time will tell whether BJP is really interested in resolving panthic issues.

FULL STORY ON:
www.indianexpress.com

Game on in Rampur as BJP fields Azam bete noire in his backyard

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 18

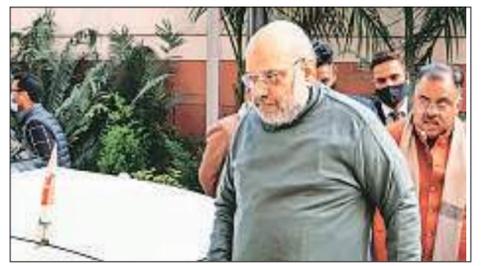
THE RAMPUR hot seat is headed for yet another fiery contest, with Abdullah Azam Khan out on bail in time for the elections, and the BJP fielding the man responsible for almost half the cases the Mohammad Azam Khan family and its scion are fighting, as its candidate.

Since the BJP came to power in Uttar Pradesh in 2017, the family of the senior Samajwadi Party leader has had 81 cases lodged against it (Khan is facing 103 in total). In some of these 81 cases, Khan's wife Tanzeen Fatima, the current sitting MLA from Rampur Sadar, and their son Abdullah are co-accused. Fatima got bail in December 2020, and Abdullah on January 15. Khan, however, remains in jail since February 2020.

The BJP's candidate for Rampur Sadar, Akash Saxena, 46, the son of a four-time BJP MLA, claims to be behind 30 of the FIRs lodged against Khan, and says others came forward to file their complaints against the SP leader at his behest. Given Y-category security under the Yogi Adityanath government, Saxena, who runs an export business and claims to be a life-long RSS worker, would be contesting elections for the first time.

The SP is yet to name its candidate from Rampur Sadar.

While the SP has been the main focus of BJP's attack in this



Amit Shah is expected to start his UP tour on January 22. File

Amit Shah to play bigger role in UP campaign, goal is 'cadre connect'

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah is set to take on a more active role in the Uttar Pradesh BJP election campaign as the party tries to seize back the narrative following a series of departures of OBC leaders and sitting MLAs.

Starting this weekend, Shah will be more visible on the ground, with the party hoping it will give the campaign momentum as well as boost the morale of the cadre. He is expected to tour the entire state starting January 22, the day the Election Commission will take a call next on whether to continue the ban on public rallies and yatras on account of Covid.

He will supervise rallies, as well as campaign and ticket distribution across all the six organisational regions the party has divided UP into — Braj, Kashi, Awadh, Gorakhpur, West UP and Kanpur. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the party's top campaigner, will also hold multiple rallies in all the regions, if these are allowed.

Party leaders claimed they remain hopeful of winning 270-290 seats out of the 403 in UP, way more than the needed majority, and Shah's involvement would take the party past the 300 mark (the BJP had won 325 in 2017). The BJP president at the time of the last elections, Shah was considered the architect of that win, setting the stage for the party's dominance across the Hindi heartland. Given his familiarity with the state and its issues, including its caste chessboard, Shah is expected to provide the push where it is needed.

Shah had earlier made it clear that the responsibility of the UP campaign lay with Union minis-

ter Dharmendra Pradhan and senior leader Radha Mohan Singh. To quell any speculation, both Shah and Modi had publicly reposed faith in Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, with Shah going to the extent of saying that for Yogi in 2022 would pave the way for Modi in 2024.

However, the party is conscious that dissonance among ranks needs to be addressed. A hard-nosed CM who prides himself as a tough administrator, Adityanath may have built a base in the public but is seen as offhandish by a section of BJP cadre.

Acknowledging that many party workers felt "disenchanted" and ignored, a senior leader said: "Yogi has the public connect, but he is not so connected with the cadre, whereas Shah may not be a man with huge public support in the state, but he certainly has strong influence and hold over the cadre. Only the PM has an equally strong connection with the public and cadre."

Another senior UP BJP leader said Shah taking a more hands-on approach would be "a big boost to the cadre". "The state unit has no one who can bring them around. However, a leader like Shah telling them you will be taken care of is definitely comforting."

One of the main focus areas for Shah would be eastern UP, where the exit of the OBC leaders is expected to have the most impact on the party. Three ministers and 11 MLAs have left the BJP in the last few days, several of them belonging to this region. Among them, Swami Prasad Maurya has a good hold over Maurya, Shakya, Kushwaha and Saini community votes, and Dara Singh Chauhan has the backing of the Lohia-Chauhan votes.

FULL STORY ON:
www.indianexpress.com



Abdullah Azam Khan (right) with Akhilesh on Tuesday



BJP candidate for Rampur Sadar, Akash Saxena

election, Khan is among the SP leaders whom its star campaigners such as Union minister Amit Shah have repeatedly named and taunted. This is not surprising, given Khan's clout in Rampur, a seat he has won nine times, as well as neighbouring areas.

The 66-year-old vacated the constituency in 2019 to contest parliamentary polls. He was replaced by wife Fatima, who resigned from her Rajya Sabha seat and fought from Rampur Sadar and won. In 2017, Abdullah entered the poll arena, and contested from Swar Assembly constituency in Rampur on an SP ticket and also won. However, in December 2019, the Allahabad High Court declared his election null on the grounds that he was below the minimum age of 25 when he filed his nomination papers.

Saxena also has a family association with the Rampur Sadar, where Muslims make up 60% of the population. His father Shiv Bahadur Saxena fought twice from the seat on a BJP

ticket, losing to Khan once. He later fought from Swar Tanda in Rampur, and won four times between 1989 and 2012. He served as a minister twice.

Saxena claims the dispute between him and Khan is "not personal" but "ideological". "Azam would make remarks on Bharat Mata, and I regularly raised objections to it," he says. According to the BJP candidate, the differences ended up in court when Khan "harassed" local farmers and businessmen during his term as minister in the Akhilesh Yadav government. "He forced farmers to give up land for his Jauhar University. Businessmen were harassed to give money for construction of the university building," Saxena says.

He adds that during the Akhilesh government too, he had complained against Khan to the Chief Minister and Governor.

Saxena claims he personally monitored all the cases against Khan in court. **FULL STORY ON:**
www.indianexpress.com

6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



BOOKLET BLITZ

IN THE era of social media and digital campaign, Sonia Gandhi-led Congress is set to come out with a series of booklets - like the Left parties - targeting the BJP government at the Centre on specific topics, hoping to add punch to its campaign in the five poll-bound states. The first of the booklets on farmers' issues is set to be unveiled on Wednesday. The party is planning to release it at multiple centres in the five states. Senior leaders like Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Randeep Surjewala, Sachin Pilot and Rajiv Shukla have been asked to address press conferences in Lucknow, Chandigarh, Varanasi and Jalandhar. Other leaders will have media interactions at different places. The party is planning to bring out booklets on issues such as inflation, unemployment, economic downturn, internal security and atrocities against women, SC and STs.

MAKING A POINT

THE SUPREME Court Advocates on Record Association on Tuesday wrote to Chief Justice of India N V Ramana regarding a Registry direction asking lawyers to "avoid" using mobile phones for attending virtual court hearings and instead use laptop or desktop. Citing financial and other constraints suffered by lawyers in Covid-19 times, it requested that no particular device be insisted upon for virtual hearings. Meanwhile, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Senior Advocate Vikas Singh said that in a meeting between SCBA Executive Committee members and the CJ and four other most senior judges of the court, the CJ clarified that what was issued by the Registry was only an advisory to ensure uninterrupted court proceedings and those who do not have a laptop or desktop can join the virtual hearing through mobile phone.

COVID COUNT

ONE MORE Supreme Court judge has tested positive for Covid-19, taking the number of those infected to 5. This came to light on Tuesday when Justice Vineet Saran told a lawyer who sought adjournment on the ground that his senior was suffering from Covid-19 that he would not deny the request as his own bench partner was suffering from it. Earlier, four other judges had tested positive but recovered quickly.

Work to win polls, expand party: PM to BJP workers

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 18

INTERACTING WITH BJP workers from his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday exhorted them to reach out to a maximum number of people and stay connected with them ahead of the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh. Modi said that he and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were able to serve people because both were blessed by the votes of the people of Uttar Pradesh.

This was PM Modi's first BJP programme in UP after the election schedule was announced by the Election Commission.

Speaking to the party workers through NaMo app, Modi said: "Winning elections is one thing, but organisational expansion should also happen. And workers should also be developed. These two mantras should always be kept in mind."

Laying emphasis on training

a maximum number of party workers, Modi told them to make people aware of the strength of each vote.

"This is election time. We have to make people aware of the strength of each vote. I or Yogi-ji are able to do so many things because the people of Uttar Pradesh have blessed us with their votes. I am sure that my hardworking, sensitive and dedicated workers will regularly stay in contact with the public and keep doing their job," the PM said.

Stating that elections are "kasauti" (a test) for the political parties, Modi urged party workers to reach out to people by organising a competition among polling booths to get 'micro donations' for the party through NaMo App in the next 15 days. "The BJP is running a micro-donation campaign and a person can make a donation of even Rs 5... The aim is not to collect money but to connect with people," the Prime Minister said on Tuesday.

R-Day: Parade spectators trimmed, remote summit for chief guests

KRISHN KAUSHIK & SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

AMID THE ongoing Covid wave, the government has decided to "significantly" curtail the number of people who will physically attend the Republic Day celebrations this year. And, like last time, this year, too, there will be no foreign dignitary as the chief guest.

Until last week, the Defence Ministry was preparing to accommodate around 24,000 people. That number is likely to be trimmed down to 5,000 to 8,000, senior officials said on Tuesday. As part of the curbs, children under the age of 15 years will not be allowed to attend the parade.

As chief guests, the government had invited Presidents of five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan's Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Uzbekistan's Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Tajikistan's Emomali Rahmon, Turkmenistan's Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and Kyrgyzstan's Sadyr Japarov. But sources said they won't be able to attend.

Instead, sources said, there were plans for a virtual summit with these leaders between January 23 and 30. A formal announcement on the date is expected soon.

Last year, British PM Boris Johnson was invited but he had expressed regret due to the rise of Covid-19 cases in his country -- that marked a first in 55 years that the Republic Day parade did not have a foreign dignitary as chief guest. In 2021, when Republic Day fell between two waves of the pandemic, around 25,000 guests were allowed, a drastic reduction from the pre-Covid attendance figure of 1.25 lakh.

This year, strict Covid-19 protocols will be followed, with masks being made mandatory. At the time of entry, double vaccination certificates will be checked.



Rehearsal underway for the Republic Day parade, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Gajendra Yadav

Tableaux: Norms followed, Rajnath tells Mamata, Stalin

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Tuesday wrote separate letters to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, assuring them that selection of tableaux for Republic Day parade has been done according to prescribed norms and seeking to rule out any ulterior motive in tableaux from their states not getting picked this year.

This came in response to letters written by the Chief Ministers of the two Opposition-ruled states to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in which they expressed disappointment over tableau from their respective states not being selected this year. In his letters, Singh explained the selection process, and mentioned the previous years

when tableaux from both states were selected. In her letter to the PM on Sunday, Banerjee said the proposed tableau was commemorating contributions of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary year.

Singh wrote that Bose's contribution in the freedom fight is "unforgettable", and keeping this sentiment in mind, the PM has announced Netaji's birthday on January 23 as Parakram Diwas, he wrote, adding that the CPWD's tableau this year pays tribute to him. Singh also wrote to Tamil Nadu CM Stalin, explaining the "well-established system for selection" of tableaux. Stalin had called the decision to reject Tamil Nadu's tableau "unacceptable".

Kerala officials too had said that their tableau was not selected because it featured Sree Narayan Guru, rejecting the Centre's suggestion to include Adi Shankara.

New events for R-Day celebrations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

THIS YEAR'S Republic Day celebrations will see a number of firsts - events to mark Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, an other-than-usual list of invitees to at-home functions by governors and planned visits by NCC cadets to the families of soldiers who laid down their lives for the country.

Beginning January 23, which marks Bose's 125th birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will honour the winners of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Apda Prabandhan Puruskar at a special event in New Delhi.

The governors and lieutenant governors too have been asked to include in their guest lists "achievers" from diverse fields.

WITH EC BAR ON RALLIES

BJP banks on party's wide digital reach to hit the ground running

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

WITH POLITICAL parties engaging digital electioneering and lining up electronic delivery of poll messages amid a curb on physical campaigning ordered by the poll panel, the BJP feels it has advantages in the organisation network that is digitally enabled, and beneficiaries of various schemes of the central and state governments to act as its ambassadors.

According to BJP sources, the party's digital messages have already crossed 25 crore impressions by mid-January.

With the Election Commission banning political rallies and other physical campaigns for Assembly elections up to January 22, digitisation of BJP's massive network, which go down to the mandal and booth levels, is expected to give the party an upper hand.

Uttar Pradesh, politically the most significant state among the five going to the polls, is, as expected, the main focus of the

EXPLAINED Why BJP has the upper hand

BJP LEADERS feel the party's digitally empowered network on the ground, which go deep and wide, is its biggest advantage in the current election scenario, at a time when the EC has put curbs on rallies and physical campaigning.

party's digital campaign. Sources said BJP plans to reach out to 5 crore to 6 crore of the total internet penetration of 8.3 crore people in UP. Before EC announced the election schedule, the Centre had started a massive digital push involving multiple centres of excellence, technology parks and entrepreneurship centres in UP. That, too, is, expected to help the party. The BJP's social media campaign team, headed by Union minister Anurag Thakur,

has already cleared a series of audio-visual messages and short films to convey the message of "good governance record" of the Centre and the Yogi Adityanath-led UP government. Earlier this week, the party launched a promotional campaign song, made on the lines of the popular Sri Lankan ditty "Manike Mage Hithe", and another one on "Janata hai janardan (the people are the God)".

While exodus of several OBC leaders from the party in UP, including state ministers, have hurt BJP's narrative, the party has got NDA leaders from OBC and Dalit communities talking about various schemes of the government and reminding voters about the "crime and corruption" of the previous governments in the state in the second video. "Our communication and messages are simply focused on governance records, promises we made and our delivery," Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, a member of the party's social media team, told *The Indian Express*.

Channi most popular face, says Congress, dodges CM question

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

A DAY after the Congress put out a brief video on its official Twitter handle virtually projecting Charanjit Singh Channi as its chief minister face in Punjab, the party Tuesday said he was the most popular leader in the state and argued that the raids on the premises of a relative of his were an attack on "Punjab and Punjabiyat".

The party argued that Channi was "not Amarinder Singh" who could be suppressed by the BJP, and said that the raids on the kin of the only Dalit CM in the country reveal the BJP's anti-Dalit mindset. "The entire country knows -- all your media surveys are showing that the most popular leader in Punjab is Channi -- that the BJP is committing a mistake. This is Charanjit Singh Channi and not Captain Amarinder Singh. The BJP is committing a mistake by trying to scare and muzzle him," AICC in-charge for Punjab Harish Choudhary said at a briefing with

SP, BJP list criminal cases of candidates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 18

ACTING ON THE Election Commission's new directive, the BJP and the Samajwadi Party on Tuesday declared the list of criminal cases against its candidates.

While the Samajwadi Party (SP) has listed the criminal cases pending against 20 of its candidates, the BJP, on the other hand, listed criminal cases of its 37 candidates, including Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya with four criminal cases pending against him.

The BJP has so far named 109 candidates. Uttar Pradesh has 403 Assembly seats.

As per the new EC directive, political parties have to publicly declare why they are giving tickets to people with criminal cases against them and reasons why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates.

The UP state unit of the BJP shared the details of criminal cases against 37 of its candidates on its website. About Deputy Chief

Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, who has been fielded from Sirathu, the party said "he is extremely popular not only in his constituency but across the state".

Giving reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected in place of him, the BJP's "Chunav Ayog Sampark Vibhag" said Maurya is the Deputy CM and sitting MLA, and he has been implicated in cases due to "political rivalry", and therefore he has been preferred over the other candidates.

The Samajwadi Party on Tuesday uploaded a document on Twitter, listing 20 candidates with details of criminal cases. In several cases, the party said that the selected candidates work for public welfare and upliftment of weaker sections, thereby gaining "immense popularity" in their area. Regarding Davendra Agarwal, the SP candidate from Mathura, the party said a former Cabinet minister falsely implicated him.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hit out at the Samajwadi Party on Tuesday, saying it is a party of "terrorists and rioters sympathisers".



Akhilesh Yadav with Azam Khan's son, Abdullah (right), and Swami Prasad Maurya (left), in Lucknow. Vishal Srivastava

Poll panel warns SP over model code violation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

THE ELECTION Commission on Tuesday issued a warning to the Samajwadi Party on the alleged violation of Model Code of Conduct and Covid-19 protocols during a gathering outside the party office in Lucknow last week.

EC let the SP off without a penalty as it was the party's first reported MCC violation ahead of the UP election, but directed it to be more careful. "...considering that it is the first reported violation during the current round of elections on the part of Samajwadi Party, the Commission, advises the party to be careful in future..." the EC said in its order. The EC has banned till January 22 all political rallies, nukkad meetings and road shows in the five poll-bound states keeping in mind the third wave of infections. Last Friday, unidentified SP workers were booked for allegedly violating the model code of conduct and Covid-19 protocol when around 2,500 of them reached the party office in Lucknow.

NEW BOOK ON BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY

'When you term a party communal, you are also trying to polarise, is it not?'

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

UNION MINISTER Bhupender Yadav and economist Ila Patnaik have together authored a book tracing the BJP's history from being just an idea in the minds of Jana Sangh leaders to its position as the country's most preeminent party. As BJP general secretary, Yadav has held charge of key states. Patnaik was the principal economic adviser to the government from May 2014 to December 2015. Excerpts of a conversation with the authors:

How did this collaboration come about? Who approached whom?

YADAV: Both approached each other. I used to meet and in-



Bhupender Yadav and Ila Patnaik

teract with Ila-ji during parliamentary committee meetings. Informally, I used to discuss economic issues with her. She asked me after the 2019 elections why I did not write about the BJP's growth. I realised I needed an economic perspective too.

What did you learn from each other during this project?

PATNAIK: I did not know

politicians could be so well-read. Any new book or article, he was clued in and remembered it. The level of scholarship... was surprising to me. Second was his commitment towards academic rigour. Third was the level of openness to cite other views and those of critics.

YADAV: Her economic background has been a great help. The way she looked at developments and the stance of the party helped me understand the BJP in a different way.

You talk about Amit Shah's distinctive approach to politics. But others say the BJP has been reduced to an election-winning machinery.

YADAV: Not at the cost of anything. We are not a party that came to power disrupting the



democratic process... I do not agree that we are an election-winning machine. We are here to win the hearts of people. Amit Shah-ji works hard, that's his speciality. He works on the ground till 2 am or 3 am, staying in interior areas, understanding state politics and its nitty gritty... This is courage, not mechanical.

You write that BJP governments focus on better

governance and on welfare measures. Then why is election campaigning becoming so polarised?

YADAV: More than the BJP, the Opposition talks about religion or Hindutva, to accuse us of being communal. When you term one party communal, you are also trying to polarise, is it not?

Are you saying it's a reaction to an action?

YADAV: No. (But) When we put things in a particular way, people will give it a colour.

Under NDA I in 1998, when the BJP formed a coalition government, a new team could not take shape. The BJP now faces a lot of criticism for 'centralising', not building a strong second-rung

leadership.

YADAV: A second-rung leadership has come up. In the history of the BJP, a new team came up with (L.K.) Advani, (M) Venkaiahji (Naidu), same with Rajnath Singh-ji, Nitin Gadkari and Amit Shah-ji. You won't find any other party with such a battery of former national presidents... There is a huge age difference between the leaders, showing we have developed a chain of leadership.

Vajpayee-led BJP could keep allies with it. Has that changed?

YADAV: The AIADMK was our ally during that time. Ram Vilas Paswan also left but later returned. The alliances at the regional level can change according to local political situations, but we know that regional aspi-

ractions should exist along with national ambitions... Ask those who have left us, the BJP always wants to take everyone along.

Does campaigning becoming digital help the BJP?

YADAV: The party is at an advantage because of its policies, performance and because of its non-corrupt leaders... It's up to the Election Commission to decide the ways, but for connecting with people, physical rallies and door-to-door campaigns are the best.

The Gujarat model is often highlighted by the BJP as an example of growth and development. However, the state lags on many fronts.

PATNAIK: The Gujarat government was run very efficiently. A number of policies and

programmes helped the people directly. Industry also grew. Narendra Modi as chief minister was able to create an environment for growth and development. People hoped it would be like that at the Centre also. But the central government has to do far more of policy than direct implementation. There have been a number of welfare schemes where we have seen leakages go away and there is effective implementation. In that sense, the Gujarat model has come through.

There are many state governments... it's not that everything is determined by the Prime Minister... Whether there is an investment atmosphere in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu or Kashmir -- all that is not directly under the PM.



Azad Samaj party chief Chandrashekhar Azad addresses media in Greater Noida on Tuesday. Gajendra Yadav

PARTY TO CONTEST 33 SEATS IN UP

No tie-up with SP even if given 100 seats: Azad

ABHINAV RAJPUT
GREATER NOIDA, JANUARY 18

BHIM ARMY chief Chandrashekhar Azad, whose pre-poll alliance with Samajwadi Party fell through, on Tuesday said that his party will contest the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election from 33 seats.

Among constituencies the Azad Samaj Party (ASP) will contest the election from are Maniharan, Saharanpur Dehat, Muzaffarnagar City, Hapur, Agra South, Chandauli, Khurja and Meerut Cantt. "These are mostly seats on which there were alliance talks happening as the party wanted to contest on at least 25 seats... as election progresses, the party will declare more number of seats that it would be contesting," Azad said, addressing a press briefing in Greater Noida.

Azad made the statement days after he announced a fall-out with Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party over seat-sharing in Uttar Pradesh. Without naming Yadav or the SP, Azad said that there were discussions for 25 seats, but the assurance was not followed upon. "I was given assurance that there would no cheating... but now it's about honour... even if they call and give a hundred seats, we would not enter into an alliance with them," he said.

Earlier, SP's Akhilesh Yadav had said that he held talks to ensure that two seats -- Rampur

Maniharan and Ghaziabad -- were set aside for the ASP. "Both seats were given. After that, he (Azad) called someone and then told me that he will not fight the elections. He said his sangathan (organisation) was against it..." the SP chief had said.

The Bhim Army leader said that he was open to forming an alliance with other parties. He also denied speculation about a possible tie-up with the Congress, but hinted at an impending announcement and one can expect "something from a bigger stage by evening". Options are open for other small parties, Azad said.

On theories that he may directly fight Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from Gorakhpur, Azad said that the election in the constituency -- a stronghold for the CM -- was in the later phases and the party will take a decision then. Gorakhpur (Urban) will vote in the sixth phase on March 3.

Azad spoke about the ASP's election strategy and said that it will field 30 per cent Dalit candidates, 50 per cent from backward classes and others from both Hindu and Muslim communities. "I never bowed down when I was in jail for sixteen months... my fear was that if due to a divided opposition, BJP comes to power again, then the loss would not be mine but of lakhs of innocent people like me," he said. Azad spent over a year in jail for alleged involvement in caste-related violence in UP's Saharanpur in 2017.

MAHARASHTRA MLAs' SUSPENSION

SC flags danger to democracy concern

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

STATING THAT Maharashtra Assembly's decision to suspend 12 BJP MLAs for a period of one year raises questions of danger to democracy, Supreme Court on Tuesday wondered what would happen if a government, which has only a slender majority, chooses to suspend more than a dozen opposition members for a long period.

Questioning the rationality of the Assembly action, Justice CT Ravikumar, sharing a three-judge bench, posed the query to Senior Advocate Arayama Sundaram, who appearing for Maharashtra, tried to argue that there is no constitutional bar on suspending a member for one year. "Another thing is danger to democracy. Suppose there is a slender lead of the majority, and 15-20 people are suspended, what would be the fate of democracy?," asked Justice Ravikumar.

The bench, headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar and also comprising Justice Dinesh

Maheshwari, had on the previous date of hearing said that the suspension was prima facie unconstitutional.

The bench referred to Article 190(4) of the Constitution and said that under the relevant rules, the Assembly had no power to suspend a member beyond 60 days. As per Section 151 A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a seat can't go unrepresented for over six months. On Tuesday, Justice Khanwilkar said, "When we say that action has to be rational, there should be some purpose of suspension and the purpose is with regards to the session. It should not travel beyond the session. Anything other than this would be irrational... There should be some purpose... some overwhelming reason. Your decision of one year is irrational because of the deprivation of the constituency being unrepresented for more than six months."

Sundaram concluded his arguments Tuesday. Senior Advocate Mahesh Jethmalani will resume arguments for the petitioner MLAs on Wednesday.

Kerala CPM leader invokes Rahul words to slam Cong

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 18

CPI(M) STATE secretary and Politburo member Kodiyeri Balakrishnan on Tuesday said that minorities have been marginalised in Congress based on the perspective of party leader Rahul Gandhi that Hindus should rule India.

"It is based on this line that senior Congress leaders from minority communities such as Ghulam Nabi Azad, Salman Khurshid and K V Thomas have been sidelined in the party," Balakrishnan said in Kannur. "In Kerala, too,

Congress has sidelined minorities, in a departure from the precedent of giving due share to minorities in party leadership."

Hitting back, Congress leader V D Satheesan said, "Let CPI(M) introspect whether it has brought a minority face to the party leadership or government leadership... CPI(M) is trying to woo minorities by distorting words of Rahul Gandhi, who said India is a country of Hindus, not Hindutvavadis."

He said CPI(M) is trying to divide the society. "Congress in Kerala has included leaders and workers from all communities," Satheesan asserted.

Negative remarks make country weak: Priyanka

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 18

ALL INDIA Congress Committee general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday said that "negative remarks make politics strong but country weak", promising to bring forward youth and women into politics and leaders, who would be accountable to public.

"The youth wants to participate in politics. Youth wants to stand on his feet and these are the things that make a country strong," said Priyanka adding, "Nakarattmak baten kame se rajniti mazboot hoti hai lekin desh kamzor hota hai... Isliye chahni hun ek sakaratmak rajniti karen, desh ke vikas ki, naujawanon ke liye, mahilaon ke liye baat ho (Negative remarks make politics strong but make country weak that is why I want that there should be healthy politics, where talks about youth development of the country's youth and women)," said



Priyanka Gandhi

assembly constituency is being trolled, Priyanka said that the said candidate has struggled to make a place for herself but is now being targeted just because she is a woman. She said that why questions about choice of clothes and prospects of marriage not asked from Prime Minister Narendra Modi but from her candidate. Archana Gautam, actress and model-turned-politician has been given the Congress ticket from Hastinapur, and her pictures in bikini from beauty pageants were widely shared online with derogatory remarks.

Priyanka during live interaction with public on Facebook. On being asked about how one of her party's woman candidate from Hastinapur

Punjab: Ex-Army chief Gen J J Singh joins BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 18

FORMER ARMY chief Gen Joginder Jaswant Singh on Tuesday joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) here in the presence of the party leadership, including Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Punjab party president Ashwani Sharma.

This is the third political party that the General has joined since 2017.

The former General had joined Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) before the 2017 Assembly polls and contested against Capt Amarinder Singh from Patiala where he lost.

Lately, he had also been in touch with AAP to join the party and had confirmed the same to *The Indian Express*.

CONG FIELDS EX-BJP MINISTER LOBO FROM CALANGUTE

Patniji: Congress on Tuesday issued its third and fourth list of Goa candidates and nominated Micheal Lobo, former BJP minister who joined the party last week, from Calangute. Among names declared are those of Prasad Gaonkar, Independent MLA who had first pledged support to TMC but later joined Congress, and former MGP MLA Lavoo Mamledar, who recently quit TMC to join Congress. ENS

HARYANA GOVERNMENT
SAINIK AND ARDH SAINIK WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ADVERTISEMENT

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 18.01.2022
LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION: 09.02.2022

1. Applications are invited from the Indian citizens who are Ex-Regular Commissioned Officers covered under the definition of Ex-servicemen for the following post:

Sr. No.	Name of post	Number of post	Qualification	Pay Scale
1	Additional Director, Sainik Welfare-cum-Secretary Rajya Sainik Board (for Head Quarter Only)	01	(i) Ex-regular commissioned Officer covered under the definition of Ex-servicemen of the rank of Brigadier or equivalent ranks from Navy of Air Force. In case, suitable officer of the rank of Brigadier or equivalent rank are not available, officers of the rank of Colonel or equivalent rank from Navy or Air Force. (ii) Knowledge of Hindi/Sanskrit upto Matric standard.	FPL-12, Cell-01

Note:- For other terms and conditions and application form please visit website www.csharyana.gov.in (Defence-I Branch).

Sd/-
Director
Sainik & Ardh Sainik Welfare Department
Haryana

6969/HRY

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM NO. INC-26
(Pursuant to Rule 30 of Companies (Incorporation) Rules 2014)

CHANGE IN REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE COMPANY FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER

Before the Central Government, Northern Region Bench, Delhi

In the matter of sub-section 4 of section 13 of the, Companies Act 2013 and clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules 2014

AND

In the matter of M/S **FASTSURANCE CONSULTANTS PRIVATE LIMITED** having its Registered Office at R - 104, Basement, Greater Kailash - I, New Delhi, South Delhi - 110048

Notice is hereby given to General Public that the company proposes to make an application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act 2013, seeking confirmation of alteration of Memorandum of Companies of the company in term of special resolution passed at Extra ordinary General Meeting held on MONDAY, 23RD DAY OF AUGUST 2021 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of Delhi" to "State of Uttar Pradesh".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change, may deliver either on MCA portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be deliver or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and ground of opposition to the Regional Director at the Address B-2 WING, 2nd FLOOR, PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, CGO COMPLEX, NEW DELHI - 110003, within 14 Days of date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

ADDRESS OF REGISTERED OFFICE: R - 104, Basement, Greater Kailash - I, New Delhi, South Delhi - 110048

For and on behalf of applicant

SD/-
SANJAY AGGARWAL (DIRECTOR) DIN: 01882500
Date: 19.01.2022 Place: Delhi

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH
2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna - 800001
Ph. No. (Office) : 9812219343, 2219355, Fax: 9812219355, E-mail : sbi.0176@sbic.com

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (CORRIGENDUM)

According to power conferred under SARFAESI Act-2002, the Authorised officer of SBI SARB Patna has published an e-Auction for sale of 1 Immovable properties and 1 Movable Property for general Public/ Interested bidders, through this newspaper dated **09.01.2022**. Now the proposed e-Auction of properties of M/s **Manthan Agri Tech Pvt. Ltd.** is cancelled due to some unavoidable reasons.

Authorised Officer
State Bank of India SARB, Patna

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110 029.
F.No. 9-348/2018-Estt (Ret)

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW For Scientist-II

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi intends to engage the following Scientist-II on contractual basis through walk-in-interview for a period of six months or further as may be required, scheduled to be held on 27.01.2022 & 28.01.2022 at 3:00 p.m onwards:-

Scientist-II (Genomics) - 1 (UR), 1(EWS)
Scientist-II (Bioanalytics)- 1 (UR), 1(EWS)

The engagement will be purely on contract basis for a period of six -months, or further as may be required, whichever is earlier. The prescribed application form in PDF, detail of educational qualification, experience, remuneration, place and date of walk-in-interview etc. are required for the post along with terms & conditions and venue of interview are available on the Institute's website www.aiims.edu under the head 'RECRUITMENT'. Interested candidates fulfilling all the eligibility criteria may submit their application in prescribed format within stipulated period of time and may appear for walk-in-interview on the respective date mentioned above. No TA/DA will be paid for appearing in the interview. All further notifications, amendments, corrigendum etc. related to this interview, if any, will be published only on the institute's website. For updates please visit website of www.aiims.edu.

Sd/-
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (RECT)

davp 17112/11/0036/2122

OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL
CENTRE OF COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT
OLD CHARA MANDI, KACHCHA BERI ROAD,
ROHTAK, PHONE NO. 01262-236275,
E-mail pccmrk@yahoo.com

ADMISSION NOTICE

Centre of Cooperative Management announces the commencement of its 49th Diploma Course in Cooperative Management from 10.02.2022 to 29.06.2022 for Private students residing in Haryana State only (10 Seats Only)

Duration of the Course: 20 Weeks (10.02.2022 to 29.06.2022).

Age Limits: 18 to 40 Years
Last Date of Submission of Application: 31.01.2022
ADMISSION WILL BE GIVEN ON MERIT BASIS.

1. Eligibility: Graduate.
2. Fees: 6000/- Rs.

You are kindly invited to personally visit our centre during working hours and for any inquiry, you may contact our Telephone No. 01262-236275 or E-mail ID: pccmrk@yahoo.com

Sd/-
(Yash Pal Dahiya)
Principle
Centre of Cooperative Management,
Rohtak

6973/HRY

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भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सौ.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-12012022-232602
CG-DL-E-12012022-232602

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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No. 157] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022/PAUSHA 22, 1943

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 12th JANUARY, 2022

S.O. 161(E).— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building maintenance, management and operation of Four Lane Connector from Km. 50.000 of Delhi Meerut Expressway to Km. 8.520 of NH 235 in the district Meerut in the state of Uttar Pradesh, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Additional District Magistrate (Land Acquisition) Meerut in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling Four Lane Connector from Km. 50.000 of Delhi Meerut Expressway to Km. 8.520 of NH 235 in the district Meerut in the state of Uttar Pradesh..

Sl. No.	Survey/ Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (In SQ. Meter)	Area (In Hectare)
Village: Chandrasara Taluk: Meerut					
1	373	Government	Nali	180.00	0.01800000
2	402	Government	2(2a)	360.00	0.03600000
Village: Ghosipur					
1	285	Government	Non- Agriculture (Hathkargha)	900.00	0.09000000
2	286	Government	Non- Agriculture (Hathkargha)	600.00	0.06000000
3	287	Government	Chak Marg	140.00	0.01400000

State: UTTAR PRADESH

Dist.: MEERUT

Village: Khanpur

1	110	Government	Nali	25.00	0.00250000
2	119	Government	Nali	50.00	0.00500000
3	27	Government	Non-Agriculture (Parti)	130.00	0.01300001

Village: Naglapatu

1	373	Private	Agriculture	100.00	0.01000000
2	384	Private	Agriculture	790.00	0.07900000
3	385	Private	Agriculture	100.00	0.01000000
4	429	Private	Agriculture	80.00	0.00800000
5	433	Private	Agriculture /Non-Agriculture	1700.00	0.17000000

Village: Narahara

1	180	Government	Rasta	1150.00	0.11500000
2	190	Private	Agriculture	2920.00	0.29200000
3	202	Private	Agriculture	2100.00	0.21000000
4	213	Government	Rasta	100.00	0.01000000
5	216	Private	Agriculture	480.00	0.04800000
6	69	Government	Nali	150.00	0.01500000
7	81	Private	Agriculture	870.00	0.08700000

Village: Shakarpur

1	53	Private	Agriculture	80.00	0.00800000
2	54	Private	Non-Agriculture	1950.00	0.19500000
3	60	Government	Nali	180.00	0.01800000
4	62	Private	Agriculture	1050.00	0.10500000
5	63	Government	Nali	40.00	0.00400000
6	64	Private	Agriculture	1020.00	0.10200000
7	66	Private	Agriculture	700.00	0.07000000
8	67	Private	Agriculture	1010.00	0.10100000
9	69	Government	Nali	45.00	0.00450000
10	70	Private	Agriculture	3600.00	0.36000000
11	71	Private	Agriculture /Non- Agriculture	3050.00	0.30500000
12	72	Government	Chak Road	25.00	0.00250000
13	82	Private	Agriculture	600.00	0.06000000

Total 38568.00 3.8568

[F. No. NHAI/11013/2010-LA/Notif./PIU-Meerut/3A/1] RAJESH GUPTA, Director

BRIEFLY

CHHATTISGARH Five Maoists gunned down in two encounters

Raipur: Five alleged Maoists were gunned down by security forces in two separate encounters in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region. Bastar IGP, P Sundarraj said the first encounter was between armed Maoists and Telangana's Greyhounds assisted by Chhattisgarh's District Reserve Guard and CRPF on Tuesday morning. "We had information that about 40-50 armed Maoists including senior Maoist leader Sudhakar were present in areas of Bijapur and Telangana border," Sundarraj said. The second encounter took place in Marjum area and Pratapgiri hills of Sukma and Dantewada districts respectively, ENS

NEW DELHI New Russian envoy named

New Delhi: Denis Alipov, a career diplomat and a "dedicated India specialist" with decades-long experience in this country, has been appointed the new Russian Ambassador to India, the Russian Embassy here said on Tuesday. Alipov will succeed Nikolay Kudashev shortly, it said. "Denis Alipov, a career diplomat and dedicated #India specialist with decades long experience in this country has been appointed new Russian Ambassador to India," the Russian Embassy tweeted. PTI

HIMACHAL PRADESH Four dead as excavator skids

Shimla: Four people died on the spot and three were injured as an excavator fell into a gorge in Kullu district on Tuesday, police said. The deceased have been identified as excavator operator Hom Raj and three people employed by the PWD, Pyardasi, Dhabe Ram and Bhim Singh. They were natives of Kullu, the police said. Police said the excavator fell into the gorge near Saminullah on Banjar-Dalvahad road in Graho village under Banjar sub-division in the afternoon. Police said it appeared that the excavator operator lost control but further probe was on. PTI

2 Indians killed in UAE drone strike identified

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

THE TWO Indians killed in the suspected Houthi drone strike in Abu Dhabi on Monday have been identified, the Indian Embassy said on Tuesday, but did not reveal further details. It said two of the six injured are also Indians.

"Identities of 2 deceased Indian nationals established. @IndembAbuDhabi officials are in touch with their family members. The Mission is working closely with UAE authorities, including ADNOC, for early repatriation of mortal remains," the Indian Embassy in UAE tweeted.

ADNOC is the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company. The two Indians and a Pakistani killed in the attack claimed by Houthi rebels in Yemen on Monday were working with ADNOC.



After the suspected drone attack in Abu Dhabi. UNI

"Of the 6 injured, 2 are Indian nationals. After receiving medical treatment they were discharged yesterday night. We thank the UAE Government for their support," the Indian Embassy said.

UAE's Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan spoke to his Indian coun-

terpart, S Jaishankar, to express "condolences for the Indian lives lost in the terror attack".

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement that Al Nahyan "shared the details of the attack" and assured that the UAE government "would extend the fullest support to the

families of the deceased."

It said Jaishankar "condemned the terror attack in the strongest terms". "He emphasised that in this day and age, such an attack on innocent civilians was completely unacceptable and against all civilised norms," the ministry said.

Late on Monday, UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation blamed the Yemen-based Houthi group for the attack. A statement issued by Al Nahyan condemned "the Houthi militia's targeting of civilian areas and facilities on UAE soil", and said "those responsible for this unlawful targeting of our country will be held accountable".

The statement said the UAE "reserves the right to respond to these terrorist attacks and criminal escalation... crimes committed in flagrant violation of interna-

tional law". The UAE also "called on the international community to strongly condemn and denounce these terrorist acts that target civilians and civilian facilities."

Houthi military spokesman Brig Gen Yahya Saree had said Monday that the group launched an attack "deep in the UAE". According to CNN, he said the "UAE is an unsafe state as long as its aggressive escalation against Yemen continues." The UAE is part of the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen fighting Houthi rebels.

"Five ballistic missiles and a large number of drones were used in an operation dubbed as 'Operation Hurricane Yemen' targeting Dubai and Abu Dhabi airports, the Musaffah oil refinery in Abu Dhabi and a number of important and sensitive Emirate sites and facilities," Saree told Houthi-owned Al Masirah TV channel Monday, CNN reported.

BENGAL CM WRITES TO PM

Changes to IAS rules will affect states, says Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, JANUARY 18

EXPRESSING HER "strong reservations" against the proposed changes to the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to withdraw the proposal as it was "against the spirit of cooperative federalism" and would affect the administration of the state.

The proposed amendments seek to change the rules for central deputation of IAS officers from different states.

In December last year, the Centre had written to all state governments seeking their opinion on the proposed amendment of the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 ("Cadre Rules"). In her letter to the Prime Minister, Banerjee said, "I express my strong reservations to the approach followed by the Central Government in proposing such amendment to the Cadre Rules which unilaterally mandates the state government to make such number of officers available for deputation as prescribed under Central Deputation Reserve. Not only is the proposed amendment against the spirit of cooperative federalism but the same also upsets the time-tested harmonious arrangement which has existed between the Centre and States in the matter of post-



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

ing of IAS-IPS officers." Banerjee wrote, "By insisting on officers to be made available for deputation... administration of States (will) be affected."

As per the present guidelines, the Centre every year asks states for an "offer list" of officers from the All India Services (IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service) cadre who are willing to go on central deputation, after which it selects officers from that list.

The proposed insertion in the rules state that, "Each State Government shall make available for deputation to the Central Government, such number of eligible officers of various levels to the extent of the Central Deputation Reserve prescribed under regulations referred to in Rule 4(1), adjusted proportionately by the number of officers available with the State Government concerned vis-a-vis the total authorised strength of the state cadre at the given point of time. The actual number of officers to be deputed to the Central Government shall be decided by the Central Government in consultation with State Government concerned."

Allowing illegally intercepted messages as evidence violates fundamental rights: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

SETTING ASIDE charges framed by the trial court against an accused in a corruption case, the Delhi High Court has said that if illegally intercepted messages or audio conversations are permitted as evidence, it would lead to "manifest arbitrariness" and promote "scant regard" to the procedure and fundamental rights of the citizens, and the law laid down by Supreme Court.

Justice Chandra Dhari Singh said that rules framed under Telegraph Act require that the order granting permission to intercept telephone conversations is to be forwarded to the review committee within seven days of the order. "This court does not find any material on record to establish that any review of the order of the Home Secretary was conducted in compliance of the aforesaid rules framed under the Telegraph Act," the court said.

It said mandatory requirements for placing reliance on such audio conversations have not been fulfilled.

In 2010, CBI had registered a

case alleging that then Medical Council of India president, Dr Ketan Desai, had entered into a criminal conspiracy with Jatinder Pal Singh, who was called an alleged Delhi-based middleman, and others to grant permission to Gian Sagar Medical College and Hospital, Patiala, for admission to the fourth batch of MBBS course for the 2011-12 session despite alleged deficiencies. The CBI had recovered Rs 2 crore, alleged to be illegal gratification, from Singh's residence. The main accused, Desai, was discharged from the case by High Court in 2018.

Singh's counsel had argued that illegal tapping of telephone conversation is a violation of the right to privacy and has been reinforced as a fundamental right, protected under Article 21 by a nine Judge Constitution Bench decision in K S Puttaswamy v. Union of India.

In its order, the court also said that as per Section 5 (2) of Telegraph Act, an order for interception can be issued on either occurrence of any public emergency or in the interest of public safety as per the law laid down by Supreme Court in the PUCL case.



SHOW OF STRENGTH

Police and paramilitary personnel take out a flag march in Amritsar, Tuesday, ahead of Republic Day and the Assembly elections. PTI

Muslim man travelling with Hindu woman taken off train by Bajrang Dal men

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, JANUARY 18

AMUSLIM man and a Hindu married woman who were travelling together were forcibly taken off an Ajmer-bound train and handed over to the railway police station in Ujjain by members of Bajrang Dal, who accused the man of "love jihad".

The two passengers, family friends from Indore, were questioned by Government Railway Police (GRP) and made to sit at the police station until their parents arrived. They were let off after their statements were recorded.

No offence was registered against the Bajrang Dal members as there was no complaint, according to the GRP.

The incident took place on January 14. While the man was identified as Asif Shaikh, owner of a small electronic shop, the woman is a private school teacher.

In one of the videos, which went viral on social media, three men who identified themselves as Bajrang Dal workers are seen

dragging Shaikh out of the train coach. As they take him to the police station, the woman is seen walking behind them.

In another video recorded inside the police station, the woman is seen screaming at the Bajrang Dal men. "Your one misunderstanding can spoil my life. I'm an adult, I work as a teacher in a school, I teach children," she says. One Bajrang Dal man, identified as Pintu Kaushal, is seen telling her he was not talking to her.

GRP SP Nivedita Gupta said Shaikh and the woman were family friends and had known each other for years. "After they were brought in to the police station by Bajrang Dal men, who alleged 'love jihad', we recorded their statements and as they were both adults and there was no offence, they were let go," said Gupta.

She said no case was registered against the Bajrang Dal workers. "We were not aware the man was mishandled in any way while being brought to the police station and neither did the two tell us. As there was no complaint against the Bajrang Dal men, we have not registered any offence."

Kundan Chandrawat, Prachar Pramukh for Malwa Prant of VHP, of which Bajrang Dal is the students' wing, said there was "information through reliable sources that a Hindu woman was being misled by a Muslim man and taken along with him". "It is for the protection of our Hindu sisters that our workers intervened... That is when the man got aggressive. They just took him to the nearest police station. During the process, the man and workers got into a small tussle, but no one was beaten up. They handed over the two and left," he said.

NEW POLICY NOT NOW

Govt to track conduct code enforcement by edtech firms

SOURAV ROY BARMAN NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

THE CENTRE has decided to closely track the implementation of a code of conduct adopted by a newly constituted edtech consortium instead of introducing a new policy to regulate the sector, according to sources in the Union Education Ministry.

The development comes after a meeting on Tuesday between ministry officials and the new India Edtech Consortium, in which the latter was represented by five edtech firms and IAMAI.

According to an official, the consortium has officially shared its code of ethics with the ministry, and "it is hoped that this will pave the way for self-regulation". The new code of ethics was discussed at Tuesday's meeting, it is learnt.

On January 3, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had announced that a policy to

regulate the edtech sector was in the works. However, sources said a new policy will not be introduced in haste, as edtech players have shown willingness to put their house in order.

"First, the government issued an advisory; then the minister made the statement. The idea was to send out a message to the companies to recognise the issues and work on them," a source said. "The self-regulatory guidelines adopted by India Edtech Consortium is a welcome step."

In its December 23 advisory, the government had listed do's and don'ts for students and guardians looking to sign up for online courses offered by these companies. The advisory had also cautioned companies against violations.

An official said: "The advisory on edtech reiterates laws set out in e-commerce rules framed under the Consumer Protection Act. With time, edtech players

will also have to abide by data protection laws and other laws relating to consumer protection and data privacy."

The ministry, the source said, "hopes the consortium will be able to adhere to the self-regulatory code of conduct".

A member of the consortium who attended Tuesday's meeting said the ministry expressed satisfaction over the move to self-regulate through the code of conduct, which seeks to address irregularities in areas of marketing, communication and financing practices of the companies.

"The advisory was issued following consultation with the Law Ministry," a source said. "It has also written to the states, asking them to track instances of business malpractices and bring it to the notice of the Centre. Over the years, it had received many complaints, including one on a leading edtech player putting out ads on a student landing high-paying jobs."

Narayan Debnath: The cartoonist who never underestimated children

NILOPAL SIL & PREMATKUR BISWAS KOLKATA, JANUARY 18

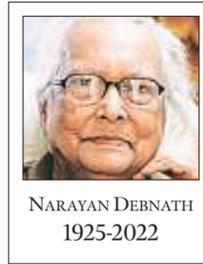
HANDA AND BHONDA, two bungling Bengali teenagers, making an Instagram reel on Kolkata's famous chicken kathi roll (and later fighting over it)?

Baantul the Great, probably India's first indigenous superhero, flexing for a gym selfie?

Why not? Those who follow Bengali comics would probably have no issues with these appropriations. For Narayan Debnath, like all great artists, managed to make most of his creations timeless. Which is ironic because for generations of Bengalis, a Narayan Debnath comic strip exudes nostalgia.

About 60 years ago, when the Bengali children's magazine Shuktara brought together some of the best minds of Bengal, cartoonist Narayan Debnath, who died in Kolkata on Tuesday morning, stood out.

That Debnath, who was born to a family of goldsmiths in 1927, landed himself a job as an illustrator at Deb Sahitya Kutir, one of the most popular publishing houses of Kolkata, in the late 1940s, was



NARAYAN DEBNATH 1925-2022

no surprise to his family.

Debnath was into the arts from a very young age, and his father encouraged him. He also ensured that Debnath went to the Indian Art College, a course not very coveted in middle-class Bengali households of the era (or indeed, even today). He discontinued the course in the fifth year.

In the 1950s, Debnath the illustrator, was made an offer that challenged him as an artist. He was asked to conceive a comic strip for Deb Sahitya Kutir.

"I did not know what that entailed. I decided to fall back on my ability to observe things around me. The peculiarities of people around me. Their habits. Things that made them different, things that made them proto-

types," Debnath told The Indian Express in a 2013 interview.

His strip about the two bungling boys called Handa and Bhonda attracted instant attention. "My characters were based on observations. I was talking about the boys of those times through these characters. The way they talked and dressed, everything was designed to make them more relevant to the young," Debnath said.

As the years passed, Handa and Bhonda kept pace with the times. "The trick is to never underestimate children," said Debnath. That strategy paid off. "No other cartoonist managed to get as much love as Narayan Debnath. His patrons doted on him," says Bengali cartoonist Debashish Deb, a self-confessed fan.

That Debnath's creations shaped the imagination of generations of Bengalis is evident from the way his character Baantul was used to boost the morale of Indians during 1971 war with Pakistan. The publishers wanted Baantul to be the superhero India needed. Debnath obliged.

"The most enduring quality of Debnath was his versatility. He could rustle up a range of feelings in his patrons with consummate ease," says Debashish Deb.

उपग्रह जल विद्युत निगम लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना

इस खण्ड के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अनुसूची/अतिरिक्त टेकडोंवर, जो सम्बन्धित कार्य का अनुभव रखते हों, से निम्नलिखित ई-निविदाएं दो भाग में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। 1. निविदा सं T-12/EGD/Mzn/2021-22. अपर गंग नहर पर स्थित विद्युत गुहों (निर्माण), पिलोडा, सलावा एवं मोला) की दैनिक सफाई एवं रख-रखाव का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु 20,000/- (RTGS/NEFT/Online के रूप में) निविदा शुल्क रु 1180/- जीएएसटीडी सम्मिलित (RTGS/NEFT/Online के रूप में)। 2. निविदा सं T-13/EGD/Mzn/2021-22. उपरी गंग नहर पर स्थापित चारों विद्युत गुहों (निर्माण), पिलोडा, सलावा एवं मोला) पर एक वर्ष के लिए ट्रेस रोक जालियों की सफाई का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु 28,000/- (RTGS/NEFT/Online के रूप में) निविदा शुल्क रु 1652/- जीएएसटीडी सम्मिलित (RTGS/NEFT/Online के रूप में)। 3. वेबसाइट पर ई-निविदा स्वीकार करने तथा डाउनलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि/समय : 16-02-2022 / 17:00 बजे तक। 4. ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग खुलने की तिथि/समय : 17-02-2022 / 13:00 बजे से आरम्भ। नोट:- निविदा सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी, विवरण/डाउनलोड/निविदा में प्रतिभागिता हेतु वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग इन करें। किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन/विस्तार की सूचना उल्लिखित वेबसाइट पर दी जायेगी। सभी जानकारी 03080 जल विद्युत निगम लिमिटेड की वेबसाइट www.upjvn.org पर भी उपलब्ध रहेगी। अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जल विद्युत उत्पादन सहाय, मुजफ्फरनगर के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, मेन मार्केट, मुजफ्फरनगर के खाता संख्या 3372269059 एवं IFSC Code SBIN0002412 में RTGS/NEFT के द्वारा वांछित धरोहर राशि/निविदा शुल्क जमा कराना होगा। इच्छुक निविदाकार, निविदा खुलने की तिथि से पूर्व, किसी भी कार्य दिवस में अनुमति उपचारन, विद्युत गृह में करायें जाने वाले सम्भावित कार्यों का निरीक्षण कर सकते हैं। निविदा के प्रथम भाग की विवेचना एवं अनुमोदन पश्चात्, निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि सूचित की जायेगी। अग्रोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा बिना कारण बताये निविदा को निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत उत्पादन सहाय, नई मण्डी, मुजफ्फरनगर। "राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा वचाये"

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E - Tender Notice No. CE/2021/16 Date 17.01.2022 E-Open tender No - 02216477 SP to be opened on 10.02.2022 S.N. : 01. Name of the work with its location: Manufacture and supply of 10 mm thick Composite Grooved Rubber Sole Plates for wider PSC Sleeper, 60kg (IUC) Rail to RDSO Dtg.No. T-9747. (Qty. = 8,41,290 Nos.) Location- Office of Principal Chief Engineer, East Central Railway Hajipur. 02. Approx. cost of the work : Rs. 6,43,58,685.00. 03. Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 12,87,180.00. 04. Date & Time for closing of tender : 11:30 Hrs on 10.02.2022. 05. Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen : Related tender documents can be seen or downloaded from websites: http://www.ireps.gov.in. Dy. CE/TSP/HJP PR/01518/HQ/ENGG/TI-22/24

Government Of Meghalaya MEGHALAYA INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION Corrigendum Notice With reference to the Previous Advertisement No: MIDFC/MITP-PMC/15/2021-22-137, Dated: 07.12.2021 for the engagement of a "Project Management Consultancy (PMC)" for the Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project (MITP), World Bank Funded Project, the last date for the submission of the EOI has been extended to the 31st January 2022. For more details please visit http://megplanning.gov.in -Sd- Chief Operations Officer (COO, MIDFC) MIPR NO 1725 dt 18.01.2022

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, DEMU-Shed Shakurbasti for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Tender for the under noted work. Bid No. GEM/2022/B/1865859, dt. 17.01.2022 Name of work Hiring of 3 Nos. SUV's (to be utilized for multipurpose) on monthly basis for DEMU-Shed, Shakurbasti for a period of three years. Approximate cost Rs. 59,15,916/- including GST @20% Earnest money Rs. 0.00 (Vide Rly. Bd. letter no. 2020/CE-1/37/3E/GCC /Policy 30.12.2020) Completion period of the work 03 Years Bid end Date / Time 01.02.2022 14:00 hrs. Bid Opening Date / Time 01.02.2022 14:30 hrs. Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen Above tender is available on GeM (Government e Marketplace) website i.e. www.gem.gov.in w.e.f. 17.01.2022 No. - 25.8.738.DSL.SSB Dt. 18.01.2022 117/22 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Petronet LNG Limited NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION OF SCRAP THROUGH MSTC MSTC Ltd, Vadodara is conducting e-auction for scrap items like "Patrol Boat" & "Steel Panels" on behalf of PETRONET LNG LTD vide e-auction no: MSTC/VAD/Petronet LNG Limited/4/Dahej/21-22/28027 on date: 24.01.2022. Interested parties are requested to visit website www.mstcecommerce.com

TENDER NOTICE AIR FORCE STATION PALAM 1. The Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station Palam invites sealed quotations for the following work: (a) Name of work Installation of fountain (Type - Crown Jet) size 12' diameter including all accessories and complete civil work Making of standard size tennis court with chain link fencing of height 10 feet (b) Approx cost of work ₹ 5,90,000/- ₹ 9,86,311/- (c) Earnest money to be deposited ₹ 29,500/- ₹ 49,316/- (d) Place of collection and drop of tender Fire Section (Camp Area), Air Force Station Palam Thimayya Marg, Delhi Cantt-110010 (e) Last date of collection and submission 25 Jan 22 & 28 Jan 22 2. The firms interested for above work must be GST registered. For more details and all the terms & conditions please collect tender documents from above mentioned place mentioned at para (e). Earnest money will be acceptable in form of "TDR or "FDR" payable to "SI Fund". The original TDR/FDR is to be attached along with tender documents/quotation and drop in the tender box (Contract on 011-25687197 Extn 23247228).

Time to completely do away with sedition law: SC ex-judge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

CALLING FOR abolishing the law on sedition, former Supreme Court judge Rohinton Nariman has expressed concern on booking critics of the government for sedition.

"It is time to completely do away with sedition laws and allow free speech so long as it does not exhort somebody to violence," he said.

Addressing an event at inauguration of DM Harish School of Law, Mumbai, on January 14, Justice Nariman said while those exercising free speech were being booked under the stringent sedition law, those giving hate speech are not being dealt with by authorities.

Video excerpts of the speech were published by legal news portal Bar & Bench.

He said: "...you have persons giving hate speech actually calling for a genocide for an entire group, and we find great reluctance from the authorities to book these people. We also unfortunately have higher echelons of the ruling party not only being silent qua hate speech but also almost en-



Justice Rohinton Nariman

dorsing it. "We heard the other day from the head of the party a juxtaposition of a Mughal emperor known for being a bigot — Aurangzeb — against Shivaji, who was known to be a secular leader."

Referring to Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu's statement in Thiruvananthapuram that hate speech is unconstitutional, he said it was "heartening to note that — at least a little later." After a seven-year term, Justice Nariman retired in August last year as judge of the Supreme Court. Among his key verdicts is the 2015 landmark decision Shreya Singhal versus Union of India, in which the court struck down Section 66A of Information Technology Act, holding that the provision was arbitrary and unconstitutional. The provision was routinely used to book individuals for comments made on social media.



@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

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

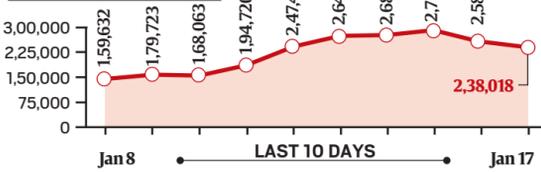
DASHBOARD, AS ON JAN 17

687 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

New cases 2,38,018 | **Active cases** 17,36,628 | **Deaths** 310

Weekly CFR: 1.59% | Overall CFR: 1.39% | Total deaths: 4,86,761

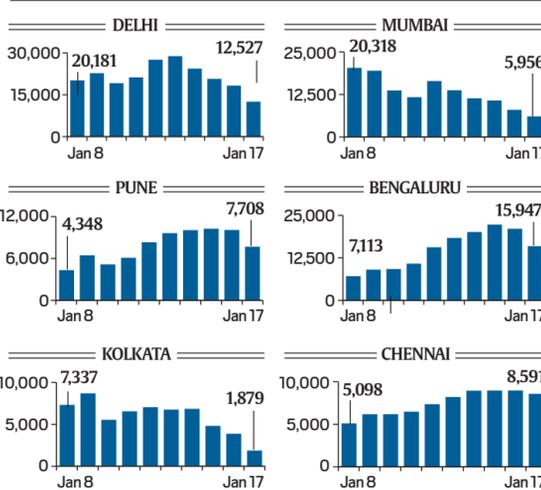
NEW CASES, DAILY



SURGE IN THE STATES

State	ON JANUARY 17			Weekly positivity
	New Cases	Active Cases	Deaths	
Maharashtra	31111	267334	31	20.58%
Karnataka	27156	217326	14	13.39%
Tamil Nadu	23443	152348	20	14.53%
Kerala	22946	122163	72	23.64%
Uttar Pradesh	15553	106616	9	6.17%

SURGE IN THE CITIES, LAST 10 DAYS



TOTAL TESTS

70,54,11,425

TESTS ON JAN 17

16,49,123

WEEKLY POSITIVITY

14.22%

OVERALL POSITIVITY

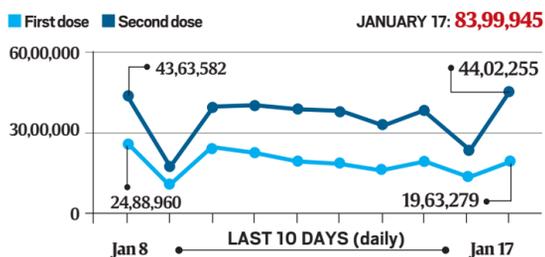
5.33%

INDIA TOTAL DOSES

158,04,41,770

(Adults 1st dose: 87,70,05,631; adults second dose: 66,24,20,800;

15-18 age group 1st dose: 3,59,30,929; precautionary doses: 50,84,410)



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SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Devas deal & its aftermath

The SC has upheld the liquidation of Devas, whose foreign investors continue to fight for compensation following the cancelled 2005 satellite deal with Antrix. A look at the deal, and the ripples from the scrapping.

JOHNSONTA
BENGALURU, JANUARY 18

A 2005 SATELLITE deal between Antrix Corporation – the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) – and Devas Multimedia Pvt Ltd, a start-up headquartered in Bengaluru, is at the heart of a global legal tussle between the Indian government and foreign investors in Devas. The tussle is a fallout of the cancellation of the deal in 2011 by the then UPA government citing requirement of satellite spectrum allotted to Devas for security purposes.

On Monday, the Supreme Court upheld a May 25, 2021 order of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to liquidate Devas on the ground that the firm was created under fraudulent circumstances. The order came even as three Mauritius-based investors and a German telecom major have approached federal courts in the United States to seize assets linked to the Indian government such as those of Air India. The investors have won separate compensation awards in international tribunals, including \$1.2 billion awarded by an International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) tribunal on September 14, 2015. The Supreme Court has kept the \$1.2 billion award in abeyance.

What was the Devas-Antrix deal?

They signed an "Agreement for the Lease of Space Segment Capacity on ISRO/Antrix S-band spacecraft by Devas Multimedia Pvt Ltd" on January 28, 2005, a month after Devas was incorporated in Bengaluru in December 2004 by two former ISRO employees. Under the deal, ISRO would lease to Devas two communication satellites (GSAT-6 and 6A) for 12 years for Rs 167 crore. Devas would provide multimedia services to mobile platforms in India using S-band transponders on the satellites, with ISRO leasing 70 MHz of S-band spectrum.

The deal progressed smoothly for six years before it was annulled by the UPA government on February 25, 2011, following a Cabinet Committee on Security decision of February 17 to terminate the agreement to use the S-band for security purposes. The government decision was taken in the midst of the 2G scam and allegations that the Devas deal involved the handing over of communication spectrum valued at nearly Rs 2 lakh crore for a pittance.

How was Devas formed?

At the turn of the century, the telecom revolution threw open the possibility of satellite-based systems providing Internet services to remote areas, and top experts from ISRO began consulting global satellite communication experts in 2002-03.

Devas's journey

DECEMBER 2004: Devas Multimedia Pvt Ltd is incorporated in Bengaluru

JANUARY 28, 2005: Devas and Antrix sign "Agreement for the Lease of Space Segment Capacity on ISRO/ANTRIX S-BAND Spacecraft by Devas Multimedia Pvt Ltd"

DECEMBER 2005: Union Cabinet approves development and launch GSAT-6/INSAT-4E

2006-2009: Devas attracts Rs 579 crore foreign investments, gets Internet Service Provider license, and permission to provide IPTV services

FEBRUARY 2011: Union telecom minister arrested in 2G scam, allegations emerge of Rs 2 lakh crore scam in space spectrum allocation

FEBRUARY 25, 2011: Devas-Antrix agreement terminated

SEPTEMBER 14, 2015: International Chamber of Commerce arbitration tribunal awards \$1.2 billion (including interest) to Devas by Antrix Corp

MAY-OCTOBER 2020: Deutsche Telekom (\$101 million) and Mauritius investors (\$111 million) are awarded compensation by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Geneva, and by UN Commission on International Trade Law Tribunal respectively

OCTOBER 27, 2020: Compensation award by the ICC is confirmed by the US

According to ISRO officials from the period, the International Telecommunication Union granted India S-band spectrum in the 1970s and some of this was with ISRO. By 2003, there was a fear that the spectrum would be lost if not used effectively; 40 MHz of S-band was given to the DoF for terrestrial use and 70 MHz was to be put to efficient use by the DoS.

Some of the initial consultations that eventually led to the creation of Devas took place in the US between top ISRO officials and a US consultancy, Forge Advisors, which had satellite communication experts like Ramachandran Vishwanathan, and ex-ISRO employees D Venugopal and M G Chandrashekar. Initially an MoU was signed by Forge and Antrix in July 2003 for use of the satellite spectrum for growth of communication systems in India, but later a start-up was envisaged, and Devas Multimedia was floated.



The GSAT-6 satellite. ISRO

federal court for the western district of Washington

NOVEMBER 4, 2020: Supreme Court of India orders for ICC award to be kept in abeyance

JANUARY-MAY 2021: Antrix moves NCLT, which orders liquidation of Devas in India; NCLAT upholds order in September.

JANUARY 2022: Canadian court allows seizure of Air India assets on Devas investors' plea; the investors move US federal court for Air India assets in US, citing Canada order

JANUARY 17, 2022: Supreme Court upholds NCLT order for Devas liquidation

In end-2005, the Cabinet approved the creation of GSAT-6 by ISRO for providing satellite-based video and audio services. Following this, Devas was able to attract foreign investors. Mauritius based Columbia Capital/Devas and Telcom/Devas picked up stakes for \$15 million initially in 2006 and 2007, followed by an investment of \$99.2 million in 2008-09 by the German firm Deutsche Telekom through a Singapore arm. Devas got a total of Rs 579 crore foreign investment with clearances from the Foreign Investment Promotion Board. Deutsche Telekom held 20.7% of the stake while three Mauritius investors held 37.5% when the deal was annulled in 2011.

What happened after the scrapping?

Devas and its foreign investors approached various international tribunals and courts seeking compensation. Devas was awarded

compensation of \$1.2 billion by an International Chamber of Commerce tribunal on September 14, 2015. Deutsche Telekom was awarded \$ 101 million plus interest by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Geneva on May 27, 2020, and the Mauritius investors were awarded \$111 million by the UN Commission on International Trade Law tribunal on October 13, 2020. The German investors claimed compensation for violation of an India-Germany bilateral investment treaty and the Mauritius investors for an India-Mauritius BIT.

The \$1.2 billion award was confirmed by the US federal court for the western district of Washington on October 27, 2020. Antrix has gone in appeal to a US court against this order and the Supreme Court has asked for the tribunal award to be kept in abeyance through a November 4, 2020 order.

In 2013, the Enforcement Directorate was asked to look at finances of Devas after a high level team headed by former Central Vigilance Commissioner Pratyush Sinha stated that "the shareholding pattern of the company and of the Mauritius based entities needs to be looked into by an appropriate investigative agency".

After the NDA government came to power in 2014, the CBI was asked to investigate the 2005 deal. In August 2016, the CBI filed a chargesheet against eight officials from Devas, ISRO and Antrix linked to the deal for "being party to a criminal conspiracy with an intent to cause undue gain to themselves or others by abusing official positions". Among the eight is former ISRO chairman G Madhavan Nair and former Antrix executive director K R Sridharanmurthy. The CBI has charged the accused of causing a loss of approximately Rs 578 crore to the government through the deal.

The ED filed a chargesheet in 2018 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act against a former managing director of Antrix and five Devas officials, stating that Devas transferred 85% of its Rs 579 crore foreign funding to the US under various claims.

What led to the liquidation?

Antrix filed a plea in the National Company Law Tribunal in January 2021 for liquidation of Devas in India, which it said was incorporated in a fraudulent manner. On May 25, the NCLT ordered the liquidation, which was upheld by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal on September 8, 2021 and by the Supreme Court on Monday.

The NCLT order held that the start-up was "incorporated in a fraudulent manner and for unlawful purposes". It said the deal with Antrix was signed on behalf of Devas by a clerk from the office of an ex-ISRO employee, M Umesh, who registered Devas Multimedia along with another ex-ISRO employee, D Venugopal.

Around the world, positions on vax mandates

THE HEALTH Ministry has told the Supreme Court that "no person can be forced to be vaccinated against their wishes", and "the Government of India has not issued any SOPs which make carrying of vaccination certificate mandatory for any purpose."

The World Health Organization (WHO) accepts that vaccine mandates have been effective in increasing vaccine uptake in some situations, but cautions that mandating vaccination could impact "public confidence and public trust". Therefore, the WHO said last month, "Mandates around vaccination are an absolute last resort and only applicable when all other feasible options to improve vaccination uptake have been exhausted."

However, as the world fights a grim battle against the pandemic, several governments have taken positions in favour of mandates to tackle hesitancy.

AUSTRIA: February onward, vaccines will be mandatory for everyone age 14 and older, the only exemptions being pregnant women and those who cannot get a vaccine for medical reasons. Holdouts face a fine upto € 3,600. The mandate has faced widespread protests.

FRANCE: Parliament approved a law on Sunday that will keep unvaccinated people out of bars, restaurants, sports arenas, etc. Large groups have been protesting the vaccine pass.

GERMANY: All healthcare personnel must be fully vaccinated by March 15, but the government remains undecided on adopting an Austria-style universal vaccine mandate, DW reported. Chancellor Olaf Scholz has said he would like to see mandatory vaccinations, but the decision would be made by Parliament.

ITALY: Vaccination was made mandatory this month for everyone from the age of 50. Vaccination was already mandatory for teach-

ers and health workers, and since October, employees have been required to be either vaccinated or show a negative test report before entering workplaces. Refusal attracts suspension without pay.

UNITED KINGDOM: The UK has traditionally only issued recommendations and advisories. However, "vaccination as a condition of deployment" (VCO) will come into force for health and social care workers starting April 1. Exemptions to the regulations include workers who do not have "direct face-to-face contact" with people receiving care, those who are pregnant or under 18, and those who should not be vaccinated for medical reasons.

UNITED STATES: Both hesitancy and militant anti-vaccination sentiment are major issues. The US Supreme Court last week blocked the Biden administration from enforcing a vaccine-or-testing mandate for large employers.

But the court allowed a more limited mandate requiring healthcare workers at facilities receiving federal money to be vaccinated. The Supreme Court leans conservative; both decisions were passed by a majority on the bench.

Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have mandated vaccines for healthcare workers, but 18 states have no such requirement. Five states have exempted healthcare organizations from bans on vaccine requirements, and six states have banned some employers from requiring vaccines.

The Supreme Court ruling covered two dozen states that had been the subject of federal injunctions that prohibited the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services from imposing a mandate. About 10 million workers at approximately 76,000 healthcare facilities are affected by the requirement.

THE NYT, AP, REUTERS

The Great Resignation: how Covid-19 has impacted the workforce

MIRAPATEL
MUMBAI, JANUARY 18

IN 2020, resignation rates across the US plummeted due to the fear and uncertainty caused by the pandemic. One year later, however, as the workforce experienced a collective burnout, individuals left their jobs at unprecedented rates, leading some to describe the trend as the Great Resignation.

In November 2021, 4.5 million workers left their jobs according to the US Labor Department. This matched record numbers observed in September and translated into 3% of the workforce quitting their jobs each month. Estimates indicate that in total, 75.5 million people in America resigned in 2021.

Further, according to a ResumeBuilder.com poll, around 23% of the workforce will seek new jobs in 2022. Low-wage workers were more likely to resign than their higher paid counterparts with the sectors most affected including hospitality, healthcare and social assistance, and transportation, warehousing, and utilities. Around 4.4% of all positions in education, over 6% in retail, and more than 8%

in healthcare are open. This amounts to almost a million and a half vacant positions.

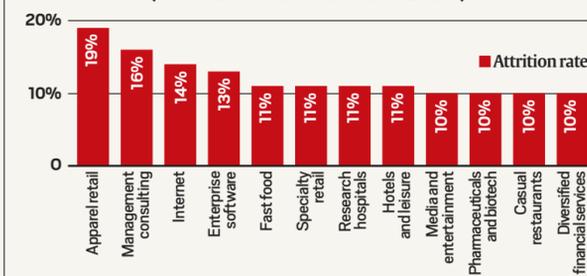
The Great Resignation has largely been fuelled by burnout, but there are also other factors including the shift to working from home and the desire to move into a more stable profession. An MIT Sloan study found that more innovative companies, which demand more from their employees, project a sense of instability due to their cutting-edge nature. The analysis found that a toxic corporate culture is a higher predictor of attrition than salary.

Indians looking to switch

In India, the situation may not be as dire but is still a cause for concern. An Amazon India survey in September found that 68% of jobseekers in India are looking to switch industries as a result of Covid-19, 56% consider job security a major priority, and 47% are concerned about workplace safety measures.

Following the Great Resignation, the IT and technology sector in India is hiring at unprecedented rates with the top five IT companies hiring around 1.7 lakh people in 2021. Not only are people changing jobs, but nearly 51% of job seekers are looking for opportuni-

AVERAGE ATTRITION RATE IN INDUSTRIES, US (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2021)



Source: 'Toxic Culture Is Driving the Great Resignation', Donald Sull, Charles Sull, and Ben Zweig, MIT Sloan Management Review

ties in industries where they have little to no experience, the survey found.

Impact of resignations

In light of the large number of resigna-

tions in the US, the labour market has incentivised companies to offer better benefits and higher salaries. Economists predict that the race to attract top talent will continue with companies that can offer better salaries win-

ning out. A recent report from the Conference Board found that the share of job postings that include a hiring bonus more than doubled between March 2020 and October 2021.

According to research from the WFH Project, while higher pay can be a big factor, people value the flexibility to work from home as much as they would value a 10% pay rise. Consequently, companies across the board are offering employees shorter and more flexible workweeks with several shifting permanently to work from home.

Work from home has also impacted the housing market. For what one would pay to rent a small apartment in a city like New York or San Francisco, they could afford to buy a house in a city such as Greenville, South Carolina. This has led to big employers like BMW and Michelin moving to smaller cities.

The way forward

According to the MIT Sloan study, there are a number of ways companies can retain top talent. The first is to provide opportunities for lateral job moves. The study found that people experience burnout due to a lack of

the opportunity to try something new. When employees are offered new jobs at their companies, they are almost 12% less likely to resign. International postings are also a big incentive as they come with new experiences.

The study also found that companies that have a healthy work culture are less likely to lose employees. Creating a better workplace includes hosting more corporate social events, providing employees with benefits like happy hours and organising more excursions outside the office.

The paper notes that when blue-collar employees describe their schedules as predictable, they are less likely to quit. It therefore advises companies that hire low-wage workers to make schedules more predictable by establishing concrete time slots and putting in place measures like mandatory mask wearing and social distancing.

Lastly, the paper suggests, companies should offer employees more remote working opportunities. While not all industries would benefit from work from home policies, high wage earners, who tend to have more comfortable housing arrangements, tend to prefer working from home.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CHALLENGE NEXT DOOR

India has high stakes in success of Bajwa doctrine. Pak geo-economic transition can't succeed without shift in its India policy

THE CASE FOR major reform to get Pakistan out of the multiple crises confronting it has been articulated by its Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, in recent years. The "Bajwa Doctrine" emphasises the importance of restoring peace within by putting down various internal insurgencies, reviving economic growth, reconciling with the neighbours, rebuilding ties with the US without abandoning the strategic partnership with China, and regaining its traditional political goodwill in the Gulf. General Bajwa tied together many of these ideas in a well-received speech last March. The National Security Policy document issued by Islamabad last week is an effort to codify the Bajwa Doctrine into an actionable statement of purpose and a strategy for its realisation. The document identifies a wide range of unexceptionable goals; what stands out is the ambition to integrate economic development into the traditional military conception of national security. The external complement to this is the emphasis on "geo-economics" in contrast to the traditional obsession of the Pakistan Army with "geopolitics". The former focuses on trade and connectivity while the latter is about power and its projection.

No one has a higher stake than India in the success of the Bajwa doctrine that calls for a Pakistan at peace with itself and the region. Does Pakistan, however, have the will and capability to implement it? One reason development took a back seat to security in Pakistan is the political dominance of the army that cornered most of the economic resources, in the name of protecting the nation from the "Indian threat". Even if the army cedes some ground, can it crack the economic stranglehold of the small but entrenched rentier classes? Pakistan has gone to the IMF more than twenty times but has been unable to forge long overdue structural changes in the economy. If the NSP is about modernising Pakistan, Imran Khan is looking to the past for political survival amidst growing unpopularity of his government whose economic incompetence imposed huge costs on the people. Barely two days after releasing the National Security Policy, Imran Khan published an op-ed outlining his vision for "Riyasat-e-Madina" in Pakistan based on the order that Prophet Mohammed had created in Madina after leading his followers out of Mecca in the early seventh century.

That Imran Khan may not be in sync with the army is also borne out by India's recent engagement with Pakistan. Delhi negotiated a ceasefire agreement with the Pakistan Army last February that was to be followed by a series of confidence-building measures, including trade. The decision to resume limited overland commerce was quickly overturned by Imran Khan, who insisted there can be no engagement with India until Delhi reversed the 2019 constitutional changes in Kashmir. Pakistan's geo-economic transition can't succeed without a fundamental shift in its India policy. Discarding the many impossible goals that Islamabad has set for itself against Delhi and coming to terms with Pakistan's relative economic decline in relation to India will be immensely painful. If Pakistan can get its act together on "burying the past" — as Gen Bajwa said last March — India should be ready to extend a hand.

LOST IN PUNJAB

AAP's declaration of CM candidate puts an end to a guessing game. But AAP and other parties have a larger challenge ahead

WITH THE AAM Aadmi Party announcing that its Sangrur MP, Bhagwant Mann, is its chief ministerial candidate in Punjab, and the Congress all but endorsing Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's claim to the post if the party returns to power, the battle lines for the assembly election, rescheduled now to February 20, seem clearer. Besides Channi and Mann, Sukhbir Badal, leading the Akali Dal-BSP coalition, Amarinder Singh in an alliance that includes the BJP, and Navjot Singh Sidhu, still pushing his own CM candidature, are in the fray. Leadership and party agendas both count in an election, and as they go to the people, parties must strike the right balance between the two.

But in Punjab the main challenge for political parties lies elsewhere. The state, beset by several crises, has just witnessed a farmers' movement which, with no clear leader at the helm, forced a powerful central government to backtrack on farm laws that it had defended for months. The Centre's laws sought to reshape farm policies by resetting relations between farmers, procurement agents/agencies and the state. They were a response to the need to break the standstill in agriculture. But as farm unions mobilised within the state and on Delhi borders, and support flowed in from various sections of Punjabi society, the issue of the merit of the laws was overtaken by resentments against the manner in which they had been pushed through. A standout feature of these successful mobilisations was the protestors' insistence on keeping established parties off their stage. As elections draw closer, that unwillingness of farmers' unions to trust the mainstream leadership to champion their cause should serve as a warning for all political parties. The perception that the political mainstream is corrupt and self-serving and is not to be trusted to address public concerns runs deep in Punjab. This cynicism must be addressed by the political-electoral process. It cannot be allowed to grow, especially in a border state that still carries scars of the decade lost to terrorism in the 1980s-1990s. Punjab's large public debt, ballooning unemployment, farm distress, drug issues and heightened religiosity, all can be seen as residues of its troubled past.

Leaders and parties must now take the election opportunity to begin the healing process in the state. More than who wins and who loses in Punjab, what will matter is the restoration of the people's trust in the political process.

FALLING FROM THE SKY

Swami Prasad Maurya's 'Skylab' swipe is a deep one, requires a little bit of decoding

IN JULY 1979, the sky was falling. Panicked residents in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha began moving inland, schools were closed, the fear of death from above loomed. Skylab, NASA's first space station — put into orbit in 1973 — proved that human beings could live in outer space for extended periods. The mission was supposed to last four years longer than it did, but the Skylab began to be pulled into earth's orbit in 1979, and there was every chance that it might crash into a populated area.

Cut to India 2022. In this election season, leaders are crossing over, joining new parties — notably in Uttar Pradesh. Swami Prasad Maurya, former minister in the Yogi Adityanath government, said that the UP CM was parachuted into the position in 2017, "dropped into the chair like Skylab". The metaphor is a deep one, invoking awe and dread, distance and despair. It's also a swipe at his former cabinet colleague, hinting that Adityanath was not in the running for the post and that his appointment came as a surprise and disappointment.

Unfortunately for Maurya, his comment is also leaving many people a bit flummoxed. Given that UP has among the largest proportion of youth in its population, the Skylab reference might be a bit dated: Those under 35 are more likely to think it's a rooftop restaurant than a space station. Then, the subject of Maurya's ire was certainly launched like Skylab. But it is unlikely that Maurya meant to leave it there. Given that Skylab's journey is evocative more for its rise than its subsequent crash, perhaps, next time, a more recent James Bond reference might come in handy, help him to say it better — Skyfall.



NAUSHAD FORBES

THE LAST TWO quarters have seen a substantive recovery in the Indian economy. As growth has rebounded, so too has every indicator of the formal economy. Corporate profitability of our largest firms has hit a new record this year. So have GST collections, another indicator of the formal economy, with an average monthly collection of Rs 1.2 trillion in the second and third quarters. The budget deficit is expected to be well under what we forecasted last year. All of this is good news.

The glass though is half full. As many commentators have pointed out, the informal economy was particularly badly hit by Covid and its associated lockdowns. Small enterprises, retail, hospitality, and construction were all hammered. These were our main source of recent employment growth. Agricultural employment has risen in the last year-and-a-half, while manufacturing and services employment has fallen — this is the opposite of development. Informal urban employment has led to first-time buyers of everything from toothpaste to two-wheelers. This consumption story has driven our economic growth for the last 30 years. Informal service sector jobs may not seem like great jobs to us, but they are greatly prized relative to eking out a marginal existence in agriculture.

Covid and its associated restrictions have been a perfect storm for the informally employed. A study by researchers from Azim Premji University tells us that both earnings and employment fell for those at the bottom of the urban employment pyramid. We need to insure the most vulnerable against such shocks, but even more, we need to create good job opportunities for the unskilled, equip people at all levels to participate more fully in the modern economy, and systemically promote wider policies of inclusion. What can the budget do?

It needs to create good jobs for the unskilled. The way it can do so directly is through accelerating spending on infrastructure. The National Infrastructure Pipeline has identified a good set of projects. The government should be complimented for its intention and ambition; what we need now is implementation. To have a bigger impact on the economy, we need to invest quickly and at scale. A credible time-bound implementation plan is what we should hear about in the budget.

Most countries developed by putting millions to work in labour-intensive manufacturing. Millions of the unskilled and less-educated can be employed in good manufacturing jobs

A budget that includes

It must widen the ambit of economic participation, incentivise job creation, invest in education, skilling

where average productivity is 15 times the national average. We do not have the huge firms in export-oriented labour-intensive sectors that employ millions in China, Vietnam, and Bangladesh. Foxconn's largest factory in China, making iPhones among other products, reportedly employs 4,00,000 people. It employs over 1 million in the country overall. Compare that 1 million with 15 million employed in all larger manufacturing companies in India. Samsung employs 1,00,000 people in its largest phone assembly plant in Vietnam. These giant factories are missing in India.

Take another example of labour-intensive manufacturing. A company we visited in Vietnam manufactures agarbattis. They learnt by sending 10 workers to a factory near Chennai for training. Today they employ 10,000 people making agarbattis, which they mainly export to India. Even when the technology is Indian and the market is India, mass manufacturing seems to be more efficient 4,000 km away from the country. The economics must be fixed — we need labour reform, so employing people is less expensive and improved logistics to move goods around more cheaply.

We need not look too far to learn how. In 2020, Bangladesh overtook India in per capita GDP. Bangladesh has thrived by putting millions to work in manufacturing. A booming garment sector employs 4.4 million. A large garment factory in Bangladesh employs 30,000-50,000 people — 10 times what you'd find in India. As 80 per cent of those employed in garment factories are women, Bangladesh has twice the female labour force participation ratio of India. In June and September 2020, the government passed four labour laws that are a major step forward in helping balance flexibility with protection for labour, formal and informal. These laws have since been left dormant. The budget should announce a time frame for implementation, notification by the Union government and then by the states.

The budget must also look at investments in education and skilling. In the absence of massive employment in unskilled occupations, we must depend on education and skills. India has among the least skilled workforces in the world. Under 5 per cent of our workforce is formally skilled, compared to 96 per cent in South Korea, 75 per cent in Germany and 52 per cent in the US. That is why the work of the National Skills Development Corporation is so important and must go much further and faster. Can the budget specify how it will be

empowered to function as originally designed: An independent entity controlled and run by the private sector that is then held accountable for delivering on our skilling targets?

Education is even more important, especially primary education. Pratham's education reports make for sobering reading. Their last comprehensive report says that just 44 per cent of children in Class V can read a text meant for Class II. And just 23 per cent of children in Class V can do division. With schools closed for the last year-and-a-half in most states, education outcomes have fallen further. The New Education Policy has a proposal that every second standard child should be able to read and do arithmetic at the second standard level as a foundation for further education. This welcome initiative must receive greater dedication and focus from both government and industry. School education is a state subject, so the Union budget can at best incentivise states to do the right things, say by linking the flow of additional funds to those that demonstrate improved second standard learning outcomes.

Industry can help too. As a part of CSR, many companies work actively with schools. Education is already the largest single area for CSR spending, accounting for one-third of the Rs 9,000 crore spent by the top 100 companies. My best estimate is that the top 1,000 firms in the CII membership work with around 30,000 schools. Assuming an average second standard student body of 50 per school, if every CII company worked on this one goal of ensuring a child entering the third standard can read and do arithmetic at the second standard level, we could improve education outcomes for 15,00,000 children a year. Can the budget incentivise companies to go beyond their mandated 2 per cent CSR spend by deducting the increment from profit before tax?

Other policies for economic inclusion must go beyond social inclusion. These include measures like reducing tariffs to benefit millions of consumers instead of thousands of firms. Industrial policies that help all firms such as the ease of doing business, instead of incentivising a selected few. For more on these, I would refer the reader to my book, *The Struggle and the Promise: Restoring India's Potential*, published this month. A good budget would be an inclusive budget.

The writer is Co-Chairman Forbes Marshall, Past President CII, Chairman of Centre for Technology Innovation and Economic Research and Ananta Aspen Centre



ANUBHA YADAV

THE LOST Daughter (adapted by Maggie Gyllenhaal from Elena Ferrante's 2006 novel of the same name) starts with Leda Caruso (played by Olivia Colman) driving alone to a Greek island for a holiday. Just as she parks her hatchback at the quaint beach hotel, we know she is a woman who not only goes on holidays alone in her little car but also carries a bunch of books in her luggage.

Soon her "solitary" being on the beach is invaded by a loud Greek American family. A brief standoff happens when the pregnant matriarch, Callie (Dagmara Dominczyk), asks Leda to move her beach lounge so the family can "be" together. The heterosexual family always needs more space. It expands. Families are imperialist.

Leda refuses. Callie insists. Leda digs her heels in. She will not move. A young boy swoops in to call her a c**t. Women who don't obey become c**ts.

This repeats at the cinema when a group of rowdy young men wouldn't allow Leda and a few others to enjoy a film in peace. Humiliated, Leda walks out. It repeats when Lyle (Ed Harris), the hotel's caretaker, tries to indulge her at the bar, forcing his company on her, when she wants to be alone. As a single woman dweller and traveller, I have lost count of the ways in which I have been othered by

SHE WALKED AWAY

The Lost Daughter' is about the crushing responsibility of conforming to norms

such incidents. I have thrown a bunch of young men out of a cinema hall. I made up an alternate story about having two children to a tour driver in Srinagar. Later, when I sit alone, the sting of it doesn't leave me. The sting of erasing your authentic self for these arbiters.

All along, actor-turned-director Maggie Gyllenhaal gives agency to the female gaze. It is one of the few films in which the female gaze takes a form and tells a subliminal story. A story that can't be said aloud for fear of ostracism. For me, the film unravels itself in a few dialogues in the "birthday cake" scene: A play of three women, Callie, Leda and Nina, around their statuses as "mothers".

"My sister-in-law got hers right away," says a pregnant Callie. "Took me eight years." We know the turmoil Callie would have faced in those eight years. There is a Callie in every family. She then asks the question through which she will gridlock Leda as an insider or an outsider. "You don't have kids?" (A note of rhetorical lament in Callie's voice)

Leda asserts with quiet pride, "Yes, I have two daughters." A shocked Callie replies, "Where are they?" (How can a mother travel alone?) After Callie finds out that Leda's girls are 23 and 25, she adds, "You are too young, you must have started really early." (As early as a girl child mothering a doll?) We also watch Callie's

sister-in-law, Nina (Dakota Johnson), a young mother struggling to raise her daughter. Nina rekindles a spectre from Leda's past. A past for which Leda still carries guilt. A past in which she leaves her daughters for a few years. Till she returns. What if Leda chose not to return?

Young Leda suddenly becomes visible to her husband when she decides to leave. She metamorphoses into a woman again. A being with intentions and choices. All her attempts to be visible as a woman (outside her role as a mother) had failed till she decided to exile herself from the role. "For a long time, I felt I had done a very brave thing. There is nothing more boring for an intelligent woman than to spend endless amounts of time with small children. I felt I wasn't the best person to bring them up. I would have ended up an alcoholic or a frustrated intellectual like my mother," Doris Lessing had said about leaving her two children, still toddlers.

"Children are a crushing responsibility," Leda tells Callie at one point. I would expand its scope and add, "Always conforming to a single norm is a crushing responsibility." We must find ways to make our gazes gentler on each other as we find many ways to be us.

Yadav is a writer-academic-filmmaker, who teaches at Kamala Nehru College, DU



JANUARY 19, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

TRADE UNION STRIKE

THOUSANDS OF TRADE union leaders all over the country were taken into preventive custody on the eve of the nationwide industrial strike. Many union leaders went underground to avoid arrest while making final arrangements for the strike. The leaders of eight trade unions owing allegiance to left and right parties issued a final appeal to the working class to join the strike. The nationwide campaign committee of the trade unions which has called the strike to register a protest against the "anti-working class policies of Mrs Gandhi's government, particularly laws such as ESMA and NSA" was convinced that all central trade unions ex-

cept those affiliated to INTUC would participate in the strike. The impact of the strike is expected to be in public sector undertakings and private industries since services such as the railways, airlines, ports, docks, posts and telegraph and hospitals have been exempted from the strike.

BANK'S WARNING

THE WORLD BANK President A W Clausen said that the climate for concessional assistance was not "propitious", and India will have to face a sharp cut in aid from the soft loan affiliate, the International Development Association. He hoped that

Indian leaders show pragmatism and determination in evolving development and investment strategies to meet the current difficulties. "We in the Bank are always ready to help," he added.

US DIPLOMAT KILLED

A GUNMAN SHOT and killed James Charles Ray, assistant military attache at the US embassy in Paris. He was 43. After the shooting, the gunman ran and melted away into the early morning crowd of Parisians going to work. The shooting was the second attack on a US diplomat in Paris in two months.

THE IDEAS PAGE

The rise of the Indian migrant

It is our diversity which is our greatest asset, which the West has co-opted, along with some of our brightest talent



VIKRAM PATEL

IN THESE TIMES of hyper-nationalism, inevitably fuelled by the 75th anniversary of independence, I have been flooded with messages, forwarded by patriotic relatives, friends and random persons, extolling India's greatness. One such message was provocatively titled "Who's running the World?" (with no apologies to Noam Chomsky). Here is a synopsis: One day, Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping and Narendra Modi were arguing about who was in charge of the world. After much deliberation, Modi replied that all he knew was that the leading CEOs of the world were Indian. The message then rattles off a list of companies, many of which are household names (think Google and Microsoft) and, after 21 such examples, a shorter list of Indians who have ascended to political heights in other countries. And this was before a person of Indian origin ascended to the helm of Twitter and the omission of persons of Indian origin who have headed prestigious global NGOs such as Medicins sans Frontiers and Amnesty International or headed US states or European countries (Portugal and Ireland and some predict the UK in the near future!).

There is little doubt that persons born in India out-perform all other nationalities in the sheer scale of their success when they migrate to the "West" (essentially, Europe and North America). Earlier this week, I read that people of Indian origin top the list of US unicorns' immigrant founders. But I wondered if these observations reflected more on the "greatness" of the country they had migrated to rather than India herself? What struck me was the discrepancy between a few million Indians doing so well abroad, the most celebrated of whom were taking their companies (and, in some instances, countries) to dizzying heights, while India herself, despite being home to over a billion fellow Indians, continues to languish at the bottom of virtually every list of countries ranked on desirable goals such as human development, income equality, food security, gender equality, air quality, transparency, universal health coverage, literacy and sanitation. In the World Happiness Report 2020, we rank alongside Afghanistan, South Sudan and Yemen. And what's more worrying, our rankings on these lists has been falling in recent years.

I know I'm not alone in wondering about this conundrum. I have reflected on this a lot, drawing upon my own personal experience of working as a public health scientist in India and in the US and UK, supplemented with stories of achievements of migrant Indians in the academy, and of relatives and friends who left India with just pennies in their pockets. I have come to conclude that the principal reason Indians do so well when they migrate to the West has less to do with their Indian heritage than the ways in which their adopted countries have shaped their societies, at the heart of which is their explicit commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. Indeed, if it were not for this commitment, it would have been simply impossible for people from a completely foreign land, who embrace alien religions and cultures, to achieve such exalted success in a single-generation. It is these features



CR Sasikumar

which account for the meteoric rise of migrants from India.

Of course, it wasn't always like this. Diversity, equity and inclusion were certainly not prominent in the history of the West, dominated by genocide, slavery, colonialism and white supremacy. But, in the past half-century, these countries actively sought to reimagine their societies as beacons of multiculturalism where people of all hues and ethnicities could realise the possibility of achieving the highest offices in the land. It is surely ironic, then, that those fleeing India are leaving a land which was, historically, the most diverse nation in the world. India's singular claim to greatness lay in its unparalleled history of multiculturalism, a mosaic of diverse people far richer and much older than the European Union or the countries created by European settlers after murdering the indigenous peoples. A land where thousands of languages were spoken, which birthed four of the world's major religions and gave shelter to the others, a place which assimilated its invaders to further enrich its melting pot. Despite the persistence of ancient prejudices and the considerable work still to be done to achieve equity and inclusion for all her diverse peoples, India remains an audacious and unique civilisation.

But that India now seems to be fading away as the fault-lines between communities whose ancestries and histories are inseparably intertwined are being inexorably, and deliberately, widened. I watch with despair as violence, both symbolic and actual, is replacing the arts, culture and faith as the language of identity, and homogenisation is replacing diversity as the defining feature of our nationhood. I watch with sorrow the increasing marginalisation and falling representation of minorities in public institutions (barring prisons), the demonisation of diverse food habits and customs, the rewriting of history to re-frame some of our customs as being foreign and to be shunned, and the terror threatening co-habitation and marriage between commu-

I have no doubt that our nationalists love India, but it baffles me that they cannot see what is staring at us in our faces: Hate and othering will extinguish the flicker of hope for our young people craving for a country where the diversity of personal identities are a marker of a country's maturity, magnanimity and modernity. Worryingly, in the three years from 2016 to 2019, the numbers of young Indians who fled the country to study abroad increased by 40 per cent and I expect that the numbers will climb further in the years ahead. Most will become migrants and will undoubtedly further swell the ranks of 'Indians' who 'rule the world'.

nities. This seems to me to be exactly the wrong recipe for greatness, one which will not only further diminish our country in the eyes of the world but, more importantly, in the eyes of our own youth.

The list of names of "Indians" who rule the world ends with Kamala Harris. Of course, her story is utterly inspirational. But, I wondered about the odds that a person like her, the female child of a Hindu Indian and a black Christian West Indian in a predominantly white, patriarchal country, could reach such heights in India today. And she is not an outlier. With the appointment of Yasmin Trudeau as a state senator on Monday, Washington state legislature has four women of South Asian origin, including a Hindu, a Sikh and a Muslim. One of these women, Mona Das from Bihar, said this remarkable occasion was proof that America celebrated the diversity of her communities.

I have no doubt that our nationalists love India, but it baffles me that they cannot see what is staring at us in our faces: Hate and othering will extinguish the flicker of hope for our young people craving for a country where the diversity of personal identities are a marker of a country's maturity, magnanimity and modernity. Worryingly, in the three years from 2016 to 2019, the number of young Indians who fled the country to study abroad increased by 40 per cent and I expect that the numbers will climb further in the years ahead. Most will become migrants and will undoubtedly further swell the ranks of "Indians" who "rule the world".

It is our diversity which is our greatest asset and which the West has co-opted, along with some of our brightest talent. If we want India to realise greatness, we will need to reaffirm our commitment to embracing, celebrating and protecting this very essence of our nation.

Patel is The Pershing Square Professor of Global Health at Harvard Medical School

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"PAKISTAN'S freshly unveiled National Security Policy has broadened the traditional concept and included economic stability as a key component."

—DAWN

The politics of victimhood

Missionaries of Charity was not targeted, merely scrutinised according to the law of the land



RAM MADHAV

ON OCTOBER 30 last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Pope Francis at the Vatican, a meeting that Modi called "very warm", and the Vatican described as "cordial". The PM later tweeted that he had invited the Pope to visit India and India's External Affairs Ministry confirmed that the Pope had accepted.

This should simply be seen as a meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the head of a religious order that boasts the second-largest following in the country. The Pope is not a "head of state" in the conventional sense nor does the UN recognise him as one. Under the Lateran Treaty, a purely bilateral one entered in 1929, King Victor Emmanuel of Italy had granted the Vatican independent status. It has neither separate citizenship nor any formal government.

What was admitted at the UN in 1948 as a "non-member state" with only an observer status was not the Vatican but the "Holy See". The "Holy See" is the supreme governing body of Catholic churches the world over. The Pope is designated as its head, not through any political process but under canon law. Vatican City is regarded only as the "vassal" territory of the Holy See.

That being the reality, not one but two BJP PMs had visited the Vatican and welcomed the Pope to India. Atal Bihari Vajpayee had visited the Vatican in June 2000. A year before, in November 1999, his government facilitated a visit by Pope John Paul II to India, in which the Pope gave a controversial call: "Just as the first millennium saw the cross firmly planted in the soil of Europe, and the second in that of America and Africa, so may the third Christian millennium witness a great harvest of faith on this vast and vital continent."

Interestingly, President Vladimir Putin has met Pope Francis three times in the last eight years, but not once extended an invitation to him to visit Russia. The Russian Orthodox Church continues to hold on to the millennium-old stance of "no welcome" for a papal visit. The orthodox denominations — in Russia and other countries — insist that the Catholics should desist from "sheep-stealing", a euphemism for proselytising. Interestingly, Catholics themselves complain about the same by the Mormons and Pentecostals in Europe and America.

These facts are important to understand a few basics. From Jawaharlal Nehru to Modi, all Indian PMs have upheld not only constitutional decorum but displayed the quintessential Indian ethos of respect for all religions. The Indian Constitution zealously safeguards "freedom of religion" as a fundamental right. It was in this spirit of pluralism that PM Modi met the Pope and invited him to India.

Christian missionaries of various denominations have made full use of this constitutional freedom and pluralist ethos to propa-

gate their religion in India for centuries. There is no merit in the argument that Catholics do not convert. Catholic Christianity in India grew over centuries through the early proselytising missions of the Portuguese and Spanish. While there have been controversies over mass conversions and conversions through fraudulent means, the fundamental right of religious freedom has never been obstructed by any government in India, much less a BJP one. But then, if conversions are legitimate, so are reconversions, over which the apologists make a lot of hue and cry.

This victimhood politics has been integral to some missionaries and their apologists. "Christianity in danger" is a red rag they liberally flaunt whenever they are asked to abide by the law of the land. The latest controversy over FCRA extension to Missionaries of Charity (MoC) is a case in point. By now several facts have come out. It was not just the MoC — thousands of other NGOs too were denied the extension on the grounds stipulated by the MHA. They included many Hindu charities and in one case, even a Sewa Bharati affiliated NGO, which has connections with the Sangh Parivar. Many have appealed against the MHA's decision. In the MoC's case, the extension was granted despite their not going in for an appeal.

Yet the victimhood machine became hyperactive, from columns in the Indian media to calls in the British Parliament. No doubt, the ministry should have handled the matter more diligently. But the charity must also remember that it has an obligation to follow Indian law, which doesn't see religion in any applications. Even now, close to 50,000 NGOs are eligible to get FCRA extensions. Many of them, including the MoC, are Christian NGOs. Diverting foreign funds for personal use like purchasing vehicles in personal names, distributing cash doles at weekly church gatherings and misusing them under administrative expenses invite scrutiny for which prestigious charities like the MoC must always be forthcoming. The bigger you are, the greater the scrutiny will be. A Nobel Prize doesn't exempt one from the law of the land.

Charity and service are not new to India, nor are they the exclusive domain of any religious institution. They are integral to Indian cultural life. The Sangh Parivar itself runs close to 2 lakh service projects in the remotest corners of the country. Missionaries run many educational and healthcare projects, as do Sikh, Jain, Buddhist and Muslim charities. But every time an act of charity or proselytism is scrutinised by law enforcement agencies, the apologists fling into action, casting communal motives on the government and castigating the Sangh Parivar. This is victimhood politics, pure and simple.

Sadly, it gains credibility when those on the other side resort to abusing even the good work that the missionaries do and glorifying controversies that surround such charities. Mother Teresa and her charity do attract some criticism globally, but so do many others of all religions. Linking the MHA's specific legal action to other controversies and casting aspersions on all missionary institutions will only perpetuate the myth that Christians are being persecuted in India.

The writer is member, board of governors, India Foundation



G MADHUSOODANAN

Voice of the Silent Valley

MK Prasad birthed an environmental movement, took science to people

IN MK Prasad's demise, Kerala has lost a doyen of environmental activism, at a time when a major environmental crisis is looming on the state's horizon — the impact of the 292-km long and eight-metre-high "embankment" proposed for the K-Rail semi high-speed railway line. He was a prominent signatory to the open letter written to the Kerala Chief Minister by 37 progressive intellectuals on January 22, seeking a halt to the project.

Prasad was a leading member of the Kerala Sasthra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP; established in 1962) since 1967. An international biographer of the KSSP described it as "a people's movement emphasising the role of science as a vehicle for self-reliance and popular participation in development, libertarian pedagogical approaches, the dignity of all persons, appropriate technology and a bottom-up approach to development... they see science as a vehicle for transformative education". KSSP's membership consists of experts in multiple domains and progressive activists. A professor of botany, Prasad was the leading biologist among them.

His direct involvement in Kerala's environmental protection can be traced back to 1970 when KSSP began a movement to highlight air and water pollution in the Eloor industrial area near Kochi. Many public and private sector factories in the area were polluting the Periyar river and the air in the region. The first initiative to stop this pollution was taken by the Kochi

Science Society. The movement reached KSSP through Prasad — perhaps the Parishad's first direct involvement in an environmental protection movement. In the mid-1960s, N V Krishna Warriar, a founding leader of the KSSP, was engaged in activism in an individual capacity. But following the Kochi movement, KSSP became directly involved in environmental activism.

In 1977, the Kerala government was going ahead with a plan to build a hydroelectric project across the river Kunthi that flows through Silent Valley, the evergreen rainforest in the Palakkad region. The dam was to come up right in the interior of the forest. KSSP was initially reluctant to get involved in any resistance against the project because it believed in the need to generate electricity for people's welfare. At the instance of Satish Chandran Nair, an ecologist who had walked around extensively inside Silent Valley to study its ecological importance, Prasad visited the rainforest in 1977. He was convinced of the importance of preserving this rich treasure of biodiversity. The submergence of 830 hectares of forest-land, from which the streams and tributaries of the Kunthi originate, would have destroyed the riparian ecosystem. After that visit in 1977, Prasad started publishing his findings in local science and literary journals.

In the KSSP members' camp held at Kalady in 1977, a resolution drafted by Prasad asking the organisation to oppose the project was pre-

sented. Prasad was not present at the meeting. The participants at the camp did not approve the resolution but resolved to investigate the matter. A committee consisting of Prasad, M P Parameswaran and K P Kannan, among others, was constituted. Their 1978 report, "The Silent Valley Hydro-Electric Project: A Techno-Economic and Socio-Political Assessment" persuaded the KSSP to join the resistance movement to save the Silent Valley. So, in a sense, Prasad's first visit to the Silent Valley was a watershed in KSSP's history.

KSSP is a left-leaning organisation. At a time when left parties strongly supported the project, it was difficult to go against it on ecological grounds. In the EPW in 1998, historian Ramachandra Guha described KSSP as an "ecological Marxist" organisation.

The late poet Sugathakumari had written that she was attracted to the Silent Valley movement after reading an article by Prasad in Mathrubhumi. She was among the poets and writers who, under the leadership of N V Krishna Warriar, formed an organisation in 1980 to save the Silent Valley. It was a unique movement in world history, wherein writers came together to resist environmental destruction. The only other similar instance I know of is that of the "Group of 100" founded by the famous Mexican Writer Homero Aridjis in 1985.

Prasad published a few volumes aimed at educating Kerala's civil society on environmental issues. Among them is his 2012 treatise,

"Climate change and ecosystems". At the height of the raging debates on the Madhav Gadgil Committee report on the Western Ghats in 2013, he teamed up with environmental lawyer Harish Vasudevan to publish another volume, "Western Ghats: Gadgil-Kasturirangan Reports and Reality".

Activism and writing are not always identical. The activist has to be amidst people, organising and motivating them while garnering available scientific facts. A writer has to confine himself to his study for long hours to research, read, think and write. Founders and readers of KSSP like P T Bhaskara Panicker, Krishna Warriar, M P Parameswaran, Prasad and many others combined these skills. Their scientific rigour and wisdom are the foundations on which KSSP is built.

The excavation of hundreds of million tonnes of soil, sand, gravel and granite for the K-Rail project will imperil the biodiversity of the state, which has faced climate-related disasters since 2017. Prasad's presence would have been critical at this juncture. He will be sorely missed by those in the civil society who continue to struggle for an environmentally sustainable, socially just, and truly democratic Kerala.

Madhusoodanan, a literary critic, is the author of a Sahitya Akademi Award winning comprehensive environmental history of Kerala, and a former IAS Officer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOREST CHEATING

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Forest fine print' (IE, January 18). It is regrettable that a reputed institution like the Forest Survey of India is trying to camouflage the big loss of natural forests by showing an artificial increase in total forest cover. The Ministry of Environment and Forests changed the definition of "forest" some years ago in order to hide the loot of our forest wealth. In view of global ecological concerns, the Supreme Court should take suo moto cognisance and constitute an independent expert committee to redefine "forest" as is internationally accepted and which helps to save the planet.

Pushpendra Singh, Panchkula

A DUBIOUS SHIFT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Living with Covid, without fear' (IE, January 18). It may be true that we will have to live with the virus, but to shift the onus of keeping the virus at bay to the people from the government is fraught with risks. For one, the message coming from the much-publicised mass election rallies and ministerial events is that rules are meant to be broken. Again, the seriousness of the authorities comes under question when rampant flouting of mask and distancing norms go unpunished. If the government is serious about tackling the virus, our leaders should set an example by following scrupulously the prescribed restrictions. They should take a lesson from Britain, where the

prime minister is being grilled for, what in India, would be termed a trivial trespass of Covid norms.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

SCS AT MARGINS

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'In rare move, EC pushes Punjab polls to Feb 20' (IE, January 18). The Election Commission of India, after considering the unanimous demand of all political parties, differed the date of polls from February 14 to 20. This was done on account of Guru Ravidas Jayanti on February 16, and lakhs of Ravidas devotees from Punjab visiting the Guru's temple at Varanasi it is indeed rare even as per the former CEC, SY Quraishi who opined that constitutionally, this could be done only if there is a situation of war or breakdown of law and order. Notwithstanding their religiosity, it is telling that all the parties were caught napping for their oversight of this fiasco over the poll date. It has exposed the non-inclusive politics in Punjab with regard to Scheduled Castes, who constitute 32 per cent of the population of the state but are still politically marginalised. The contrast becomes apparent when compared with Uttar Pradesh — where Dalits constitute around 21 per cent but had Mayawati as chief Minister through its own Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Ironically, the founder and mentor of this Bahujan movement, Kanshi Ram, was from Punjab but could not make a dent here, and he decided to experiment with great success in UP.

LR Murmu, Delhi



MEANWHILE

555.55-CARAT BLACK DIAMOND LANDS IN DUBAI

Auction house Sotheby's Dubai has unveiled a diamond that's literally from out of this world. Sotheby's calls the 555.55-carat black diamond — believed to have come from outer space — "The Enigma." Sotheby's expects the diamond to be sold for at least 5 million British pounds (\$6.8 million). The auction house plans to accept cryptocurrency as a possible payment as well.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Roberta Metsola. AP

BELGIUM

Metsola is new EU Parliament president

Brussels: Roberta Metsola, a Christian Democrat from Malta, was elected president of the European Union's parliament Tuesday, putting women in three of the four biggest jobs in the 27-nation bloc. Metsola succeeds Italian Socialist David Sassoli, who died last week. She is only the third woman elected to the post. Her birthday was Tuesday, and at age 43, she is the European Parliament's youngest president. Metsola was the candidate of the parliament's biggest group, and she received 458 of the 616 votes cast Tuesday. She had already been acting president since Sassoli's January 11 death. "Our institution commits to having more diversity, gender equality, guaranteeing women's rights." AP

AFGHANISTAN

UN: Quake death toll reaches 26, including children

Kabul: The United Nations on Tuesday raised the death toll from twin earthquakes in western Afghanistan the day before to 26, saying three villages of around 800 houses were flattened by the tremors. At least four people were injured and the dead included women and children, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Villagers in the area were still searching on Tuesday for their family members and removing items stuck under the mud. The US Geological Survey on Monday registered a magnitude 5.3 quake at 2 pm and a second, magnitude 4.9 at 4 pm local time. AP

NEPAL

Madhes Pradesh is Province 2's new name: Assembly

Kathmandu: Nepal's south-eastern Province 2 has been renamed Madhes Pradesh with Janakpur retained as its capital, settling a long-standing debate on the region's official reference after it was made a province in 2015. The Provincial Assembly on Monday voted in two-thirds majority for both decisions. Of the 99 voting members, 78 voted for Janakpur as capital and 80 for the provincial name Madhes. Madhes borders India in the south and has eight districts. PTI

Covid health emergency may be over this year, says WHO

JAMEY KEATEN
GENEVA, JANUARY 18

THE HEAD of emergencies at the World Health Organization said on Tuesday that the worst of the coronavirus pandemic — deaths, hospitalisations and lockdowns — could be over this year if huge inequities in vaccinations and medicines are addressed quickly.

Dr Michael Ryan, speaking during a panel discussion on vaccine equity hosted by the World Economic Forum, said "we may never end the virus" because such pandemic viruses "end up becoming part of the ecosystem."

But "we have a chance to end the public health emergency this year if we do the things that we've been talking about," he said.

Ryan told the virtual gathering of world and business leaders that if vaccines and other tools aren't shared fairly, the tragedy of the virus, which has so far killed over 5.5 million people worldwide, would continue.

"What we need to do is get to low levels of disease incidence with maximum vaccination of our populations, so nobody has to die," Ryan said. "The issue is: It's the death. It's the hospitalisations. It's the disruption of our social, economic, political systems that's caused the tragedy — not the virus."

Ryan also waded into the growing debate about whether Covid-19 should be considered endemic. "Endemic malaria kills hundreds of thousands of people; endemic HIV; endemic violence in our inner cities. Endemic in itself does not mean good. Endemic just means it's here forever," he said. AP



Hospitals across the US face staffing shortages as they cope with soaring Omicron cases. NYT

Israel sticks with 4th shot, sees Omicron wave waning next week

REUTERS
JERUSALEM, JANUARY 18

ISRAEL WILL continue to offer a fourth Covid-19 vaccine shot despite preliminary findings that it is not enough to prevent Omicron infections, the Health Ministry said on Tuesday, predicting contagions stoked by the variant will wane in a week.

With his government scaling back Omicron counter-measures to ease the strain on the economy, PM Naftali Bennett sought to cast Israel's high case numbers primarily as a result of an en-masse testing drive rather than infection rates.

A preliminary study published by an Israeli hospital on Monday found that the fourth

shot increases antibodies to even higher levels than the third but "probably" not enough to fend off the highly transmissible Omicron.

Health Ministry director-general Nachman Ash described those findings as "unsurprising, to a degree" as Omicron had been logged in some fourth-dose recipients. But "protection from serious morbidity, especially for the elderly population and at-risk population, is still afforded by this vaccine (dose), and therefore, I call on people to keep coming to get vaccinated," he said.

"In another week we will begin seeing a drop in the numbers, but we still have two or three difficult weeks ahead," he added.

Johnson denies claims he lied about Covid party

REUTERS
LONDON, JANUARY 18

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson denied on Tuesday an accusation by his former adviser that he had lied to parliament about a lockdown party, saying nobody had warned him the "bring your own booze" gathering might contravene the coronavirus rules.

Asked if he had lied to the public and parliament, Johnson told reporters: "No. Nobody told me that what we were doing was, as you say, against the rules, that the event in question, was something, that we were going to do something that wasn't a work event ... I thought that I was attending a work event."

Johnson sidestepped several questions about whether or not he would resign if it was proven that he had misled parliament. But he apologised for mistakes made in Downing Street.

The allegations against the PM were made by Dominic Cummings, a former senior adviser who left government under acrimonious terms in November 2020, who took to his online blog to claim that his boss was fully aware that it was in fact a party and that he would "swear under oath" that he had even warned him against it and wanted it cancelled. "PM was told about the invite, he knew it was a drinks party, he lied to Parliament," Cummings wrote on Twitter.

Omicron cases may be peaking in some US states, but Covid strains hospitals

THE NEW YORK TIMES
JANUARY 18

A WAVE of Omicron cases may be cresting in the northeastern United States, but the number of Covid-19 patients is at a record high and climbing, overwhelming hospitals whose staffs have been hollowed out by the coronavirus.

Public health leaders warn that while the number of Americans getting infected every day remains dangerously high, there is no guarantee that the population is building enough natural immunity to hasten the day the virus becomes a manageable part of daily life.

Dr Anthony S Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, was asked on Monday at the online World Economic Forum whether this might be the year when that happens. "I would hope that that's the case," he said, "but that would only be the case if we don't get another variant that eludes the immune response." Fauci said the evolution of the pandemic was still impossible to chart. "The answer is: We do not know," he said.

The US is averaging over 790,000 new daily cases, a tally that includes an artificially low count on Monday, when many states did not release new data because of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday. Deaths now exceed 1,900 a day, up 54 percent over the past two weeks. The average number of Americans hospitalised with the coronavirus is 157,000, an increase of 54 percent over two weeks. And the number could continue increasing for some time. Intensive care units, as of the week that ended January 13, were an average 82 per cent full, according to a New York Times database.



Satellite image by Planet Labs PBC, shows smoke rises over an Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. fuel depot in the Mussafah neighborhood of Abu Dhabi on Monday. AP

Satellite photos show aftermath of Abu Dhabi attack, UN condemns act

AGENCIES
DUBAI, JANUARY 18

SATELLITE PHOTOS obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday appear to show the aftermath of a fatal attack on an oil facility in the capital of the United Arab Emirates claimed by Yemen's Houthi rebels.

The attack brought the long-running Yemen war into Emirati territory on Monday. That conflict raged on overnight with Saudi-led airstrikes pounding Yemen's capital, Sanaa, killing and wounding civilians.

Another fire also struck Abu Dhabi International Airport, though damage in that attack could not be seen. Police described the assault as a suspected drone attack. The Houthis have described using cruise and ballistic missiles in the attack, without offering evidence.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen announced it had started a bombing campaign targeting Houthi sites in the capital of

Sanaa, which killed at least 20 people overnight, including civilians, Houthi media and residents said. Around 14 people were killed when coalition planes struck the home of a high-ranking Houthi military official, including his wife and son.

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has condemned the suspected drone attacks and called upon all parties to exercise maximum restraint and prevent any escalation amid heightened tensions in the region. Asserting that there is no military solution to the conflict in Yemen, Guterres urged the parties to engage constructively with his Special Envoy Hans Grundberg and his mediation efforts with the aim to advance the political process to reach a comprehensive negotiated settlement to end the conflict in Yemen.

Israel, too, offered "sincere condolences" as it condemned the drone attack in Abu Dhabi while offering "security and intelligence" support to the UAE to "defeat our common enemies".

Blinken to visit Ukraine as US-Russia tensions escalate

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 18

Antony Blinken

SECRETARY OF State Antony Blinken will visit Ukraine this week and meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as tensions between the US and Russia escalate over a possible Russian invasion of its neighbor, the state department said Tuesday.

Blinken will be in Kyiv on the hastily arranged trip to show US support following inconclusive diplomatic talks between Moscow and the West in Europe last week that failed to resolve stark disagreements over Ukraine and other security matters.

From Kyiv, Blinken will travel to Berlin, where he will meet with his German, British and French counterparts to discuss a possible response to any Russian military action. Blinken's travel is part of the diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the tension caused by Russia's military build-up. He will meet with Zelenskyy and Ukrainian Foreign Minister on Wednesday "to reinforce the US' commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity," the department added.

Russia moves more troops westward

Moscow: Russia is sending troops from the country's far east to Belarus for major war games, officials said on Tuesday, in a deployment further beefing up Russian military assets near Ukraine amid Western fears of an invasion.

Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin said the drills are intended to practice a joint response to external threats by the alliance of Russia and Belarus, which have close political, economic and military ties. Fomin didn't say how many troops and weapons were being redeployed for the exercises.

Ukrainian officials have warned that Russia could launch an attack from various directions, including from the territory of its ally Belarus.

The deployment would dramatically bolster an estimated 100,000 troops with tanks and other heavy weapons amassed near Ukraine in what the West fears could be a prelude to an invasion. Russia has denied an intention to attack its ex-Soviet neighbour, but demanded guarantees from the West that NATO will not expand to Ukraine or other ex-Soviet nations or place its troops and weapons there. AP

Justice Umar Ata Bandial to be next Pakistan CJ

Islamabad: Justice Umar Ata Bandial, one of the judges who declined to retake their oaths in 2007 when former Pakistani military ruler General Pervez Musharraf proclaimed a state of emergency in the country, will be the new Chief Justice of Pakistan.

President Arif Alvi on Monday formally appointed Justice Bandial, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court, as the next Chief Justice of the country. Justice Bandial, 63, will assume responsibilities on February 2 after the retirement of incumbent Gulzar Ahmed, who was appointed as Chief Justice on December 21, 2019.

Justice Bandial will serve in the top judicial office until September 16, 2023 when he would retire on superannuation. PTI

Sri Lanka repays \$ 500 mn foreign sovereign bonds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, JANUARY 18

SRI LANKA HAS repaid \$500 million international sovereign bond (ISB) that was due for settlement, the Central Bank said on Tuesday, averting a major default amid deepening forex crisis and spiralling external debt.

Meanwhile, India on Tuesday announced a \$500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka purchase petroleum products as the island nation struggles with a massive fuel and energy crisis. The Indian High



ASH COVERS VOLCANO-HIT TONGA

This satellite image provided by Maxar Technologies shows ash covered homes and buildings in Tonga Tuesday after a huge undersea volcanic eruption. Tonga has so far reported two deaths, and concerns remain over the fate of people on two smaller islands that were hard hit. An official said an estimated 50 homes were destroyed on Tongatapu but nobody needed to use emergency shelters. AP

Economic crisis gets deeper

SRI LANKA IS currently facing a severe foreign exchange shortage with falling reserves. The country is up to its neck in debt. In the rest of 2022, it needs to repay debt worth \$4 billion, with the next tranche of a \$1 billion international sovereign bond maturing in July.

Commission said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has agreed to offer critical support and the \$500 million credit line in a letter to Sri Lankan Foreign Minister G L Peiris.

The international rating agencies had expressed doubts over the island nation's ability to meet its international sovereign bond payments of \$1.5 billion, including the first \$500 million which matured on Tuesday.

Amid the economic crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Tuesday said that Sri Lanka needs to "correct the misconceptions" of the international community

on its human rights policies as he promised "justice" for missing people from the three decade-long civil war with the LTTE.

"We reject racism. The present government wants to safeguard the dignity and rights of every citizen uniformly," Rajapaksa said while addressing a new session of Parliament.

According to the Lankan government figures, over 20,000 people are missing due to various conflicts, including the three-decade separatist war with Lankan Tamils in the north and east that claimed at least 100,000 lives.

Indonesia passes law to shift capital to Borneo jungle

AGUSTINUS BEO DA
COSTA & KATE LAMB
JAKARTA, JANUARY 18

PARLIAMENT ON Tuesday approved a bill to relocate Indonesia's capital from Jakarta to a site deep within the jungle of Kalimantan on Borneo island, the most significant advancement of an idea the country's leaders have been toying with for years.

The new state capital law, which provides a legal framework for President Joko Widodo's ambitious \$32 billion mega project, stipulates how development of the capital will be funded and governed.

"The new capital has a central function and is a symbol of the identity of the nation, as well as a new centre of economic gravity," Planning Minister Suharso Monoarfa told parliament after the bill was passed into law.

The initial relocation will start from between 2022 and 2024, with roads and ports prioritised to enable access, with some projects operating as public private partnerships, the finance ministry said.

Plans to move the government away from Jakarta, a megacity of 10 million people that suffers from chronic congestion, floods and air pollution, have been floated by multiple presidents, but none have made it this far. Jokowi, as the president is known, first announced his plan in 2019, but progress was delayed by Covid. REUTERS

Texas hostage-taker known to British intelligence: Report

THE NEW YORK TIMES
LONDON, JANUARY 18

THE BRITISH man who took four people hostage at a Texas synagogue over the weekend before being killed was known to British intelligence services, according to a US official and British news media reports.

The man, whom the FBI identified as Malik Faisal Akram, 44, had been on the watch list of Britain's MI5 security service as a "subject of interest" in 2020, according to an American official.

But by the time he flew to the US, he had been deemed no longer to be a risk, the BBC reported on Tuesday. The Guardian, citing government sources, reported that the investigation had taken place in the second half of 2020.

Akram, originally from the northern British town of Blackburn, had arrived in the US just before the New Year, but much is still unknown about why he targeted the Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, during a Saturday morning service. Britain's Home Office declined to comment on the case or confirm the BBC report.

Gulbar Akram, Akram's brother, has described his sibling as mentally unwell and said he also had a criminal past and was known to the British police. He questioned how his brother had been allowed to enter the US.

President Biden on Sunday called the attack an act of terrorism, and Liz Truss, Britain's foreign secretary, said that Britain condemned the "act of terrorism and anti-semitism."

JODIE GINSBERG TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF PANEL TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS WHEN ATTACKS ON PRESS ARE HIGH

A fighter for press freedom is expanding her battle

CATHERINE PORTER
JANUARY 18

JODIE GINSBERG was leading a small, scrappy freedom of expression organisation in London in 2014 when the Bahraini human rights activist Nabeel Rajab came into her office.

He had recently been released from jail for organising democracy rallies during the Arab Spring and issuing tweets that Bahrain's monarchy found offensive. He impressed upon Ginsberg how important it was to his colleagues who remained in jail to know that people were fighting for them.

When Rajab was thrown in jail again soon after returning to

Bahrain, Ginsberg led vigils outside the Bahrain Embassy, kept in regular contact with his family to document his condition and campaigned for his release.

"One of the reasons my case became known internationally was Jodie," said Rajab from Bahrain's modern capital, Manama, where he is serving the last year of his latest sentence, for expressing anti-government dissent on Twitter, from home.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, one of the world's largest press watchdog organisations, recently announced that Ginsberg would become its new president in April.

Ginsberg, a veteran journalist and freedom-of-expression



Jodie Ginsberg at her home near Cambridge. NYT

advocate, takes over at a time when journalists are increasingly under threat, with a record number in prison around the

world and attacks against press freedom growing in the US.

It's a challenge that excites her, Ginsberg says. An optimist who has helped many outspoken artists and imprisoned activists get international attention, she believes "journalism is essential if we want to have free, independent and tolerant societies."

"The experience of being persecuted for your work is extremely isolating," Ginsberg said, referring to Rajab's case. "And it's made worse if you don't feel you've got people expressing solidarity."

Growing up in a middle-class family in Potters Bar, a commuters' town just north of London, Ginsberg carried a pencil and paper with her as a child

and put on regular newscasts for her grandparents, pretending to be a foreign correspondent like the BBC's Kate Adie. Hired by Reuters out of graduate school, Ginsberg soon got her big break, heading to Johannesburg as a business correspondent.

Though her former boss David Schlesinger described her as passionate and fearless, Ginsberg said she never felt threatened because of her work. It was later, after she became the head of a small nonprofit freedom of expression organisation, Index on Censorship, that she became passionate about protecting journalists, even in seemingly the least likely place: the US. "In 2018, I was in a press freedom

mission in the States and I remember clearly these two White House correspondents talking about how they got death threats on a daily basis, as if it was normal," she said. "It turned me from a journalist by profession to a journalist advocate," she said.

Understanding that independent journalists already working on shoestring budgets would need to cover the pandemic quickly, she helped start a new fund that offered some 180 grants to journalists and news outlets globally.

"I strongly believe we can only make decisions about ourselves and our world if we have the information to do it," said Ginsberg, 44, who is married with two children. NYT



GOLD

₹47,814



RUPEE

₹74.58



OIL

\$85.60



SILVER

₹61,835

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of January 17

SENSEX: 60,754.86 ▼ 554.05 (-0.90%) NIFTY: 18,113.05 ▼ 195.05 (-1.07%) NIKKEI: 28,257.25 ▼ 76.27 HANG SENG: 24,112.78 ▼ 105.25 FTSE: 7,568.04 ▼ 43.19 DAX: 15,764.64 ▼ 169.08

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
POWER

'20 states express interest to avail extra borrowing'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

AS MANY as 20 states have shown interest for getting additional borrowing space for the power sector under a central scheme.

The Ministry of Finance had launched a programme in June last year to allow additional borrowing space of Rs 80,000 crore to states, which is conditional on them undertaking and sustaining specific reforms in the power sector.

REC Ltd is working as nodal agency for implementation of the scheme, for the Ministry of Power. A statement issued by the Power Ministry on Tuesday said, "This financial year (2021-22), almost 20 states have already shown interest in taking benefit under the scheme."

Andhra Pradesh is the only state to succeed in getting over Rs 2,100 crore under the programme, the statement added. "Based on the recommendations of Ministry of Power in respect of such proposal from Andhra Pradesh state, Ministry of Finance had accorded their approval and the state has already availed

Under the plan, the additional borrowing limit permitted for power sector reforms is 0.5 per cent of GDP

borrowings of more than Rs 2100 crore, to partly utilise such allowed additional borrowing space," it noted.

Manipur and Rajasthan's proposals are also under active consideration at the Finance Ministry, both of which may be eligible for the maximum limit of 0.50 per cent increased borrowing space, based on reforms carried out by them. Rest of the states are also submitting their proposals.

Under the programme, the additional borrowing limit permitted for power sector reforms is 0.5 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product.

This being the first year (2021-22) of the current version of the scheme, the requirements of reforms and actions has been kept less onerous, with the bar raised for future years, pushing the states towards higher level reforms, it added. **WITHPTI**

NEAR 2-YEAR HIGH AT 6.63%

Budget, inflation focal points: Yields surge 22 bps in 1 month

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JANUARY 18

BOND YIELDS are on the rise ahead of the Union Budget. While the yield on the 10-year benchmark bond closed near the two-year high at 6.63 per cent, showing a jump of 22 basis points in the last one month, yields spiked further at the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) State Development Loan (SDL) auction on Friday.

Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar opted for auction of 10-year paper. UP's 10-year yield shot up to 7.24 per cent from 7.15 per cent last week, while Bengal's 10-year yield was up at 7.23 per cent compared with 7.14 per cent (last auctioned on January 4, 2022). Bihar's 10-year yield was at 7.24 per cent and Goa and Manipur were sold at 7.23 per cent. On January 4, the 10-year yield was 7.10 per cent. The overall cost has gone up by 0.14 per cent.

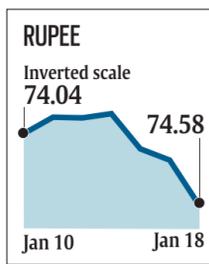
Karnataka's cut-off yield of 7.35 per cent on its 15-year bond against 7.31 per cent in last week's auction while Telangana had cut-off at 7.34 per cent on its 12-year bond versus 7.18 per cent on January 4. Bankers have already indicated that interest rates have bottomed out and the RBI is likely to tighten and normalise the policy in 2022 to tackle inflation. On the other hand, corporate fundraising through bond issues has already fallen due to the rising yields.

"Bond yields are spiking upwards on concerns of inflation (oil

Boiling crude weighs on markets, Re

Mumbai: Rising crude oil prices and US Treasury yields halted the rally on the stock markets, with key indices falling 1 per cent on selling pressure. The benchmark Sensex fell 554 points to 60,754.86 and the NSE Nifty index lost 195 points to 18,113.05 on Tuesday.

The rupee on Tuesday slumped 33 paise to close at 74.58 against the US dollar as a strong greenback and elevated



crude prices continue to weigh on investor sentiment.

Oil prices climbed to their highest level since 2014. Brent crude futures rose 77 cents, or 0.9 per cent, to \$87.25 at 11:05 am EST while USWTI rose \$1.25, or 1.5 per cent, to \$85.07.

On Wall Street, the Dow was down 460.15 points, or 1.28 per cent, at 35,451.66 and the Nasdaq fell 236.88 points, or 1.59 per cent at 11:59 am ET. **ENS**EXPLAINED
Higher borrowing costs

THE RISE in yields may result in higher borrowing costs for the government. It is set to be tighter as the borrowing programme is likely to be bigger next year.

prices going up contributing to this) as well as Budgetary concerns. The borrowing programme for the next year is under focus and with redemptions being around Rs 4 lakh crore, there will once again be a large borrowing programme," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Bank of Baroda.

Yield on benchmark 10-year bond has shot up by 71 bps in the

last 12 months. The rise in bond yields is expected to result in higher borrowing costs for the government. The situation has now become tighter as the borrowing programme is expected to be bigger next year. The size of gross government borrowing has proceeded at a pace that suggests that budget estimates will be adhered to, the RBI says.

"However, repayment obligations (difference between gross and net borrowings) of the central government indicate a significant uptrend going forward, implying that gross borrowing is likely to remain elevated notwithstanding fiscal consolidation," the RBI said in the Financial Stability Report.

The quarterly weighted average cost of incremental government borrowing has inched up in line with market benchmark yield

movements, it had said. Budget had projected gross market borrowing of Rs 12.05 lakh crore.

In the US, two-year yields, which track short-term rate expectations, leapt 7.5 bps and crossed 1 per cent for the first time since February 2020. Benchmark 10-year yields rose more than 6 bps to 1.8550 per cent, amid indications that global investors are preparing for the possibility of more aggressive tightening by the Federal Reserve.

According to Deepak Jasani, head of retail research, HDFC Securities, Asia's share markets turned negative on Tuesday as two-year US Treasury yields topped 1 per cent for the first time in almost two years. European markets traded lower with technology underperforming amid concerns about faster tightening from the US Fed and rising yields.

Govt suspends GAIL Director after arrest

New Delhi: The government has suspended E S Ranganathan, Director (Marketing) of GAIL (India) Ltd, after his arrest by the CBI over allegedly taking bribes to give discounts to private firms buying petrochemical products from the state-owned gas utility.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on January 17 issued orders suspending Ranganathan

from service, pending probe, official sources said. Ranganathan, who was appointed Director (Marketing) in July 2020, was suspended in May next year.

The CBI had on Friday evening started searches in connection with discounts that Ranganathan had allegedly promised to private companies in exchange for a bribe of Rs 50 lakh. **PTI**

'Major share of workforce weigh changing jobs in 2022'

A high percentage of professionals are considering changing their jobs this year, as per a LinkedIn report



Source: LinkedIn/PTI

Delhivery gets Sebi nod for ₹7,460-cr IPO

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
BENGALURU, JANUARY 18

LOGISTICS STARTUP Delhivery on Tuesday received the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi) approval to raise Rs 7,460 crore through an initial public offering (IPO).

The company had filed its draft prospectus in November 2021. The IPO consists of a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 5,000 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) by existing investors amounting to Rs 2,460 crore, as per the company's draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Carlyle Group, which owns a 742 per cent shareholding in the company, is expected to offload shares worth Rs 920 crore, while SoftBank, which owns 22.78 per cent, will offload shares worth Rs 750 crore. China Moment Fund will also sell Rs 400 crore of shares and Times Internet will offload another Rs 330 crore through the OFS.

Delhivery founders Kapil Bharati, Mohit Tandon and Suraj Saharan are also expected to sell shares worth Rs 62 crore in the proposed IPO.

Kotak Mahindra Capital, Morgan Stanley India, BoFA Securities and Citigroup are the book running lead managers for the offering. Delhivery is seeking a valuation of around \$5-5.5 billion from the proposed IPO. **FE**

BRIEFLY

'E-comm meet'

New Delhi: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has held a meeting on the proposed e-commerce policy with stakeholders, including domestic and foreign companies, an official said. Representatives from Tata, Flipkart, Amazon, Netmeds, Pepperfry, Snapdeal, Udaan, Urban Ladder, and Indiamart, and domestic traders body CAIT and MSME associations attended, the official added. As per sources, many participants sought a clear and exclusive definition of e-commerce marketplace and distinction from web stores that are just electronic versions of retail stores.

Addverb Tech

New Delhi: Reliance Retail bought 54% in domestic robotics firm Addverb Technologies for ₹983 crore.

Mallya UK home

London: Vijay Mallya lost a legal battle to hold on to his plush London home after a British court refused to grant him a stay of enforcement in a long-running dispute with Swiss bank UBS. **PTI**

Policicue ops

New Delhi: Insurance broker Policicue, an offering of Policicue Insurance Brokers, began operations Tuesday after it got direct insurance broker license from Irda.

Inox Windam

New Delhi: A panel of Inox Wind's board cleared its participation in planned IPO of Inox Green Energy Services Ltd via offer for sale of ₹400 crore of equity shares. **ENS**

Gaming push: Microsoft set to buy 'Call of Duty' maker for \$68.7 bn

'Biggest industry deal' will make Microsoft the world's 3rd largest gaming co

REUTERS
BENGALURU/NEW YORK,
JANUARY 18

MICROSOFT IS buying "Call of Duty" maker Activision Blizzard for \$68.7 billion in the biggest gaming industry deal in history as global technology giants stake their claims to a virtual future.

The all-cash deal announced by Microsoft on Tuesday, its biggest-ever acquisition, will bolster its firepower in the booming videogaming market where it takes on leaders Tencent and Sony. It represents the American multinational's bet on the "metaverse", virtual online worlds where people can work, play and socialise, as many of its biggest competitors are already doing. CEO Bobby Kotick, who said Microsoft reached out to him for a possi-



Promotion for 'Call Of Duty Black Ops 3' at the Gamescom fair in Cologne, Germany. Reuters file

ble buyout, would continue to be the CEO of Activision following the deal.

"Gaming is the most dynamic and exciting category in entertainment across all platforms today and will play a key role in the development of metaverse platforms," Microsoft

chief executive Satya Nadella said. Microsoft's offer of \$95 per share represents a premium of 45 per cent to Activision's Friday close. The deal comes at a time of weakness for Activision, maker of games such as "Overwatch" and "Candy Crush". Before the deal was announced, its shares

had slumped more than 37 per cent since reaching a record high last year, hit by allegations of sexual harassment of employees and misconduct by several top managers.

The global gaming market was valued at \$173.70 billion in 2021, and is expected to grow to \$314.04 billion by 2027, according to Mordor Intelligence. Microsoft can already claim a significant beachhead in the sector as one of the big three console makers.

Microsoft has so far avoided the type of scrutiny faced by Google and Facebook but this deal, which would make it the world's third largest gaming company, will put them on lawmakers' radars said Andre Barlow of the law firm Doyle, Barlow & Mazard PLLC.

"Microsoft is already big in gaming," he said.

Air India to curtail or revise US flights due to 5G roll out

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

AIR INDIA said on Tuesday it will curtail or revise its flights to the US due to deployment of 5G internet there from January 19.

US aviation regulator Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had on January 14 said that "5G interference with the aircraft's radio altimeter could prevent engine and braking systems from transitioning to landing mode, which could prevent an aircraft from stopping on the runway". Therefore, a group of US-

Dutt appointed Air India chief

New Delhi: Senior bureaucrat Vikram Dev Dutt has been appointed Chairman & Managing Director of Air India Ltd. He has been appointed in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. **PTI**

based airlines said on Monday in a letter to FAA that 5G internet deployment could cause

"catastrophic" aviation crisis.

The group comprises airlines such as United Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Airlines and FedEx. Apart from Air India, United Airlines and American Airlines are the other two carriers that operate flights between India and the US. Air India tweeted on Tuesday: "Due to deployment of 5G communications in USA, our operations to USA from India stand curtailed/ revised with change in aircraft type from January 19, 2022."

"Update in this regard will be informed shortly," it added. **WITHPTI**

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KARNATAKA
4th 'T' Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560 041.
Ph No. 080-26961928 Fax-080-26961929

No.RGU/ENG/EOI/MC/RAM/19/2021-22 Date: 18/01/2022

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (EOI)

The Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for Expression of Interest for Preparation of Master plan to Establish RGUHS Medical College at Archakarahalalli, Ramanagara from reputed Architectural firms. The information is provided in the attached terms of reference.

Tender document available for download	14/01/2022 18.22 Hrs
Last date for receipt of Tender	25/01/2022 16.00 Hrs
Opening of Technical Bid	27/01/2022 16.01 Hrs
Place of Opening of Tender	Office of the Registrar, RGUHS, Bengaluru

More details can be fetched from website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.
DIPR/2899/2021-22 Sd/- REGISTRAR

PROBE REPORT BY MUMBAI POLICE EOW

'Cox & Kings set up 15 fake cos to dress up books, divert funds'

KHUSHBOONARAYAN
MUMBAI, JANUARY 18

AN INVESTIGATION by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai police has found that as early as 2010, Cox & Kings Ltd allegedly created 15 fake travel agent companies, opened bank accounts for each, secured PAN numbers and sold tickets to them only on paper for two years to hide the poor financials of Cox & Kings and its subsidiaries.

It has found that these 15 fake customers were used to route funds between Cox & Kings and its subsidiary Ezeego One Travels and Tours Pvt Ltd and to reduce the pending dues of Ezeego, a loss-making entity, in the books of Cox & Kings. In 2010, Cox & Kings raised Rs 300 crore through global depository receipts at the London Stock Exchange.

In April 2020, *The Indian Express*, in a series of stories, reported how a forensic audit found that the travel company undertook related party transactions worth Rs 21,000 crore over four years (2015-2019) to siphon off funds. It also found that Cox & Kings had falsified records, booked sales worth Rs 9,000 crore to over 160 customers who are bogus or don't exist and inflated bank balances.

The latest findings of the EOW form part of a report submitted by the agency in court for closure of a case filed by the promoter of Cox & Kings, Peter Kerker, against the company's chief financial officer Anil Khandelwal, several employees, and officials of banks that lent to Cox & Kings. Both Kerker and Khandelwal are currently behind bars in connection with a money laundering case the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is investigating.

"We are yet to receive the entire copy of the report along with the findings of the EOW investigation. What has been given so far is a letter to our client informing the closure of the case. Once we get all the documents we will file

a protest petition against the EOW report," said Kerker's lawyers Dharmesh Joshi and Parag Joshi from T.D. Joshi & Associates. The EOW, in its investigation report, said that a forensic audit ordered by it on Cox & Kings has found that between 2013 and 2019, at least Rs 5,911.32 crore has been transferred from the travel firm to companies where Peter Kerker has "direct interest".

The agency alleged that Cox & Kings took corporate credit cards in the name of five of its employees and used it to buy tickets from its subsidiary Ezeego. This money received by Ezeego from the sale of tickets to Cox & Kings was then returned to the latter against past dues. Cox & Kings subsequently used the money to clear the bills of the corporate credit cards that were used to buy tickets.

The probe report said that in March 2019, one such Cox & Kings credit card issued by IndusInd Bank was "swiped at Ezeego which turned the money over to Cox & Kings with Cox & Kings reimbursing about Rs 525 crore to IndusInd Bank".

"As a result the Cox & Kings balance sheet of 2018-19 showed a substantial bank balance and IndusInd had the same amount of deposits. Immediately thereafter on April 2, 2019, the bank diverted this amount to repayment of their limit," said the EOW report.

The agency has alleged that promoters Peter Kerker and Urshila Kerker were aware of the manipulation of these accounts. Cox & Kings owes Rs 5,500 crore to banks and financial institutions. The company was sent to bankruptcy court in October 2019 after it defaulted on payments.

UK fines payment cos

London: Britain's payments regulator Tuesday fined five payments companies 33 million pounds (\$45.01 million) for cartel behaviour involving prepaid cards issued to vulnerable people on welfare benefits. Mastercard saw the highest penalty of 31.56 million

pounds (\$43.04 million).

The others were allpay, Advanced Payment Solution, Prepaid Financial Services and Sullion. The Payment Systems Regulator said they all broke competition law by agreeing not to compete or poach each other's customers. **REUTERS**

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.

e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (a) Providing Boarding Facilities at CPTI, Hyderabad (b) 9.1 Mtrs/280 Kgs PSCC Poles to City circle (c) 12.5 Mtrs Span poles (d) 15 Mtrs span poles (e) 11 Mtrs/365 Kgs PSCC poles to Siddipet circle (f) 11KV 220V DC Feeder VCB with Cb (w) CRPA (g) GI wire 4 mm (h) GI Stay Wire 7/2.5 mm (i) GI Stay Wire 7/3.15 mm. (j) 3.5 Core 70 sqmm LT XLPE UO Cable and (k) 5 MVA Power Transformers on e-procurement platform.

For further details of each item above, please visit www.tssouthernpower.com and www.telanganapsc.com.
Phone: 040-23431319, 1035, 1033, 1026, 1300

(U. BALA SWAMY)
R.O. No.:20249-PP/CLADVT/1/2021-22 Date: 18-01-2022
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&MM)

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING)
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003
PHONE: (0291) 2742223 FAX: (0291) 2746539

E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Tenders are invited for purchase of 10 KVA, 11/1 3KV KV/240 V, Energy Efficiency Level-II with Inbuilt Circuit Breaker, Single Phase Aluminium wound, Distribution Transformer Under TN-1725 (UBN JVV2122GLOB00407), 12 KV Outdoor VCB Kiosks Under TN-1731 (UBN JVV2122GLOB00411), 33 KV Cross Arm (Angle) with Clamp and Top Hammer Under TN-1760 (UBN JVV2122GLOB00408), 33 KV CTPT Sets of Ratio 100/5 Amp., 50/5 Amp. & 25/5 Amp. Under TN-1764 (UBN JVV2122GLOB00410) and Rain Coat Under TN-1769 (UBN JVV2122GLOB00409).

Details regarding Quotation, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at <http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/dvnnl> and also at <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>

Raj.Samwadi/C/21/10619 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)
बिस्वी संघी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020

Notice Inviting Tender for selection of consultant for preparation of Revised Master Plan-2041 for Bangalore Local Planning Area.

No. BDA/RMP-2041/1653/2021-22 Date: 18.01.2022

CORRIGENDUM-1

Ref: This office Tender Notification No.BDA/RMP-2041/1453/2021-22, Date: 17.12.2021

Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) had invited tender for engaging services of the reputed consultants for Preparation of RMP-2041 for Local Planning Area of Bengaluru. The calendar of events and other details like eligibility criteria, scope of work and other terms and conditions are notified in e-Procurement Portal, Government of Karnataka. As per Pre-Bid Meeting held in the office of the BDA by the Tender Preparation/Evaluation Committee on 03.01.2022 calendar of events and other details are modified based on request of bidders and same has been uploaded in e-Procurement portal, Government of Karnataka. As per the revised schedule Last date for submission of tender at <http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in> is extended up to 15.02.2022 at 17.30 hrs. BDA reserves right to reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Town Planner Member, BDA, Bengaluru
BDA/PRO/CLU/60/2021-22

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. - 33004/99

REGD. NO. D. L. - 33004/99



सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-07012022-232495
CG-DL-E-07012022-232495

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II - Section 3 - Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 74] नई दिल्ली, शुक्रवार, जनवरी 07, 2022/पौष 17, 1943
No. 74] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2022/PAUSHA 17, 1943

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 7th January, 2022

S.O. 75(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under subsection (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of Greenfield Highway on the stretch of land from Km. 23.1 to Km. 31.123 (Gautam Budh Nagar) in the district of GAUTAM BUDDHANAGAR in the state of UTTAR PRADESH;

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Times of India" and "Dainik Jagran" both dated 13/10/2021; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the Competent Authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Competent Authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the Competent Authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling in Greenfield Connectivity to Jewar International Airport from DND-Faridabad-Ballabgarh Bypass KMP Link- Spur to Delhi Mumbai Expressway under Bharatmala Pariyojana in the stretch of land from Km. 23.1 to Km. 31.123 in the district of GAUTAM BUDDHANAGAR in the state of UTTAR PRADESH.

Table with 6 columns: Sr. No., Survey, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Main table containing land survey details for Village: Jewar and Village: Dayantpur. Columns include Sr. No., Survey, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, and Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Continuation of the land survey table from the previous page, listing survey details for various plots.

Sr. No.	Survey	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectare	Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No
1	2	3	4	5	6
99	706	Government	Chakmarg	0.1582	Government of Uttar Pradesh 706
100	734	Private	Agriculture	0.4136	Bhan Pal Singh/ Rajpal Singh, Bhan Pal Singh alias Bhannu/ Rajpal Singh, Bhupendra Singh/ Vijaypal, Bina Devi/ Raghuraj, Rishipal S/o Rohdas, Mrs. Kela Devi/ Rajveer Singh/ Ni Dabra Teh Dadri 734
101	738	Government	Chakmarg	0.0368	Government of Uttar Pradesh 738
102	74	Government	Rasta	0.0533	Chandan Singh / Jassu Subhash Singh/ Jassu Daulati Devi / Jassu, Shyam Singh / Bhol, Jagan Nath / Puran, Brajo W/o Suresh va Bunt va Deepchandra va Kalicharan va Kalicharan S/o Suresh / Pannalal, Chandrapal / Pannalal, Mahendra Singh / Pannalal, Sherpal / Pannalal, North state government, 74
103	741	Private	Agriculture	0.1347	Rajveer / Bainiram, Mahavir Prasad / Bainiram, Dharamveer / Bainiram, Sajeev Sharma / Rajveer Sharma / Ni Gram Hall Nih387 Old Seemapuri Delhi 741
104	742	Private	Agriculture	0.1623	Yogesh/Jaipal/Ni Karnal Haryana, Greece Kumar/Harswaroop/Ni Gram 742
105	743	Private	Agriculture	0.0002	Lekhraj Goyal, Tejpal Goyal, Subhash Goyal, Sanjeev Goyal. Rajkumar Goyal S/o Jagnath urf Jagjimal urf Jagdeesh 743
106	744	Government	Nali	0.0256	Government of Uttar Pradesh 744
107	745	Common (Private/ Government)	Agriculture/ Expressway	0.1583	745 Min- Mahendra Singh/ Ghuria,745 Min- Yamuna Expressway 745
108	746	Common (Private/ Government)	Agriculture/ Yamuna Expressway	0.2413	746 Min- Suresh Singh / Ram Prasad / Ni Khadsa Teh. Gudgawa, Ramoutar / Ram Prasad / Ni Khadsa Teh. Gudgawa, Prakash / Rotan Singh / Ni Mukim Pur Shivara, Radha Charan / Rotan Singh / Ni Mukim Pur Shivara, Valraj / Rotan Singh / Ni Mukim Pur Shivara, Laxman / Rotan Singh / Ni Mukim Pur Shivara, Vishnu / Rotan Singh / Ni Mukim Pur Shivara, Premraj / Ramesh Chand / Ni Khadsa Teh. Gudgawa, Moolchand Sharma / Ramesh Chand Sharma / Ni Mau Naigarejan Kasba, Rabupura, Dharmveer Singh, Satveer Singh, Rakesh Kumar S/o Sukhveer Singh, 746 Min- Yamuna Expressway 746
109	759	Common (Private/ Government)	Agriculture/ Yamuna Expressway	0.0112	759 Min- Pankaj Shareen S/o P. C. Sareen, Sewa Ram / Laxman, Rahul Yadav / Roop Singh Yadav / Ni Man 0 505 Shivalik Tower Kosambi Ga.abad , Rekha Singh / Mahendra Pratap Singh / Nibhoda Kala Teh Pataudi District Gurgaon, 759 - Yamuna Expressway 759
110	85	Government	Rasta	0.025	Government of Uttar Pradesh 85
111	86	Private	Agriculture	0.0244	Mohanlal / Ramchandar, Atar Singh / Ramchandar, Sher Singh / Ramchandar, Jugendra Singh / Veer Singh, Netrapal / Veer Singh, Devendra Singh / Veer Singh, Sheela Devi / Veer Singh, 86
112	89	Government	Nali	0.038	Government of Uttar Pradesh 89
113	90	Private	Agriculture	0.4912	Vijendra Singh / Shival / Ni Vegmavad Majragram, Ratiram / Shival / Ni Vegmavad Majragram, Ranjit Singh / Shival / Ni Vegmavad Majragram, Subhas / Shival / Ni Vegmavad Majragram, Lalchand / Shival / Ni Vegmavad Majra Village, Dharmaveer / Babu / Ni Vegmabad Village, Karanveer / Babu / Ni Vegmabad Majra Village, Sundar / Babu / Ni Vegmabad Majra Village, Sonu / Babu / Ni Vegmabad Majra Village, Kamla Devi / Babu / Ni Vegmabad Majra Village, Parikshit Bardeja / Ramesh Bardeja Ramesh Kumar va Sanjay Kumar / Ranveer 90
114	91	Government	Chakmarg	0.0357	Government of Uttar Pradesh 91
115	92	Private	Agriculture	0.2261	Hari Singh / Kishorilal / Ni Vegma case Majragram, Deshraj / Kishorilal / Ni Vegma case Majragram, Rajveer / Kishorilal / Ni Vegma case Majragram, Roshan / Kishorilal / Ni Vegma case Majragram, Ompal / Kishorilal / Ni Vegma case Majragram 92
116	93	Private	Agriculture	0.0727	Akhay Singh / Phuli / Ni Vegmavad Majra Village, Vijay Singh / Phuli / Ni Vegmavad Majra Village, Jai dev / Babli / Va Ravinder va Smt. Shyamvati S/O va wife Jai Singh, Jaswant / Phuli / Ni Vegmavad Majra Village, Mukhiya va Lakshman Singh / va Hukum Singh va Smt. Omwati S/O , wife Giridhari 93
117	94	Private	Agriculture	0.3098	Summer Singh / Lal Singh, Nirottam Singh / Lal Singh, Mahendra Singh / Lal Singh, Shiv Kumar / Roopchand / Ni Vegmabad, Vinod Kumar / Roopchand / Ni Vegmabad, Kavat Kumar / Roopchand, Rajwati / Roopchand / Ni Vegmabad 94
118	98	Private	Agriculture	0.0963	Summer Singh / Lal Singh, Nirottam Singh / Lal Singh, Mahendra Singh / Lal Singh, Shiv Kumar / Roopchand / Ni Vegmabad, Vinod Kumar / Roopchand / Ni Vegmabad, Kavat Kumar / Roopchand, Rajwati / Roopchand / Ni Vegmabad 98
119	99	Private	Agriculture	0.2878	Akhay Singh / Phuli / Ni Vegmavad Majra Village, Vijay Singh / Phuli / Ni Vegmavad Majra Village, Jai Singh / Phuli / Ni Vegmavad Majra Village, Jaswant / Phuli / Ni Vegmavad Majra Village, Giridharilal / Phuli / Ni Vegmavad Majra Village 99
Village: Falaida Bangar					
120	1015	Private	Agriculture	0.0969	Amar Singh/ Khushiram, Nawal Singh/ Khushiram, Satveer Singh/ Kamal Singh, Rajveer Singh/ Kamal Singh, Subhash Singh/ Kamal Singh, Sajay Singh/ Kamal Singh, Suchha Devi/ Kamal Singh, Brijmohan Singh/ Khichu alias Khacheda, Suryapratap Singh/ Khichu alias Khacheda, Sundarpal Singh/ Khichu alias Khacheda, Rajendra Singh, Ravinder Singh s/o Buddhapal Singh, Janak Devi w/o Buddhapal Singh. Rishipal Singh, Sundar Singh Prem Singh s/o Udayveer Singh, Chandravati w/o Udayveer Singh, Pintu Bhati, Sumit Bhati s/o Kripal. Satyavati w/o Kuvarpal Singh, Chandrashekhar, Karan Singh s/o Kuvarpal Singh, Radha w/o Sunil, Bavita w/o Inderjeet, Sachin age 17 years, Sumit age 15 years minor s/o and Tamanna age 3 years minor d/o Inderjeet sarparast mother Bavita 1015
121	1016	Private	Agriculture	0.115	Veer Pal / Fatah Singh, Rajveer Singh / Fatah Singh, Kallan Singh / Fatah Singh 1016
122	1017	Private	Agriculture	0.1918	Hari Om / Leela, Shivhari / Leela, Simbhu Dutt / Leela, Bhuri / Leela 1017
123	1018	Private	Agriculture	0.0374	Ganga Lal / Narayan, Lala Ram / Narayan 1018
124	1019	Private	Agriculture	0.005	Ganga Lal / Narayan, Lala Ram / Narayan 1019
125	102	Private	Agriculture	0.0347	Mahendra Singh/ Ramkaran Singh, 102
126	1029	Private	Agriculture	0.5138	Hitesh Kumar Kaushik and Kamal Dutt and Ravi Dutt sons Jagdish Dutt and Shashi Dutt wife Jagdish Dutt, Kalyan Dutt / Ganga Dutt, Kripa Shankar / Ganga Dutt, Krishna Kumar / Lakshmi Dutt, Virendra Kumar / Lakshmi Dutt, Trilok Chand / Lakshmi Dutt, Dhanesh Kumar / Lakshmi Dutt , Rajendra Dutt / Prakash, Rudra Dutt / Prakash Dutt, Tek Chand / Prakash Dutt, Lekhray / Prakash Dutt, Dharmendra Dutt Sharma / Kanti Prasad, Umesh Dutt Sharma / Kanti Prasad, Kamal Dutt Sharma / Kanti Prasad, Satyavati / Kanti Prasad 1029
127	1034	Private	Agriculture	0.4344	Ravi Shankar s/o Jayanti Prasad, Smt. Brajesh Kumari wife Omvir Singh, N. Nagla Narayan Singh, Gopichand / Chiranji, Satish / Shyamal, Manoj Sharma / Veernarayan Sharma / N. Sheikhpur Teh. Bad, Dharmendra Sharma / Veer-Rayan Sharma / Ni-Sheikhpur Teh. Sibad. 1034
128	1035	Private	Agriculture	0.0193	Rakesh Sharma s/o Sheeshpal, Shri Jitendra Pratap Singh s/o Anand Kumar Singh, Kusuma Devi / Sheeshpal, Gora Rani / Naveen Kumar Advocate, Rajkumar / Sheeshpal, Pitam / Paamraj, Gayatri w/o Mahipal, Ramkumar s/o Mahipal, Krishna s/o Pahpal Ni Palwal 1035
129	1036	Government	Chakmarg	0.0255	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1036
130	1038	Private	Agriculture	0.2054	Rotan / Harchandi, Rajdulari/Rajpal / Ni Badoli Bagar Teh Sadar, Sushila Devi / Nanakchand / Ni Badoli Bagar Teh Sadar, Bala Devi / Suraj / Ni Badoli Bagar Teh Sadar 1038
131	1039	Private	Agriculture	0.1404	Diwan Singh/Sohanlal, Mahendra Singh/Sohanlal, Sanjay Singh/Sohanlal, Prem Singh s/o Kehar Singh, Omvati w/o Kehar Singh, Kuldeep Chauhan s/o Mahendra Pal Singh. 1039
132	1040	Private	Agriculture	0.2068	Amarvati/Brahmjeet, Shiv Singh/Khachera, Amar Singh/Khachera, Brijesh Kumar s/o Laxmi Chand 1040
133	1041	Private	Agriculture	0.3584	Premchand / Kanchan, Meghraj / Kanchan, Rajkumar / Kanchan, Jenendra Mohan Sharma / Surendranath Sharma 1041
134	1042	Government	Chakmarg	0.0321	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1042
135	1043	Private	Agriculture	0.0001	Keshavdutt / Shankarlal, Krishna Kumar / Shankarlal, Vinod Kumar / Pannalal, Ompal / Pannalal, Hemant / Pannalal, Ramesh / Pannalal, Lekhal / Pannalal, Khazani / Pannalal, kuldeep chauhan s/o mahendra pal , Dr. kamal jodhani s/o chetram jodhani. 1043
136	1044	Private	Agriculture	0.2947	Keshavdutt / Shankarlal, Krishna Kumar / Shankarlal, Praveen Kumar / Shankarlal, Vinod Kumar / Pannalal, Ompal / Pannalal, Hemant / Pannalal, Ramesh / Pannalal, Lekhal / Pannalal, Khazani / Pannalal, kuldeep chauhan s/o mahendra pal 1044
137	187	Private	Agriculture	0.081	Chatra/Ram Singh, Tara Singh/Ram Singh, Devdutt/Babu Singh, Vijay Singh/Babu Singh, Bharat Singh/Babu Singh, Shivkumar/Ramchandar, Sachin Kumar/ Ramchandar, Kamlesh Devi/Ramchandar 187
138	188	Private	Agriculture	0.7828	Vinod Kumar/ Hukmi, Rohtash Kumar Sharma/ Shankarlal, Naresh Sharma/ Shankarlal, Sonu Sharma/ Shankarlal, Monu Sharma/ Shankarlal, Vimlesh Devi/ Shankarlal, Mahendra Singh/ Dulli, Rajveer/ Dulli, Moharpal/ Dulli, Bhajanlal/ Dullie, Seema w/o Rakesh Bhati 188
139	189	Private	Agriculture	0.844	Devendra Kumar/ Vavv Singh, Vijay Singh/ Vavv Singh, Bharat Singh/ Vavv Singh, Renu Goyal w/o Ramkumar N. Sector 82 Noida, 189
140	190	Private	Agriculture	0.645	Sukha Singh/ Tikam Singh, Momraj Singh/ Tikam Singh, Gadal Singh/ Tikam Singh, Bholan Singh/ Tikam Singh, Mrs. Dharmavati/ Vavv Singh, 190
141	191	Government	Chakmarg	0.0459	Government of Uttar Pradesh 191
142	192	Government	Nali	0.067	Government of Uttar Pradesh 192
143	195	Private	Agriculture	1.8332	Rajveer/ Phool Singh, Vijay Singh/ Parmal/ Ni Qurayb, Sharda Devi/ Harkishan, Mukesh/ Shyama, Satyaprakash/ Inami, Rautan/ Jhau Lal, Devendra/ Inami, Ratan Pal/ Bhavar Singh, Tuki, Karan Singh/ Devi Ram, Vijay/ Hari Kishan, Basant/ Hardan, Vijay Pal/ Soran, Jugendra/ Jaggan, Jugendra/ Jaggan, Ummed Singh, Trilok, Shivkumar s/o Vijaypal. Ni Ballu Kheda Majra Mooj Kheda Teh Sadar, Kartar/ Ratan, Omprakash/ Gajji, Hitler/ Mohar Singh, K. Rajni/ Mohar Singh, Santo Devi/ Mohar Singh, Lajja/ Deepa, Lajja/ Deepa, Jitendra alias Jitendra Kumar s/o Rajendra Kumar, Sarita Singh s/o Neeraj Bhalha B 210 Ashok Nagar, Ramkripal Singh s/o Khamani Singh N. m. No. 72, Dharamveer Singh s/o Ramcharan Singh N. pachokra , Rajjo w/o Roopchand ni. falaida. 195
144	196	Private	Agriculture	1.6912	Chattar/Hotilal, Mahendra, Man Singh/Ratanlal, Sanjay, Lakshmi, Omvati/Dharmveer, Veerpal/Harchandi, Sukhpal/Ratiram, Ramesh/Amar Singh, Jagat Singh/Bhavar Singh, Ram Singh/Chhida, Jugendra/ Daya Ram, Brajpal/ Bani Singh, Hiralal/ Raghurveer, Tara/ Ram Singh, Roshan/ Raghuvveer, Hari Singh/ Sohan, Vision/ Peeta, Jagani Singh/ Lakshmi , Satish, Rajendra s/o Buddha, Premvati w/o Buddha ,Jitendra alias Jitendra Kumar s/o Rajendra Ni Salampur. Rachna Kumari w/o Kamal Singh Ni B, Alka w/o Virender Ni R - 142, Virendra Kumar s/o Amrichand ni Shivpuri, Chandravati w/o Omprakash ni Datavali, Roopchand s/o Hardan ni village, 196
145	206	Government	Chakmarg	0.0227	Government of Uttar Pradesh 206
146	207	Private	Agriculture	0.745	Hoshiar Singh/ Dharna, Ajit Singh/ Vavv Singh, Vrahm Jeet Singh/ Vavv Singh, Sanjay Singh/ Vavv Singh, Bhupendra Singh/ Vavv Singh, Smt. Sheela Devi/ Late. Vavv Singh, Harpal/ Rautan Singh, Rishipal/ Rautan Singh, Jagpal/ Rautan Singh, Bharatpal/ Rautan Singh, Rampal/ Rautan Singh, Naresh Singh/ Rautan Singh, Prakashwati/ Rautan Singh, 207
147	761	Private	Agriculture	0.0237	Girraj / Sona, Kishanlal / Rajpal, Ramkali / Rajpal, Mrs. suganavati w/o vasant. ni. rauniya , khushahal, vinod s/o ramchand , harpyari w/o ramchand , ankush lalit s/o & priti , hema d/o lokman nabalig age 6,4,10 & 8 sarparast mata swam omvati patni lokman . 761
148	762	Common (Private/ Government)	Agriculture/ Banjar	0.174	Omprakash / Chundi, Roopvati/Ramkumar U.P. Governance 762
149	829	Government	Chakmarg	0.026	Government of Uttar Pradesh 829
150	830	Government	Nali	0.0164	Government of Uttar Pradesh 830
151	833	Private	Agriculture	0.2641	Mishrilal/ Chiranjilal, Gopichandra/ Chiranjilal, Nanak/ Sukhpal, Rajan/ Sukhpal, Veerpal Singh/ Fatah Singh, Rajveer Singh/ Fatah Singh, Kallan aka Sheoraj Singh/ Fatah Singh, Ramveer/ Rishipal Singh, Kek Singh/ Rishipal Singh/ Rishipal Singh, Satish/ Shyamal, Rajrani/ Nanakchand/ Ni Mau Indranagar Rabupura, Veerpal Singh/ Fatah Singh, Rajveer Singh/ Fatah Singh, Kallan alias Sheuraj Singh/ Fatah Singh, Karan Singh s/o Kalyan Singh, Sarjit s/o Kalyan Singh, Veerpal Sharma s/o Ravi Shankar, Pawan Sharma, Bhudev Sharma s/o Jayanti Prasad Ni Village, Ku Chaman, age 13 years d/o Sundar Lal Sa, sub- district magastret Jewar, Naveen Kumar Advocate alias Naveen Kumar, Amit Kumar Advocate s/o Radha Krishna, Meera Rani w/o Radha Krishna 833
152	836	Private	Agriculture	0.0015	Rishipal, Sundar Singh, Prem Singh, s/o Udayveer Singh, Chandavati w/o Udayveer, Pintu Bhati, Sumit Bhati s/o Kripal, Nupur Bansal w/o Gaurav/Bansal 836
153	837	Private	Agriculture	0.043	Naval Singh/ Khushiram, Amar Singh/ Khushiram, Satveer/ Kamal Singh, Rajveer/ Kamal Singh, Subhash/ Kamal Singh, Sajay Singh/ Kamal Singh, Sucha Devi/ Kamal Singh, 837
154	838	Private	Agriculture	0.118	Rajendra Singh, Ravindra Singh s/o Buddhapal, Janak Devi w/o Buddhapal, Satyavati w/o Kuvarpal Singh, Chandra Shekhar, Karan s/o Kuvarpal, Radha w/o Sunil, Bavita w/o Indrajit, Sachin, Sumit s/o and Tamanna d/o Indrajit age 17 years, 15 years and 3 years old, mother herself Bavita 838
155	839	Private	Agriculture	0.4045	Amar Singh/ Khushiram, Nawal Singh/ Khushiram, Satveer Singh/ Kamal Singh, Rajveer Singh/ Kamal Singh, Subhash Singh/ Kamal Singh, Sajay Singh/ Kamal Singh, Suchha Devi/ Kamal Singh, Brijmohan Singh/ Khichu alias Khacheda, Suryapratap Singh/ Khichu alias Khacheda, Sundarpal Singh/ Khichu alias Khacheda, Rajendra Singh, Ravinder Singh s/o Buddhapal Singh, Janak Devi w/o Buddhapal Singh. Rishipal Singh, Sundar Singh Prem Singh s/o Udayveer Singh, Chandravati w/o Udayveer Singh, Pintu Bhati, Sumit Bhati s/o Kripal. Satyavati w/o Kuvarpal Singh, Chandrashekhar, Karan Singh s/o Kuvarpal Singh, Radha w/o Sunil, Bavita w/o Inderjeet, Sachin age 17 years, Sumit age 15 years minor s/o and Tamanna age 3 years minor d/o Inderjeet sarparast mother Bavita 839
156	842	Private	Agriculture	0.5208	Veerpal Singh/ Fatah Singh, Rajveer Singh/ Fatah Singh, Kallan aka Sheuraj Singh/ Fatah Singh, Chhida Singh/ Gagi, Rajpal Singh/ Gagi, Vijaypal Singh/ Roop Singh, Devendra Singh/ Roop Singh, Ramvir Singh/ Roop Singh, Kiranpal Singh/ Roop Singh, Shakuntala/ Roop Singh, Dharmavati/ Babu Singh/ Ni Usmanpur, Satya Devi/ Atmaram/ Ni Usmanpur, Kaushalya/ Ramendra Singh/ Ni Aulina, Kapoor Devi/ Vijaypal Singh/ Ni Aulina, Soniya sharma/ Jagmohan/ Ni Aulina, Inderpal Singh/ Mohan Singh, Jagveer, Pramod Kumar s/o Khachera, Lajja Devi w/o Khachera, Mrs. Shanta w/o Chatar Singh. 842
157	843	Private	Agriculture	0.0666	Rajveer Singh/ Gangu, Prempal Singh/ Gangu, Kanchi Singh/ Gangu, Kuvarpal/ Butter, Naresh/ Kuvarpal, Sukhpal/ Rampal Singh/ Ni Ronija 843
158	863	Private	Agriculture	0.248	Rajkumar / Chandrapal Singh, Usha Devi / Gyan Singh / Ni New Bhupani Teh and District Faridabad, Sunny Pratap s/o Lakhat Singh, Lakhanpal, Dharmendra, Sanjay s/o Ramkishan. Sachin, Dhruv, minor, 17 and 12 years s/o and Priyanka, Vandana, daughter Surendra, mother Kamlesh herself, w/o Surendra 863
159	864	Private	Agriculture	0.4607	Udayveer Singh/ Naval Singh, Hoti/ Naval Singh, Ompal Singh/ Naval Singh, Manveer/ Dan Singh, Sharda Devi/ Dan Singh, Ravindra/ Nihal Singh, Surendra Singh/ Nihal Singh, Mahendra Singh/ Nihal Singh Subhash Singh/ Nihal Singh, Mahesh Singh/ Nihal Singh, Vijay Singh/ Nihal Singh, Rupvati/ Nihal Singh, Deshraj, Sandeep Kumar Bhati s/o Rajpal, Omvati w/o Rajpal 864
160	868	Government	Chakmarg	0.0213	Government of Uttar Pradesh 868
161	869	Government	Nali	0.0243	Government of Uttar Pradesh 869
162	871	Private	Agriculture	0.3259	Chattarpal Singh/ Narayan Singh, Sudha Singh/ Udaybhan Singh, K. Anupriya Singh/ daughter- Udaybhan Singh, Pradeep Kumar/ Tejpal Singh/ Ni Jamalpur Teh Sirabad, Saurabh/ Tejpal Singh/ Ni Jamalpur Teh Singh/ Kanchh, Kamal Singh/ Ni Gram, Mahesh/ Kanchi Singh/ Ni Gram, Rakesh/ Kanchi Singh/ Ni Gram, Surendra/ Kanchi Singh/ Ni Gram, Jeetpal/ Lekhray/ Ni Gram, Sonu/ Lekhray/ Ni Gram, Kunti Devi/ Vijaypal Singh/ Ni Gram, Nakul Pratap Singh s/o Bhanu Pratap Singh, Mala Singh w/o Bhanu Pratap Singh 871
163	872	Private	Agriculture	0.4354	Rajkumar/ Chandrapal, Usha/ Gyan Singh/ Ni New Bhupani Teh and District Faridabad, Sunny Pratap Singh/ Lakhat Singh, Sachin minor 17 years s/o Surendra, Dhruv minor 12 years s/o Surendra, Kamlesh w/o Surendra, Priyanka minor daughter Surendra, Vandana minor 14 years d/o Surendra. Lakhanpal, Dharmendra, Sanjay s/o Buddha. 872
164	873	Private	Agriculture	0.3092	Ajit Singh/ Mahavir, Mahendra Singh/ Tejasingh, Vijendra Singh/ Tejasingh, Jeweler Singh/ Tejasingh, Ravendra Singh/ Udayveer Singh, Rohtash/ Uday Veer Singh, 873
165	874	Private	Agriculture	0.3804	Mahendra/ Nakul, Suresh/ Nakul, Ramesh/ Nakul, Smart/ Nakul, Kishan/ Nakul, Lalit/ Naurang, manveer Singh s/o harpal Singh . 874
166	875	Private	Agriculture	0.2631	Hansraj Singh/ Mahavir, Meghraj Singh/ Mahavir, Gavendra/ Mahavir, Manoj Sharma/ Jairam/ Ni Shahpur Govardhanpur, Praveen Kumar/ Jairam/ Ni Shahpur Govardhanpur, Vipin Sharma/ Jairam/ Ni Shahpur Govardhanpur, Omvati/ Jairam/ Ni Shahpur Govardhanpur, Gyanchand alias Gyanprakash s/o Govardhan Sharma, Praveen Kumar, Tej Singh s/o Ranveer Singh, Lokesh Chauhan s/o Khillu Chauhan. 875
167	877	Government	Chakmarg	0.0226	Government of Uttar Pradesh 877
168	878	Government	Nali	0.0144	Government of Uttar Pradesh 878
169	879	Private	Agriculture	0.0504	Chattarpal Singh/ Vavv Singh, Bhupal Singh/ Charan Singh, Dushyant Kumar/ Kushalpal, Amit Kumar/ Kushalpal, Smt. Javitri Devi/ Kushalpal, Bhanupratap Singh/ Khadag Singh, Surendrapal/ Khadag Singh, Sheela/ Khadag Singh, Chandrabhan Singh/ Pratap Singh, Prahlad Singh/ Pratap Singh, Omendra Singh/ Pratap Singh, Ishwari Devi/ Pratap Singh, Mukesh Bhati s/o Kiran Pal, Ramvati w/o Kiranpal Singh 879
170	880	Private	Agriculture	0.2858	Mangal Singh, Mahesh Singh, Sudesh Singh s/o Fatti Singh 880
171	881	Private	Agriculture	0.0629	Khadag Singh/ Kare Singh, Hoti Singh/ Kare Singh, Vavv Singh/ Kare Singh, Ramoutar/ Kare Singh, Udai Singh/ Kare Singh, Kishan Singh/ Shyam Lal, Bhagwati Devi/ Kare Singh 881
Village: Karoli Bangar					
172	1006	Private	Agriculture	0.1205	Pritam Singh / Mahveer, Tejveer Singh / Mahveer, Tekchand / Mahveer, Danveer / Mahveer,, Lohri / Hari Singh / Ni Falida 1006
173	1007	Private	Agriculture	0.3382	Vipin Kumar / Pawan Kumar 1007
174	1008	Government	Rasta	0.0477	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1008
175	1010	Private	Agriculture	0.0517	Dinesh Singh / Ramchandra / Ni Falaida, Umesh Kumar N. B. 16 years / Ramchandra / Mother Kaushalya w/o Ramchand Ni Falaida, Naveen Bhati N.B. 12 years / Ramchandra / Mother Kaushalya w/o Ramchand Ni Falaida, Sareesh Kumar / Chhotelal / Ni. Sunaro., Kaushalya Devi / Ramchandra / Ni Falaida, Gajraj Singh / Giani Singh / Ni Falaida, Devendra Singh / Giani Singh / Ni Falaida, Angoori / Giani Singh 1010
176	1011	Private	Agriculture	1.8043	Mahveer Singh / Khushal Singh, Dharmpal Singh/ Khushal Singh, Nahipal Singh / Khushal Singh, Hariom Singh / Khushal Singh, Devindra Verma/ Ajit Singh Verma Ni Gr. Noida, Manoj Kumar / Pitam Singh / Ni Falaida, Lilavati / Pitam Singh / Ni Falaida, Satish Sharma / Anand Swarup, Sanjay Kumar / Anand Swarup, Pappu / Anand Swarup, Deepa Ram Agarwal/ Krishan Agarwal, Smt. Surbhi Jain w/o Manish Jain Ni Karoli bangar, Nanakchand / Naipal Sharma / Ni Badoli Bagar, Surajpal Sharma / Naipal Sharma / Ni Badoli Bagar Teh and District Gautam Budhnagar, Harendra Na Ba Age 16 / Rajveer Singh S. Maya Devi / Ni Falaida, Krishan Pratap Singh / Vinod kumar Singh, Puneet Mittal / Narrendra Kumar Mittal, Mamta Gupta / Brijesh Kumar Gupta, Smt. Nidhi Agarwal W/o Jaihari Agarwal. 1011
177	1012	Private	Agriculture	0.0013	Dharmpal Singh/ Khushal Singh, Hariom Singh / Khushal Singh, Devindra Verma/ Ajit Singh Verma Ni Gr. Noida 1012
178	1013	Government	Rasta	0.168	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1013
179	1027	Private	Agriculture	0.037	Pritam Singh / Mahveer, Tejveer Singh / Mahveer, Tekchand / Mahveer, Danveer / Mahveer, Smt. Suresh W/o Tekchand / Ni Falaida, Ramesh Kumar/ Hari Singh/ Ni Gurugram, Nanuva / Roopchand / Ni Falida, Bholi/ Sukha/ Ni Falida, Kallu / Sukha/ Ni Falida 1027
180	1028	Common (Private/ Government)	Agriculture/ Banjar	0.089	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1028
181	1029	Private	Agriculture	0.142	Virendra Singh/ Bhavuti/ Ni Falida, Tej Singh / Rajpal, Mukesh Singh / Rajpal, Ramvati W/o Rajpal, Smt. Lokesh Singh/ Dharampal Singh/ Ni Nagla Hukm Singh Majra Karoli, Meera Agarwal/ Rajendra Kumar/ Ni Flat No. B/85 Pocket-1 Central Bihar J82Noida, Tejpal Singh / Babu Singh / Ni Falaida, Bhim Singh / Babu Singh / Ni Falaida, Jugendra Singh / Babu Singh / Ni Falaida, Satpal / Babu Singh / Ni Falaida, Himanshu / Vijendra Singh / Ni Falaida, Sunil kumar / Chhotelal Ni kakod 1029
182	1030	Private	Agriculture	0.4028	shyam Singh/ Ratan Singh / Ni Falaida, Sundar / Shyam Singh / Ni Falaida, Deepak / Ratan Singh / Ni Falaida, Rahul / Ratan Singh / Ni Falaida, Ajay / Ratan Singh / Ni Falaida, Saroj W/o Ratan Singh / Ni Falaida, Saroj Devi / Ratan Singh / Ni Falaida, Lilavati / Sant Singh / Ni Falaida, Phool Singh / Sant Singh / Ni Falaida, Kamal Singh / Sant Singh / Shyamsingh , Sundar , Deepak, Rahul , Ajay , Kaluaa/ Ni Falaida 1030

Editors Guild expresses anguish over Kashmir Press Club closure

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, JANUARY 18

THE EDITORS Guild of India (EGI) on Tuesday expressed anguish over the shutting down of Kashmir Press Club by the government, saying that the space for media freedom and active civil society has been steadily eroding in Kashmir. "The shutting down of the club is the latest act in a sequence of disturbing events, where the 're-registration' of the club was first arbitrarily put 'in abeyance' by the Registrar of Societies on January 14, followed by the shocking breach of institutional norms when a group of people, with the active support of state police and CRPF, took over the office and management of the club on January 15," it said.

"With the shutting down of the club and government reverting the land back to the Estates department, an important journalistic institution in a region that has seen the worst kind of state heavy handedness against any independent media, has been effectively dismantled."

"Space for media freedom and active civil society has been steadily eroding in the region," it said. "Journalists frequently face intimidation from terror groups as well as the state. They are also charged under heavy penal laws, and are routinely detained by security forces for reporting or for their editorials."

SISTERS CONVICTED OF KIDNAPPING 13 CHILDREN, KILLING SOME OF THEM

HC cites delay in decision on mercy plea, commutes death penalty to lifer

OMKAR GOKHALE MUMBAI, JANUARY 18

OBSERVING THAT the state machinery showed "laxity and indifference" in deciding on their mercy pleas, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday commuted the death sentences awarded to two sisters, Renuka Shinde and Seema Gavit, to life imprisonment. The duo was convicted of kidnapping 13 children, killing some of them and using the others as cover to snatch purses and chains between 1990 and 1996.

The death sentences of Shinde and Gavit, both from Kolhapur, were confirmed by the Supreme Court in 2006. The state government supported granting the death sentences. The High Court

had concluded the hearing and closed the matter for verdict on December 22.

A division bench of Justices Nitin M Jamdar and Sarang Kotwal passed the judgment in the sisters' writ plea, which had sought to commute their death sentence to life imprisonment, stating that there had been an "inordinate delay" of eight years in deciding on their mercy pleas and execution of their death sentences.

The court also pulled up the state for the "unexplained, gross delay" in disposal of the sisters' mercy petitions and said that "due to the casual approach of officers of state, mercy pleas were not decided for seven years, 10 months and 15 days, between 2006 and 2014."

"Though the procedure for

deciding the mercy petitions mandates speed and expediency, the state machinery showed indifference and laxity at each stage of processing the files. That it took seven years only for the movement of files for such a grave issue is unacceptable when electronic communications were available to be used," it said.

The sisters were arrested in November 1996. Their mother Anjana, a co-accused in the case, died of illness in 1998. The sisters were convicted by the sessions court in June 2001 and the High Court upheld their conviction in September 2004. In 2006, the apex court confirmed their death sentence for five murders. In August 2014, the President of India rejected their mercy pleas, after which the sisters moved the High

Court seeking judicial review of the President's decision and sought reduction in sentence.

The plea filed by the sisters, through advocate Aniket Vagal, stated that the delay of nearly eight years in deciding on the mercy pleas was "unfair, cruel, excessive and arbitrary," and the same had caused "immense mental torture, emotional and physical agony to them".

The bench had sought from Chief Public Prosecutor Aruna Pai a clarification on the government's position. Pai had submitted that considering the seriousness of the crime, despite the delay in a decision on the mercy petition, the state government supported the death sentence and withdrew its alternate submission on "life imprisonment till end of natural life"

Satire show over PM: I&B Ministry notice to channel

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, JANUARY 18

AFTER THE state BJP unit raised a complaint with Zee Tamil broadcast channel over a satirical children's show for certain critical remarks about policies and reforms executed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued a notice to Zee Entertainment Enterprises, seeking its response to the complaint.

The notice, issued on Tuesday, is based on a petition from the same complainant, CTR Nirmal Kumar, BJP state president of IT and Social Media Cell.

The complaint against the Tamil reality show - 'Junior Super Stars Season 4' - said the programme contained "obnoxious" comments against the PM and wanted it taken off air.

The programme, which was presented in the format of a skit on January 15, was anchored by Tamil actress Sneha and other celebrities such as RJ Mirchi Senthil and comedian Amudhavanan. It had references to a popular 2006 Tamil political satire film - 'Imjai Arasan 23 M Pulikesi'.

The children on the TV show also referred to a king and his policy reforms that failed the country and the people - with references to certain policies such as demonetisation and disinvestment implemented by the Modi government.

EXPLAINED The redressal mechanism

THE I&B Ministry last year had asked all broadcasters to set up a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism, according to which a complainant should first approach the channel with the complaint, which needs to be addressed within 15 days. If unhappy, the complainant can approach the industry's self-regulatory body, which has to dispose of within 60 days. If still dissatisfied, the complainant can approach the I&B Ministry, which can then ask the channel to respond with a show cause notice, and set up an inter-ministerial committee to look into possible violations.

In his complaint, which was sent to the channel and the I&B Ministry, Kumar said: "Scathing remarks were passed about demonetisation, his (PM) diplomatic travel to various countries, PM's attire and disinvestment. For a child below 10 years, it would have been impossible for him/her even to understand what these really mean."

The letter also complained

that anchors and judges of the show were encouraging these remarks. "This sends a wrong message about the channel in Tamil Nadu and what it stands for nationally," it said.

The I&B Ministry said it received a complaint against telecast of the programme on January 15. "And the channel was requested to provide comments on the complaint to this ministry within a period of seven days, failing which further action will be taken," it said.

Ministry officials in Delhi confirmed that they had asked for a response from Zee Tamil regarding the show, but clarified that it was not a show cause notice, and it did not state that any provisions of the Cable TV Networks Act were violated.

The Zee Group will respond to the complaint within the stipulated time frame of seven days as per procedure. *The Indian Express* has learned. On Tuesday, complainant Kumar said the Zee management has assured that they will remove the problematic portions from their digital platforms. "There is no official communication from the channel but they told us that they will remove those portions and also run a scroll expressing regret," he said.

Welcoming the ministry's action, state BJP chief K Annamalai thanked I Murugan, the I&B Minister of State, for "standing for justice".

INPUTS FROM ENNS, NEW DELHI

STARTS NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

26k govt schools in Telangana to take to English medium

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD, JANUARY 18

THE TELANGANA government has decided to introduce English as the medium of instruction in over 26,000 government primary and secondary schools across the state from the next academic year after demands for the same, especially from rural areas.

State education minister Sabita Indra Reddy told *The*

Indian Express that over the next couple of years, over 26,000 government primary and secondary schools will be converted into English medium institutions.

"While the enrolment in government schools has increased overall in the state, there is still some hesitancy and the reason we found was the lack of English medium instruction. In every village I visit, people suggest that their local government school should be made into an English

medium school with English medium instruction. Parents who are at present hesitant to send their kids to government schools told us that they are ready to enroll them if the medium of instruction is changed to English. The demand is unanimous everywhere."

"The government Monday decided to start teaching in English from the next academic year. Of course, we have to develop a lot of infrastructure and provide training to teachers as

well as prepare the primary school students for the change. Telugu will continue to be taught as a subject," she said.

A cabinet sub-committee of 11 ministers headed by Reddy has been formed to prepare the action plan for the implementation of English medium on a par with private schools. Prior to making the change, the state government will embark on a massive programme to repair and renovate the existing schools.

Sr. No.	Survey	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectare	Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No
1	2	3	4	5	6
183	1031	Private	Agriculture	0.0134	Sheeshpal Singh / Chandan Singh / Ni Falaida, Satendra Kumar / Tejveer Singh / Ni Falaida, Narendra Kumar / Tejveer Singh / Ni Falaida, Hoshiar Singh / Khushal Singh / Ni Falaida, Vinod Kumar / Khushal Singh / Ni Falaida 1031
184	1032	Private	Agriculture	0.022	Sheeshpal Singh / Chandan Singh / Ni Falaida, Satendra Kumar / Tejveer Singh / Ni Falaida, Narendra Kumar / Tejveer Singh / Ni Falaida, Hoshiar Singh / Khushal Singh / Ni Falaida, Vinod Kumar / Khushal Singh / Ni Falaida 1032
185	1033	Private	Agriculture	0.0527	Sheeshpal Singh / Chandan Singh / Ni Falaida, Satendra Kumar / Tejveer Singh / Ni Falaida, Narendra Kumar / Tejveer Singh / Ni Falaida, Hoshiar Singh / Khushal Singh / Ni Falaida, Vinod Kumar / Khushal Singh / Ni Falaida 1033
186	1034	Private	Agriculture	0.2196	Sheeshpal Singh / Chandan Singh / Ni Falaida, Satendra Kumar / Tejveer Singh / Ni Falaida, Narendra Kumar / Tejveer Singh / Ni Falaida, Hoshiar Singh / Khushal Singh / Ni Falaida, Vinod Kumar / Khushal Singh / Ni Falaida 1034
187	1035	Private	Agriculture	0.0273	Dharampal / Kishore Singh / Ni Falaida, Vijaypal / Kishore Singh / Ni Falaida, Chandra Singh / Kishore Singh / Ni Falaida, Rakesh Singh / Dharamveer / Ni Falaida, Sanjay / Dharamveer / Ni Falaida, Surendra Singh / Dharamveer / Ni Falaida, Kuroshni Dharamveer / Ni Falaida, Vimala Devi / Dharamveer / Ni Falaida 1035
188	1036	Private	Agriculture	0.3308	Sheeshpal Singh / Chandan Singh / Ni Falaida, Satendra Kumar / Tejveer Singh / Ni Falaida, Narendra Kumar / Tejveer Singh / Ni Falaida, Hoshiar Singh / Khushal Singh / Ni Falaida, Vinod Kumar / Khushal Singh / Ni Falaida 1036
189	1037	Private	Agriculture	0.3976	Devendra Singh / Chatar Singh / Ni Falaida, Sheeshpal Singh / Chandan Singh / Ni Falaida, Satendra Kumar / Tejveer Singh / Ni Falaida, Narendra Kumar / Tejveer Singh / Ni Falaida, Hoshiar Singh / Khushal Singh / Ni Falaida, Hoshiyar Singh / Khushal Singh / Ni Falaida, Vinod Kumar / Khushal Singh / Ni Falaida, Smt Bobby W/o Susheel kumar/ Ni Dugli 1037
190	1057	Private	Agriculture	0.045	Virendra Singh/ Bhavuti/ Ni Falaida, Tej Singh / Rajpal, Mukesh Singh / Rajpal, Ramvati W/o Rajpal, Smt. Lokesh Singh/ Dharampal Singh/ Ni Nagla Hukm Singh Majra Karoli, Meera Aggarwal/ Rajendra Kumar/ Ni Flat No. B/85 Pocket-1 Central Bihar J82Noida, Tejpal Singh / Babu Singh / Ni Falaida, Bhim Singh / Babu Singh / Ni Falaida, Jugendra Singh / Babu Singh / Ni Falaida, Satpal / Babu Singh / Ni Falaida, Himanshu / Vijendra Singh / Ni Falaida, Sunil kumar / Chhotelal Ni kakod 1057
191	1112	Private	Agriculture	0.6122	Soran Singh / Raghuvveer Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Kishan Singh / Raghuvveer Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Jagan Singh / Raghuvveer Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Bhim Singh / Raghuvveer Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Lokesh Kumar / Bharatpal, Kanchan, Mukesh Bharatpal, Kanchan, Ravindra Kumar / Bharatpal, Kanchan, Rakesh Kumar / Bharatpal, Kanchan 1112
192	1113	Government	Chakmarg	0.015	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1113
193	1115	Private	Agriculture	0.1388	Durg Pal / Hari Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Mahesh / Hari Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli 1115
194	1116	Private	Agriculture	0.0028	Munesh Devi / Rajkumar Singh / Ni Raunija, Ravinder Kumar va Jinder Singh va naresh Singh / Rajinder Singh va Rajbala Devi W/o Rajinder Singh/ Ni Nag kanchan, Dharmendra / Khamraj, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Jwala / Sahab Singh/ Ni Aryanagar ballabhagh, Jugendra Singh / Tej Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Sheela Devi / Tej Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Gajendra Singh / Kalicharan, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Devendra Singh / Kalicharan Devi, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Sheela Devi / Tej Singh, Narendra , Jitendra , Ravi kumar , Rajbala devi/ Kalicharan, Kanchan Majra Karoli 1116
195	1200	Government	Chakmarg	0.0089	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1200
196	1201	Government	Nali	0.0176	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1201
197	1202	Private	Agriculture	0.1025	Lakhat Singh / Jaswat Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Rajendra Singh / Jaswat Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Naresh Kumar / Jaswat Singh, Dushyant Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Naresh Kumar / Jaswant Singh, Dushyant Kumar / Ramveer Singh, Phire / Bheem Ni Kasna, leelwati Public School Karoli Bangar Associated Phire / Bheem Singh. 1202
198	1203	Government	Chakmarg	0.0181	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1203
199	1204	Private	Agriculture	0.2481	Sushil Kumar/ Laxminarayan Singh, Sanjeev Singhania/ Krishna Singhania, Akhil Gupta/ Kishanlal Gupta 1204
200	1205	Private	Agriculture	0.2948	Mahesh Singh / Hari Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Vijaypal / Rautan Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Ajay Bhati / Rautan Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Kamlesh w/o Rautan Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli,, Dhirendra Singh / Buddha, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Vandana / Daughter- Budha, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Sudha Devi / Daughter- Buddha Kanchan Majra Karoli 1205
201	1206	Private	Agriculture	0.5353	Gopi Singh / Devi Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Mohan Singh / Devi Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Mahesh / Hari Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Rishipal Singh / Raghuraj / Ni Dhanauri Kala Teh and District Gautam Budh Nagar, Parvesh Kumar / Jai prakash Ni dadha , Rinku / Phire / Ni Kasna 1206
202	1207	Private	Agriculture	0.2167	Lakhat / Shyamlal, Chadan Majra Kareli, Dharamveer / Shyamlal, Chadan Majra Kareli, Durgpal / Hari Singh, Chadan Majra Kareli, Mahesh / Hari Singh, Chadan Majra Kareli, Deshraj / Brajpal, Chadan Majra Kareli, Santosh / Brajpal, Chadan Majra Karoli, Smt. Neelam Devi w/o Krishna Pratap / Ni Dayantpur 1207
203	1208	Government	Rasta	0.0787	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1208
204	1210	Private	Agriculture	0.0002	Jainati Prasad / Mitthan Lal, Chadan Majra Karoli, Kailash Chand / Hazarilal, Chadan Majra Karoli, Shambhudayal / Hazarilal, Chadan Majra Karoli, Veernarayan/ Hazarilal, Chadan Majra Karoli, Devdutt / Hazarilal, Chadan Mazra, Chadan Majra Chadan Karoli, Chadan Majra Karoli, Chadan Majra Karoli, Mrs. Shakuntala Devi/ Hazarilal, Chadan Majra Karoli, Durgpal singh/ Hari Singh / Ni Gr Karoli bangar 1210
205	1211	Government	Chakmarg	0.005	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1211
206	1213	Private	Agriculture	0.5015	Than Singh / Kek Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Rautan Singh / Kek Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Chander Devi / Kek Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Kavita Devi / Shivkumar / Nagla Chandan, Jitender / Reamkishan / Ni Falaida, Mohan Goyal / Parmanand Goyal/ Ni Delhi, Saurav / Dharam Singh/ Ni karoli Bangar, Nakul Kumar / Raj Kumar / Ni Karoli Bangar 1213
207	1214	Government	Nali	0.0259	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1214

208	1216	Private	Agriculture	0.483	Raguraj Singh / Leela Singh / Ni Chadan Majra Karoli Bangar, Dev Kumar / Leela Singh / Ni Chadan Majra Karoli Bangar, Rakesh / / Leela Singh / Ni Chadan Majra Karoli Bangar, Nema Devi W/o Leela Singh / Ni Chadan Majra Karoli Bangar, Charan Singh / Mahendra Singh, Chadan Majra Kareli, Jeetpal Singh / Mahendra Singh, Chadan Majra Kareli, Ravinder Kumar / Ramji Lal, Chandan, Ku Meenakshi Nava 15/ Ramji Lal No. Premlata Devi, Chandan, Premlata Devi / Ramji Lal, Chandan, Vinod / Ishwar Dayal/ Ni Suhedi Mominpur Teh and District Gautam Budh Nagar, Dharampal / Ishwar Dayal , Raghuraj singh , dev kumar , Rakesh , Naina devi 1216
209	1217	Government	Chakmarg	0.0332	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1217
210	1218	Private	Agriculture	0.0238	Hukam Singh / Bhajan Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Tej Singh / Bhajan Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Prakash / Bhajan Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Gajaj Singh / Bhajan Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Atar Singh / Bhajan Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Murti Devi W/o ratan Singh / Ni Gr. Karoli Bangar, Pawan Kumar/ Ratan singh / Ni Gr. Karoli Bangar, Charan Singh / Bhajan Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Kanhaiya Na Wa 16/ Kuwarpal Singh No. Kiran Devi, Chadan Majra Karoli, Ku. Gauri Na.V. 12/ Kuwarpal Singh No. Kiran Devi, Chadan Majra Karoli, Ku. Radha No. 9 / Kuwarpal Singh No. Kiran Devi, Chadan Majra Karoli, Kiran Devi / Kuwarpal Singh 1218
211	1219	Private	Agriculture	0.7935	Samar Jeet/ Chandrabhan Singh 1219
212	1220	Private	Agriculture	0.2812	Mahipal / Naval Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Satyapal / Prem Singh / Ni. Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli, Vikram Singh / Prem Singh / Ni. Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli, Rishipal / Prem Singh / Ni. Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli, Vachan Singh / Prem Singh/ Ni Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli 1220
213	1223	Private	Agriculture	0.068	Smt. Savitri devi W/o Bijendra Singh / Ni Dayantpur, Chandpal / Balwant Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Satveer / Babu Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Rajveer / Khillan Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Smt. Pratibha Singh / Sunit Kumar 1223
214	1224	Private	Agriculture	0.3439	Jaipal / Laikram 1224
215	1225	Government	Chakmarg	0.03	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1225
216	1227	Private	Agriculture	0.1749	Smt. Savitri devi W/o Bijendra Singh / Ni Dayantpur, Chandpal / Balwant Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Satveer / Babu Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Smt. Pratibha Singh / Sunit Kumar Singh, Kanchan Majra Karoli, Suresh Singh, Chadan Vijaypal Singh Karoli, Sunil Singh / Ramesh Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Dharmendra Singh / Ramesh Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli, Leela Vati / Ramesh Singh, Chadan Majra Karoli 1227
217	1228	Private	Agriculture	0.0399	Rajeev Mittal / Shiram Mittal / Ni Kasba Rabupura Karoli, Kailash Chand / Hazarilal / Ni Gram Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli, Shambhudayal / Hazarilal / Ni Gram Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli, Veerarayan / Hazarilal / Ni Gram Nagla Chadan / , Devarat Majra Karoli Hazarilal/ Ni Gram Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli, Babulal/ Hazarilal/ Ni Gram Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli, Mrs. Shakuntala Devi/ Hazralal 1228
218	1229	Private	Agriculture	0.0133	Sohan Prasad 1229
219	1237	Government	Nali	0.0783	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1237
220	1238	Private	Agriculture	0.2805	Veer singh/ Rajpal Singh , Rahul Singh/ Rajpal Singh 1238
221	1239	Government	Dahar Fula	0.1038	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1239
222	1240	Government	Chakmarg	0.0219	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1240
223	1241	Government	Chakmarg	0.0197	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1241
224	1242	Private	Agriculture	1.4752	Naunihal / Hota, Chadan Majra Karoli, Kailash / Hota, Chadan Majra Karoli, Brajmohan / Hoti, Chadan Majra Karoli, Kishanpal / Dharampal, Chadan Majra Karoli, Dayanand / Dharmapal, Chadan Majra Karoli, Balveer / Dharampal, Chadan Majra Karoli, Ramveer / Dharampal, Chadan Majra Karoli, Dharmendra / Dharampal, Chadan Majra Karoli, , Sukhvati / Dharampal, Chadan Majra Karoli, Rampal / Rajendra, Chadan Majra Karoli, Surendra / Rajendra, Chadan Majra Karoli, Nar Singh Nabalig 17 years / Rajendra Chadan Majra Karoli, Hishyari dadi na. Chadan Majra Karoli, Chanchal w/o Rampal / Ni Karoli Bangar, Gopal singh raghav / Ravinder singh Raghav, Pinki W/o Mukesh Kumar/ Ni Dayantpur, Rekha singh W/o Pratap singh/ Ni Thoda Kalan 1242
225	1243	Private	Agriculture	0.4074	Bijaypal Singh / Ghure Singh 1243
226	1244	Government	Chakmarg	0.0263	Government of Uttar Pradesh 1244
227	1245	Private	Agriculture	0.0765	Tej Singh / Sohanlal, Chadan Majra Karoli, Ramkishan / Sohanlal, Chadan Majra Karoli 1245
228	955	Government	Rasta	0.0491	Government of Uttar Pradesh 955
229	957	Private	Agriculture	0.0011	Durgpal Singh / Hari Singh / Ni Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli, Mahesh Singh / Hari Singh / Ni Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli, Deshraj / Brajpal / Ni Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli 957
230	958	Private	Agriculture	0.4485	Durgpal / Hari Singh / Ni Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli, Mahesh Singh / Hari Singh / Ni Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli, Deshraj / Brajpal / Ni Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli, Suresh / Soran Singh / Ni Nagla Chadan Majra Karoli Bangar, Bhagwati w/o Soran Singh / Ni Nagla Chadan Majra Nagla Karoli Bangar, Shivam Bhati Nabalig 15 years / Vinod Kumar / Late Mother Seema Devi W/o Vinod Kumar 958
231	959	Government	Nali	0.0178	Government of Uttar Pradesh 959
232	960	Government	Chakmarg	0.015	Government of Uttar Pradesh 960
233	963	Private	Agriculture	0.044	Rajendra Singh / Premchand / Ni Nagla Kachan Majra Karoli, Dharamvir Singh / Premchand / Ni Nagla Kachan Majra Karoli, Rakesh Kumar / Premchand / Ni Nagla Kachan Majra Karoli, Harpyari / Premchand / Ni Nagla Kachan Majra Karoli, Harendar Solanki / Rajinder Singh / Ni karoli Bangar 963
234	978	Private	Agriculture	0.0897	Gool 978
235	999	Private	Agriculture	0.0002	Shyam Singh / Ratan Singh / Ni Falida, Sundar / Ratan Singh / Ni Falida, Deepak / Ratan Singh / Ni Falida, Rahul / Ratan Singh / Ni Falida, Ajay / Ratan Singh / Ni Falida, Saroj / Ratan Singh / Ni Falida 999
				TOTAL	52.4845

[F. No. NHA/CMU/MTR/DND/Jewar International Airport/2021/D-3a/3D] RAJESH GUPTA, Director

Classifieds

PERSONAL

Priyanka Singhal alias Priyanka Singh D/o Sh. Gopal Ram Singhal W/o Sh. Abhishek Singh R/o G-84, First Floor, Vikas Pur, Tilak Nagar S.O., West Delhi, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Priyanka Singhal for all purposes.

KM REENA RANI, W/O MANOJ KUMAR, R/O- H-24 GREATER NOIDA DELTA-2, RAMPUR JAGIR, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH - 201306 Have Changed my name to REENA RANI for all purposes

Rubbi D/o Sh. Dal Bahadur Singh W/o Sh. Jai Chauhan R/o X/1604, Gali No.11, Rajgarh Colony, Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110031 have changed my name after marriage to Anjali Chauhan for all purposes.

Tanu Gupta D/o Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Gupta R/o 8848, Gali No.3, Multani Dhanda, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055 have changed my name to Tarisha Gupta for all purposes.

Major applicant change of name announcement I, Naseem and Khan Surname holding Passport number V 3597979 issued at Riyadh on 02.11.2021 hereby announced to change my name as MAHAMMAD NASIMUDDIN for all future purposes.

I, hitherto known as Manish Uppal son of Shri Bhushan Kumar Uppal residing at 126, Golf Link, Lodi Road, Delhi-110003 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as to Munish Uppal.

Yashika Salil D/o Shri. Rajan Salil R/o R-68-A, Third Floor, Near-Community Center, Ramesh Park, Laxmi Nagar, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092, inform that my correct name is Yashika, both name are one and same person.

Shanti Kiran Dandamudi w/o. Venkateswara Rao Dandamudi, R/O.Plot.No B-1/17, DLF Phase-1, Gurgaon-122001. Have Changed My Name to Shanthi Dandamudi, for all purposes.

Juspa Chaturvedi spouse of JC-280501P, Sub-Umesh Kumar Chaturvedi resident of Vill-Khaira, Post Office-Gauradaha, Tehsil-Rampur Naikin, District-Sidha State-Madhya Pradesh (PIN-486775) have changed my name from Juspa Chaturvedi to Pushpa Chaturvedi. vide Affidavit dated 17-Jan-2022 before GNCT of Delhi.

Priyamvada, W/o Amit Pandey, R/o Flat No.T-303, Parasvath Gardenia, Sector-61, Noida, Gautam Budh-Nagar, U.P-201301, have changed my name to Priyamvada Mishra, for all, future purposes.

Nutan Prasad, S/O Bhim Singh R/O RD-122, A-Block, Gali No. 07, Phase-3, Prem Nagar, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043, Have changed my Name to Nutan Prasad Sharma.

NASIM UL ZAFAR, S/O BASHIR ALAM, R/O-3165 G-FLOOR KUCHA TARA CHAND, DARYAGANJ, DELHI-2, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NASEEM UL ZAFAR.

Mohini Devi, W/o-Parmanand Pandey R/O-9/7655-B, Amar Mohalla, Raghubarapura, No.2, G andhi-Nagar, Delhi-110031, have changed my name to Madhvi Devi. Mohini Devi & Madhvi Devi is one & the same person.

Mohinder Nath Sharma, S/O Madan Lal Sharma, R/O-9844, Street No-6, Multani Dhanda, Paharganj, Delhi-110055, Have changed my Name to Mahinder Nath Sharma.

Rajendra Rai, S/O Nokhe Lal R/O, 572, Type-3, Krishna Kunj, Block-Staff Quarter, Inderpuri IARI, New Delhi-110012 changed my name to RAJENDER RAI

Kuldip Kaur W/o Jarnail Singh R/o WZ-273, Gali no.5, Srinagar, Shakurbasti, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Kuldeep Kaur.

Km Shweta Devi, W/o Amit Kumar Singh H.No-234 DDA-Flats, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044, Have changed my name Shweta Singh, for all purposes.

Km Monika Chauhan, W/o Vatan Singh Chauhan, Add-576, Chauhan Mohalla, Madanpur Khadar, Sarita-Vihar, New Delhi-110076, changed my name to Monika.

KESHAV DAYAL, S/O ISHWAR DAYAL MATHUR, R/O E-701, RAJHANS APARTMENT, PLOT. NO.4/4, AHINSA KHAND-1, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, U.P.201014, changed my name to KESHAV DAYAL MATHUR.

Simarpreet Kaur, W/o Sh. Satnam Singh, R/o Plot No.26, 2nd Floor, Gopal Nagar, Fateh Nagar, New Delhi-18, hereby declare that Simarpreet Kaur, Preeti and Preeti Phull three are, one person future name is Preeti Phull for all purposes.

Jyoti Rathour, D/o Madan Singh, R/O M-54, Street.No.13, Near-Bal Jyoti-Public School, Brahmapur, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Jyoti Rathore.

Jatin Dhingra R/o WZ-38, Gali-No.3, Rattan-Park, Basaidarapur, New Delhi-110015 have change my minor Child name Baani to Baani Dhingra.

Jarnel Singh S/o Late Darshan Singh R/o WZ-273, Gali no.5, Srinagar, Shakurbasti, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Jarnail Singh.

Basudev, VASHU DEV ALIAS BASUDEV CHAUDHARI S/O-SH. RAJ NARAYAN R/O-B-183, BLOCK-A, GAURI SHANKAR ENCL-PART-1, PREM NAGAR-3, KIRARI SULEMAN, DELHI, have changed my name to VASUDEV for all future purpose.

Ash pal Meena, S/o-Bhajan Lal Meena, Add-wz-1391/c nagla Raga south west delhi-110046, changed my name to aaspal Meena.

Ankur Kumar, S/o Amar Nath Kumar, R/o 248, Pragati Apartment, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-63, have changed my name to Ankur thukral, for all purposes.

Anita Athotra, W/o Rakesh Kumar Athotra, R/O 116, LG Flats, Pul Prahladpur Delhi-110044, Have Change My Name To Anita Sankhya.

Amar Pal W/o Jagpal Singh R/O WZ-66 Gali No.8 Krishna-Park, Tilak-Nagar, Delhi, have changed my name to Amarpal Kaur.

mohd Bilal, S/o-Mohammad toufique Khan, Add-e-103, dakhinpuri sector-5, Dr Ambedkar-Nagar, south delhi-110062, changed my name to mohd Bilal Khan.

Shafique ul Hasan S/o Zahoor Husain R/O K-281, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076 have corrected spelling in my name from Shaafique ul Hassan to SHAFIQUE UL HASAN for all future purposes.

SADDAM HUSAIN, S/O MOHMMED ABBAS, R/O H.NO.321, GALI 14, PHASE 6, SHIV VIHAR, DELHI-94, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHMMED SADDAM AS PER DOCUMENTS.

Deepak Kumar S/o Kailash Prasad Sharma R/O C-85, Hastasl Vihar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi, have changed my name to Deepak Kumar Sharma.

Ramayan S/o Phool Chand R/O-House No.297, Raksaha, Ghaziपुर, Uttar Pradesh-232326 presently reside at House No-182/5, Railway Colony, Kishan Ganj, Delhi-110007, have change my name to RAMAYAN RAM, for all future purposes.

Raj Rani, W/o Gurcharan Singh, R/o House No-7, Sultanwind Road, Uttam Avenue, Amritsar-1, Punjabi 143001, have changed my name to Raj Kaur.

RAVI KUMAR POPLI S/o Megh Raj Popli R/o 166-C, Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010, have changed my name to RAVI POPLI, for all future purposes

RAMAN KUMAR PACHAURI, S/O Ramesh Chandra Pachauri, R/O SRA-53/A, Shipra Riviera, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-U.P., have changed my name to RAMAN PACHAURI.

MAHTAB ALAM, S/O ATIKUR RAHMAN, ADD-352, C/3, 1ST-FLOOR, MUNIRKA VILLAGE, NEW DELHI 110067, changed my name to MOHAMMAD MAHTAB.

R R Pathania alias Rudlu Ram Pathania S/o Late Sh. Romak Ram R/O B-6/151, Second Floor, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Raghu Rendar Pathania for all purposes.

LOST & FOUND

Lost original share certificate of Flat No.92, Prayatan Vihar, CGHS Ltd., B-4 Vasundhara-Enclave, Delhi-110096 founder may inform Anish Wali, S/o Kanhaya Lal#8860222912.

Lost Original Booking Receipt and Allotment Certificate of Flat in DI City, Kundli Receipt No. KFL17274. FINDER Contact: Surinder Kumar Mago S/o Late Sri Ram Mago R/O F-181, SF, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015 0040599682-1

Kiran Suneja W/o Shri R.C. Suneja, have Lost Original Builder-Buyer Agreement of Flat No.605 'Eros Apartments', 56 Nehru Place, Delhi-110019. Finders please contact- 9873588552.

LOST & FOUND

General Public is hereby informed that Three Cheque Nos. 739145, 739146 and 739147 of Rs.10 lacs each, undated and drawn on PNB, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi branch issued in favour of Master Builders Solutions India Private Limited have been misplaced by office staff. If found, please return to us to Vexcol India Pvt. Ltd. through its Director Mrs. Rashmi Jain, BN-8, East, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088, M : 9810343352

Simarpreet Kaur, W/o Sh. Satnam Singh, R/o Plot No.26, 2nd Floor, Gopal Nagar, Fateh Nagar, New Delhi-18, hereby declare that Simarpreet Kaur, Preeti and Preeti Phull three are, one person future name is Preeti Phull for all purposes.

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SH. Shish Aggarwal - Administrative Civil Judge-cum-ARJ (Central), Delhi-110054 N.D.O.H. 05/02/2022 Smt. Rajendra Singh & Ors. Vs. SHASHANK TYAGI.....Delendent

Basudev, VASHU DEV ALIAS BASUDEV CHAUDHARI S/O-SH. RAJ NARAYAN R/O-B-183, BLOCK-A, GAURI SHANKAR ENCL-PART-1, PREM NAGAR-3, KIRARI SULEMAN, DELHI, have changed my name to VASUDEV for all future purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to general public that my clients Sh. Gyan Singh S/o Late Sh. Hari Singh and Smt. Dulari Kaur W/o Sh. Gyan Singh and Smt. Dulari Kaur, Dhaba Colony, Delhi F-13, U.F., have died. My clients have died. My clients have died.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to general public that my clients Sh. Netha Kamra Serala, Ex-wife of Sh. Abhinav Mitra, Dio Sh. Ajay Kamra R/O-55-C, U and V, Block-B, Near Jaspal Kaur Public School, Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi, Delhi-110088, declare that I have remarried with Sh. Raju Kumar Serala after divorce from my previous husband Sh. Abhinav Mitra vide court decree No. HMA No. 637/2015 dated 21.08.2015. Further I have changed the name of my minor daughter namely Mirgakshi Mitra aged about 12 years and name of her father and shall hereafter be known as Mirgakshi Serala and Raju Kumar Serala respectively in future for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Anju Singh W/o Late Mr. Umesh Kumar Singh owner of the Property DDA built up flat bearing No. 5-A, on Ground Floor, Pocket-SG, DDA, Garden, Delhi. I have lost Original Allotment cum Demand Letter dated 01/07/1987 - 06/07/1987, NDC dated 20/06/1988, Intimation of Handover Possession dated 20.06.1988 & Possession Slip issued by DDA, for which complaint lodged to the police. Nobody can claim ownership on that basis. Finder may contact M-NO 9818538562.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my clients Smt. Era Gupta and Shri Rajiv Gupta Both R/o WZ Upper Ground Floor, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017, have dissolved and annulled their marriage. My clients have dissolved and annulled their marriage. My clients have dissolved and annulled their marriage.

To be known to all that I Balbir Kaur W/o Shri Gurcharan Singh R/o 462, Nimri Colony, Delhi-52, purchaser of MG Flat No. KC-13C, S.F., Ashok vihar-1, Delhi-52, has applied for conversion of the said flat from lease hold to free hold, vide application No. CD/404273 in DDA. Possession Slip & NDC of water & electricity of the above flat have been lost. An FIR on this effect has been lodged in Police Station, any person (s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original document, may right, cont. with above named person, at above add/Mob-88112308, within 15 days from date of the publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Deputy Dir./LBIH/ MIG or Dir. (H-), Block-D, Vikas Sadan, N-D-23, Dinesh Jain (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Byers beware any buyers of property in respect to the Property bearing No. F-133, Plot No. 18-S, Village-Basah Dara Pur, Colony Known as Sudarshan Park, New Delhi-110015, my client had purchased in the name of his wife Ms. Swati Singh Dio. Sh. Sunil Kumar Singh and same was registered with your office on Registration No. 2842, Regd. Year-2016-2017, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 2659, dated 28/02/2017. My client and aforesaid Property is under dispute with my client's wife.

LOST & FOUND

Be it known to all through this public notice that my client do hereby inform the public at large that if any person's bodies has/ have/ was/ were found shall be entered with respect to the aforesaid property then deemed to be null and void and also any agency dealing with them shall do the same on his/ her own risk and consequences & my client will not be responsible for any act, deal & commission & omission on their behalf.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client, Mrs. Sowa Apparels Private Limited, having its office at NO-51, Furniture Block, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi has entered into an agreement to sell through 24th of February, 2021 dated its duly authorised person with Mr. Ashutosh Sharma, son of Dr. Mahender Kumar, Resident of House No. 308, Sector-21B, Faridabad in respect of house bearing no. 308, abt measuring 513.88 square yards and located in Sector 21B, Faridabad. The sale deed has been also agreed to be executed and registered by the owner of the aforesaid house. Any third person dealing with this property other than my client would be doing so at their own risk and cost. My client is legally and lawfully entitled to purchase the said house from Mr. Ashutosh Sharma. Any objections to the aforesaid agreement/ understanding may be communicated to me in writing by Registered Post/ Speed Post at the address indicated herein below or by email before 24th of January, 2022.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to public at large that my clients Smt. Parnmeshwari Jain aged about 85 years, W/o Late Sri Madan Sain Jain R/o A-3/48, (Back Side), Paschim Vihar, New Delhi has executed and got registered her last Will dated 09.07.2021 which shall be binding upon her legal heirs, whereby she had bequeath 2/3rd share and 1/3rd share in property No. 33, Khara No. 223 and 220, Village Basai Darapur, Manohar Park Colony, Delhi respectively to her sons Rakesh Kumar Jain and Anil Jain and 1/7th undivided share in Property No.48A/3, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi to Rakesh Jain. My client had not gifted Paschim Vihar Property to Parveen Jain.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Jagdish Sharma S/O Sh. Ram Lal Sharma & Sunita Sharma W/O Sh. Jagdish Sharma both resident of RZ-66A, Sila Puri Part-I, Gali no. 10, 10, South West Delhi-110045, severally all relations & debar their son Neeraj Sharma and his wife Sanjana Sharma from all their movable & immovable properties due to their misconduct, misbehaviour and immoral attitude. My clients & their family members & relatives will not be responsible for any act or deed of whatsoever. Anybody deals with them shall do at his/her own costs & risk.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to certify that Sh. Ram Kishan Sharma S/O Sh. Ram Swaroop Sharma and Smt. Shri Gireesh Sharma both resident of Kishan Sharma both R/O 31A, Gali No. 10, 10, South West Delhi-110045, 110045, are my clients and they both have down their son namely Anur, Sharma, daughter-in-law namely Nikita Sharma and their both grandchildren namely Ronak Sharma i.e. son & Prayeksha Sharma i.e. daughter, from all of their movable and immovable assets and properties and further declare that I am not responsible for any act or deed of whatsoever. Anybody deals with them shall do at his/her own costs & risk.

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Be it known to general public that my clients Sh. Gyan Singh S/o Late Sh. Hari Singh and Smt. Dulari Kaur W/o Sh. Gyan Singh and Smt. Dulari Kaur, Dhaba Colony, Delhi F-13, U.F., have died. My clients have died. My clients have died.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of IDFC First Bank Ltd. that Mr. Vijay Kumar Arora & Mr. Ajay Kumar Arora both sons and legal heirs of late Mr. Rajinder Nath Arora are claiming ownership of Property bearing No. F-27 in Block-A, area measure 200 sq. mts, Sector-Alpha-II, Greater Noida, District-Gautam Buddha Nagar (the said property) by virtue of Mutation Letter dated 30.09.2013 in the name of Greater Noida Authority, after demise of their father late Mr. Rajinder Nath Arora, who was the owner of the above property by virtue of Lease Deed dated 29.09.1998, Registration No. 10883/10884. All persons including other legal heirs if any are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want to sell the said property, to Mr. Krishan Kumar Sharma & Mrs. Shilpi Sharma who is taking Loan from IDFC First Bank Ltd. for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection in relation to the ownership of Mr. Vijay Kumar Arora & Mr. Ajay Kumar Arora to Sale/ Mortgage/lien, & any kind of objection, kindly inform the undersigned in writing at below mentioned address within 10 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, 2nd Flr, 22 Shiv Naga, Met Nagar, Delhi-15 (1114113)2, kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com Please join us on

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that I Balbir Kaur W/o Shri Gurcharan Singh R/o 462, Nimri Colony, Delhi-52, purchaser of MG Flat No. KC-13C, S.F., Ashok vihar-1, Delhi-52, has applied for conversion of the said flat from lease hold to free hold, vide application No. CD/404273 in DDA. Possession Slip & NDC of water & electricity of the above flat have been lost. An FIR on this effect has been lodged in Police Station, any person (s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original document, may right, cont. with above named person, at above add/Mob-88112308, within 15 days from date of the publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Deputy Dir./LBIH/ MIG or Dir. (H-), Block-D, Vikas Sadan, N-D-23, Dinesh Jain (Advocate)

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"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD

No. ACE-III/2021-22/313 NIT : 07/2021-22 Date: 18.01.2022 Bids for (1) External Electrification, Decorative Lighting, HV AC and Fire Fighting work for development of Fountain Square at V.T. road, Mansarovar, RHB, Jaipur. (2) Lighting work of Jogging track at City Park Mansarovar, Jaipur are invited from interested bidders from 20.01.2022 (6.00 PM) to 09.02.2022 upto 6.00 PM. Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state & http://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rhb department website. UBN :- (1) RHB2122WSOB0232 (2) RHB2122WSOB0233 Raj.Samwad/C/10636/2021-2022 Addl. Chief Engineer-III, Jaipur

F. No. A-22014/01/2022/NML-ERMED National Medical Laboratory

Directorate General of Health Services New Delhi-110029 Tel: 26589401/ 26589489 TENDER NOTICE Sealed tenders are invited from reputed and experienced firms/agencies by Director, NML for and on behalf of the President of India for tender inquiry for supply of e-journals for NML-ERMED Consortium for the year 2022. Tender Document can be obtained during working hours from S.O., NML on payment of non-refundable tender cost of Rs. 1000/- (Rs. One Thousand only) in cash or in the form of DD in favour of "Pay and Accounts Officer", S/J, Payable at New Delhi or can be downloaded from the Official Web-site: http://eprocure.gov.in/epublish or https://dghs.gov.in. Tender Document complete in all respects should reach The Director, NML - on or before 07.02.2022 by 1300 hrs., along with the cost of tender if downloaded and EMD as specified in the tender document. Director National Medical Laboratory davp 17135/11/0007/2122

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Name of Board/Corp./Auth, Name of Work/Notice/Tender, Opening Date/Closing Date (Time), Amount/EMD (Approx.) in Rupees, Website of the Board/Corp./Auth, Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email. Row 1: Municipal Committee Dharuhera, Catching Terror Monkey in Municipal Limit Municipal Committee Dharuhera, Closing Date 24.01.2022, 11.70 LACS, https://tenders.hry.nic.in, secy.mc.dharuhera@gmail.com

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

खुली ई-निविदा सूची ई निविदा संख्या S&T/AlI/21/02/R भारत सच के राष्ट्रपति एवं उनकी और से उपर मुख्य सिगनल एवं दूसरेवार विभाग (निर्माण), उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, आमंत्रित निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु निष्क्रिय प्रचन पर खुली ई निविदा (Single Packet) आमंत्रित करते हैं। कार्य का नाम : Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of Communication System for TUNNEL (T1, T2 & T3) in Kharwa Chanda - Zawal block section of UdzH-MHT G.C. Section of Amrit division on North Western Railway. कार्य की अनुमानित लागत : रुपये 02,80,83,714.18- ब्यागना राशि जमा कराने हेतु : रुपये 2,60,500.00 Date of Opening of E-tender will be 09.02.2022. Website particulars and notice board location were completed by this office. The eligibility criteria for the tender are mentioned on the tender document which can be downloaded w.e.f. 17.01.2022 from the website "http://www.ireps.gov.in" 811-DH/21 Please join us on

DELHI JAL BOARD

Table with 5 columns: S.No., Description, Amount put to tender, Earnest Money (in Rs.), Tender Fee (Non Refundable) (in Rs.), Completion period, Last date/time for tender download through e-procurement solution. Row 1: Providing laying additional outlet sewer line from Dashrath Puri Metro Station to Tek Chand Nursery, Sagar pur in Dwarika constituency. Tender ID: 2022_DUB_214850_1, 7,40,00,574/-, 14,80,012/-, 1500/-, 180 days, 11.02.2022 up to 03:00 PM.

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

1. Station Commander, Military Station Alwar invites applications (after document) from desirous Government buildings and private house owners at Narnaul to rent out their building on hire for 2/3 years to Defence Department (Ex Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme). The rental period can be renewed subsequent after meeting laid down criteria . 2. The desired parameters and conditions of the building are as under : (a) Minimum Plinth Area 4000 Sq.ft approximately . (b) Location within the city / town vis - a - vis important hospitals and health facilities with connectivity of Road / Rail . (c) Preferably Ground Floor with at least 8-10 rooms, toilets with electricity and water supply, it with first floor should have suitable ramp for wheelchair and stretcher. (d) Suitable building for placement of medical equipment. (e) Rent responsibility certificate for approval from local municipality / revenue authorities, to be attached with the application. (f) Rent will be paid as per Govt approved norms and regulations regarding span/plinth area, facilities and type/class of city. NOTE : Desirous persons should forward their application along with sketch / blue print to DIC ECHS Cell, Station HQs., Alwar by 05 Feb 2022 positively | Contact No - 0144-2980318, 11.00AM to 3.00PM)

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M)

Table with 6 columns: S.No., Name of work, E/Money, Tender Fee, Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution, Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution. Row 1: Supply & Laying of various size cables for Tubewells at Dwarika WTP (Item No. 1), Rs. 81,000/-, Rs. 500/-, 2022_DJB_214887_1 Date - 17.01.2022, 01.02.2022 at 2:30 P.M. Row 2: Arrangement for Tubewells operation through S/I/T/C of panels and allied works at Dwarika WTP. (Item No. 2), Rs. 1,00,000/-, Rs. 500/-, 2022_DJB_214891_1 Date - 17.01.2022, 01.02.2022 at 2:30 P.M.

Statement-1 GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA Public Works (Building) Division, Pune- 411 003

Phone No. 020/25817517 Web- www.mahapwd.com &

Meet the good cop on football beat

Policeman-turned-coach Dennerby aiming to guide India past group stage in the Asian Cup

MIHIR VASAVDA
JANUARY 18

NOTHING ABOUT coach Thomas Dennerby suggests he is a former cop who takes no-nonsense.

The Swede laughs easily, speaks in a soft, comforting tone and says, with a smile, he is kind. "That's what a lot of people tell me," he grins. "That job gave me a different perspective on life."

On night patrols, Dennerby the policeman had brushes with hardened criminals, intervened in ugly family fights and even prevented suicides. In the mornings, after dealing with the real-world issues, coach Dennerby wouldn't have the heart to yell at his players for merely missing a pass. "What is more important?" he asks, rhetorically. "That job changed me as a person."

For a fortnight, starting Thursday, the good cop will patrol the Indian women football team's dugout in the Asian Cup. The continental championship, which is also a 2023 World Cup qualifier, will kick off on Thursday with a clash between the competition's most successful team, 8-time champions China, and Chinese Taipei in Mumbai. Later in the day, India will open their campaign against Iran in Navi Mumbai.

Dennerby, the first foreign coach of India's women team, faces an unenviable task: to take an inexperienced team, which is brimming with potential, past the group stage in its first appearance at the Asian Cup since 2003. "Our first target is to reach the quarterfinals," he tells The Indian Express. "But first, we have to put a good performance against Iran and then see what happens. It's thrilling, it's fine, it's nice. When it comes to elite sports, you want to be on the big scene."

The 62-year-old is familiar with the highs of playing on the 'big scene'. As the coach of Sweden women, Dennerby made up for a group-stage exit at the 2007 World Cup by finishing third in the 2011 edition. It was only the third time Sweden had reached the semi-finals of a World Cup. He also was Sweden's coach at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics; both times, they were knocked out in the quarterfinals. Then, as the coach of Nigerian women, he guided the team to the women's African Cup of Nations title in 2018 and, the following year, steered them to the quarterfinals of the World Cup for the first time in 20 years.

Sweden to Nigeria to India

India, though, will be a different challenge. The previous two national teams Dennerby coached had a proper football culture. "In Sweden, most of the girls in the national team have been playing football since they were six years old. It starts with one or two times a week to at least five or six times



Under Thomas Dennerby's coaching, the Indian women's football team has so far played seven international games. AIFF

when they are 15-16 years old with their academy teams. So when they arrive in the national team, they are experienced already. They also play every weekend in the league. To play that much football 11 months a year helps a lot," he says.

If Sweden had a solid structure, the players in Nigeria had a winning mentality. "The girls were physical, strong, powerful players. Not always super organised, but they had that feeling that 'no one can beat us, we are number 1.' They were strong mentally to handle every situation."

When he accepted the offer to come to India, Dennerby had no knowledge of Indian football. And he wasn't the only one.

Women's football has always been an afterthought in India. There has been no proper league, virtually no investment, and no matches for the national team - certainly none of this level.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has taken baby steps in rectifying the situation in the last two years. But the damage caused by decades of neglect can't be undone in such a short time.

The federation hopes the Asian Cup and the under-17 World Cup, which India will host later in the year, will fast-track the development of the women's game. Dennerby, who learnt about his players after watching videos sent by junior women's coach Alex

"We have had 90 football sessions, 50 strength sessions, 50 running sessions, seven national team games, 10 internal games, 3 games against local teams. We have had over 200 sessions since we started in August. So even if we learnt one thing in every session, we have learnt 200 things"

THOMAS DENNERBY
INDIAN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM COACH

Ambrose, was originally hired to coach the under-17s. However, after their World Cup got postponed due to the pandemic, he was given charge of the senior side in August last year.

200-plus sessions

Five months is barely any time to prepare a team for a competition of this magnitude. But it's not like he's had to start from scratch.

The Indian players, he says, were speedy and had a good technique. They, however, needed direction in the way they played. "When you have speed, you need to find the best way to use it. For us, that meant not sending so many long balls for the forwards.

So we try to build up, so we can play the crucial pass with more accuracy, making it harder to defend. And then use our speed."

To last 90 minutes while playing with speed requires a high level of endurance, which India lacked. "It was enough to play one game, rest for a week and then play again. But that's not what's going on when you come to a tournament," Dennerby says.

He roped in Swedish World Cupper Jane Torqvist, one of the finest defenders of her generation, as the strength and conditioning coach. Torqvist's task is to help the team reach a level where they can play a match every three days with the same intensity."

"We have had 90 football sessions, 50 strength sessions, 50 running sessions, seven national team games, 10 internal games, 3 games against local teams," Dennerby says. "We have had over 200 sessions since we started in August. So even if we learnt one thing in every session, we have learnt 200 things." Dennerby pauses for a second, smiles, and adds: "Hopefully, we have improved."

With very little international exposure for the team, the coach and his players enter the tournament blindfolded. It'll be the young team's biggest challenge yet. And while the players will fight it out on the pitch, they'll have the good cop patrolling the Indian dugout.

Murray records first Aus Open win since 2017

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MELBOURNE, JANUARY 18

FIVE YEARS and five long sets later, five-time Australian Open runner-up Andy Murray finally has won another match at the season-opening Grand Slam tournament. The former No. 1-ranked Murray, playing thanks to a wild-card invitation as he continues his career comeback from hip operations and thoughts of retirement, beat 21st-seeded Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-1, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-4 on Tuesday to reach the second round at Melbourne Park.

He lost a five-setter in the first round in 2019 - a match he, and everyone else, thought might have been his last in Australia - after missing the 2018 edition with an injury. He missed the 2020 tournament with a pelvic injury and last year's event because of COVID-19. "It's been a tough three, four years. Put in a lot of work to get back here," Murray said in his post-match TV interview at John Cain Arena, which was formerly known as Hisense and is parochially referred to as the People's Court. "I've played on this court many times, the atmosphere is incredible. This is the one where I thought I'd played my last." Murray beat Basilashvili in a three-hour three-setter last week in Sydney, where he reached the final of the tuneup tournament. This one went almost four hours.

It was Murray's 49th win in an Australian Open singles match, moving him ahead of Andre Agassi and Ivan Lendl into fifth-place all-time. According to the International Tennis Federation, it's the most match wins at a Grand Slam tournament without winning the title, surpassing Lendl's 48 at Wimbledon.

Second-seeded Daniil Medvedev, one of the biggest potential beneficiaries of Djokovic's deportation, had a much more routine first round. Nine-time champion Djokovic was already back in Serbia - two days after losing his legal challenge to stay in Australia despite being unvaccinated against COVID-19 - when Medvedev went into Rod Laver Arena for a 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (3) win over Henri Laaksonen.

Aiming to be the first man in the Open era to win his second major title in the very next Grand Slam appearance after his first such trophy, Medvedev advanced along with No. 4 Stefanos Tsitsipas, No. 5 Andrey Rublev, No. 11 Jannik Sinner, No. 13 Diego Schwartzman and No. 15 Roberto Bautista Agut.

Nobody has dominated in Melbourne like Djokovic, who is unbeaten in the 18 combined semifinals and finals he's reached at the Australian Open, including last year's victory over Medvedev for the title.

But Medvedev avenged that with his breakthrough major title at the US Open, where his victory meant Djokovic's bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam finished one win short. "I like pressure," Medvedev said.



Britain's Andy Murray won his first round match against Georgia's Nikoloz Basilashvili at the Australian Open. Reuters

"Always want to do better than I did last year, (but) it's not going to be easy."

Leylah Fernandez, the 19-year-old Canadian, lost 6-2, 6-4 to 133rd-ranked wild-card entry Maddison Inglis in her first Grand Slam match since her runner-up finish at the US Open.

Fernandez made 30 unforced errors, dropped her serve three times and hit only eight winners on 1573 Arena against Inglis, who converted her third match point to complete her very first win in the main draw of a major.

Also advancing were 2021 French Open finalist Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and Simona Halep, a former No 1 and a two-time major champion who reached the 2018 final at Melbourne Park.

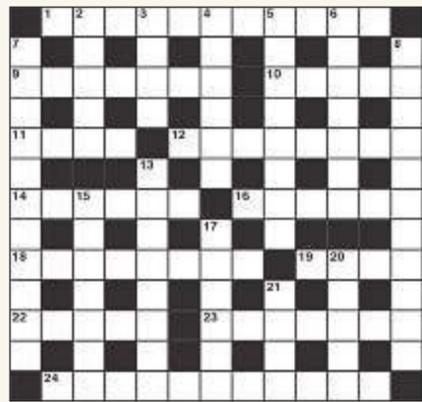
The venue and the vibe were a long way from her run to the final against Emma Raducanu at Flushing Meadows last September. Raducanu fared better in her debut at the Australian Open. The 17th-seeded Briton beating 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens 6-0, 2-6, 6-1 in a seensawing night match that brought the Day 2 program to a close.

FIRST ROUND

Men's singles:
A Murray (GBR) beat 21-N Basilashvili (GEO) 6-1 3-6 6-4 6-7(5) 6-4, 4-S Tsitsipas (GRE) beat M Ymer (SWE) 6-2 6-4 6-3, 5-A Rublev (RUS) beat G Mager (ITA) 6-3 6-2 6-2, N Kyrgios (AUS) beat L Broady (GBR) 6-4 6-6 3, 2-D Medvedev (RUS) beat H Laaksonen (FIN) 6-1 6-4 7-6(3)

Women's singles:
6-A Kontaveit (EST) beat K Siniakova (CZE) 6-2 6-3; 17-E Raducanu (GBR) beat S Stephens (USA) 6-0 2-6 6-1; 3-G Muguruza (ESP) beat C Burel (FRA) 6-3 6-4; 7-I Swiatek (POL) beat H Dart (GBR) 6-3 6-0; 2-A Sabalenka (BLR) beat S Sanders (AUS) 5-7 6-3 6-2

CROSSWORD 4641



- ACROSS**
1 Attractive girl - and what it might cost to take her out (6,5)
9 Fit to work like a horse (7)
10 Duck down (5)
11 Bread bowl (4)
12 Military call for a rising (8)
14 Asian sailors? (6)
16 Put off one's retirement (4,2)
18 Sartorially appropriate but not quite yet (8)
19 Reversed figure in holding company (4)
22 Some winners congratulate rivals afterwards (5)
23 Slander Parsees badly (7)
24 Advisers are not the same as opponents (11)
- DOWN**
2 Country river - a Russian river (5)
3 You alter them in the end (4)
4 Sycophants according to an enemy's version (3-3)
5 The rudiments of meteorology (8)
6 Remarkably one lady is on time (2,5)
7 At which steps may be taken to alleviate hardship (7,4)
8 One who is at liberty to be extravagant? (4,7)
13 Its growth may be dated (4,4)
15 Told and heard as being put back (7)
17 Records at non-U plants (6)
20 Charming hostess helped guests make pigs of themselves (5)
21 A boom in shipping perhaps (4)

Solutions Crossword 4640: Across: 1 Mohair, 4 Schedule, 9 Lariat, 10 Asprate, 12 Cute, 13 Knead, 14 Bent, 17 Light-hearted, 20 Ships' masters, 23 Enid, 24 Turo, 25 Taxi, 28 Rub along, 29 Sandra, 30 Steadies, 31 Fiddle. Down: 1 Molecule, 2 Heritage, 3 Iran, 5 Casual remark, 6 Exit, 7 Usages, 8 Events, 11 Intemperance, 15 Itchy, 16 Beast, 18 Retarded, 19 Estimate, 21 Zebras, 22 Liable, 26 Glad, 27 Dali.

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.

The _____ is a man's birthplace. - Caecilius Statius (5,5)

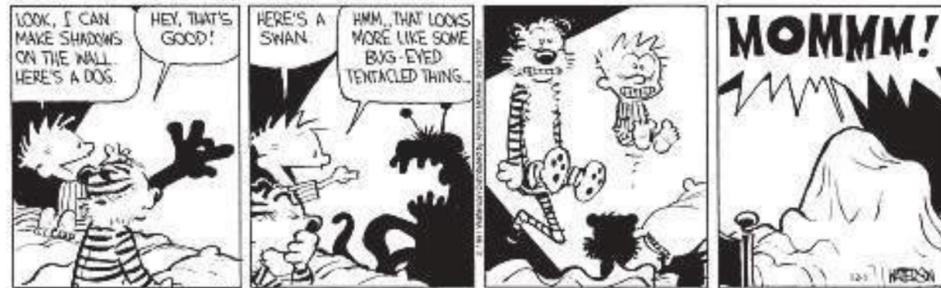
NPEOR BESUDH
 FYLLO ALLOWWW

SOLUTION: PRONE, FOLLY, BUSHEd, WATLOW
 Answer: The whole world is a man's birthplace. - Caecilius Statius

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



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 4718



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
 The Sun and Moon play a delicate balancing act encouraging a general feeling of well-being. It's important to seek out like-minded people, otherwise you'll spend far too long struggling by yourself. There is no point in wasting energy on unnecessary struggles.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
 Legal and professional problems are paramount, so think twice before you bend the rules, and always do the right thing by others. On the serious side, you are obliged to learn, to face challenges and tackle new experiences. On the lighter side, you'll soon discover that a lover is on your side.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
 You will be expected to shut up and listen to other people. The problem is that you are only too aware of the way in which partners tend to ignore the facts in favour of dogma. If only they'd stop and think. Still, perhaps that's too much to ask.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
 Joint finances are too complicated by half, and a partner's demands are winding you up. You would do well to accomplish all necessary tasks yourself, rather than waiting for other people to come up with the goods; you might end up waiting forever.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
 It's an excellent day to compete and come first, but you must play by the rules. The moment that you think you can get away with cutting corners or saving time, you will run the risk of running into a vast brick wall. That would be a shame indeed, for you, if for nobody else.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
 Work and routine responsibilities are building up, so roll your sleeves up and get your hands dirty. A wonderful emotional offer comes your way, but you may fail to get off the starting block. Value your traditional Virgoan qualities, organisational skill and efficiency.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
 Short journeys and serious meetings are likely, but don't expect instant results. You, more than anyone, will benefit from following tradition. Your delight in good manners and polite behaviour should now be exploited for all it's worth. Go on and stake your claim to a better future.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)
 Fresh financial adventures are on the way, but you may decide to do nothing in the face of serious choices. At work, please be sure to take time off; many working people could be spending more and more time in 'meetings', or otherwise finding ways to do nothing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)
 Once again your cash situation is looking intensely complicated, but the next few weeks should bring the solution. However, please don't neglect your emotional needs, otherwise you'll end up all alone. A fresh try at improving an old relationship could be well worth the effort.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
 You may keep your secrets, and don't tell everyone what's going on. The average Capricorn now needs a little time by her or himself, so partners please take note. Business decisions taken now will have very long-term implications, so make sure you get what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
 Your stars suggest that profound psychological patterns are at work, pushing you so hard that you end up worn out. Your confidence might be dealt a temporary blow, but press on and you'll win in the end. As you know, there is no alternative.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
 You're experiencing the weight of material responsibilities more deeply than before, but this could be a good thing. You see, if you worry about what might happen, it will motivate you to do something productive with your time. A little extra pressure can be a good thing.

TILEY GETS BACKING

Tennis Australia's (TA) board has backed embattled chief executive Craig Tiley amid calls for him to be sacked following world number one Novak Djokovic's deportation from Australia. **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

Prannoy in Rd 2, Sourabh loses

Lucknow: India's HS Prannoy entered the second round of the men's singles competition at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament after registering a straight-game win over Ukraine's Danylo Bosniuk but seventh seed Sourabh Verma was dunned by Azerbaijan's Ade Resky Dwicahyo here on Tuesday. The fifth seeded Prannoy took just 36 minutes to get the better of Bosniuk 21-14 21-18 in his opening match. Prannoy gave a good account of himself before being stopped by 20-year-old Lakshya Sen in the quarterfinals of the India Open last week. However, the tournament was over for fourth seed Later in the day, Sourabh suffered a 15-21, 21-19, 21-18 first-round defeat to Dwicahyo in a match that lasted one hour and seven minutes. Among women, Ashmita Chaliha gave a first round walkover to Malvika Bansod, while Aakarshi Kashyap defeated Mugdha Agrey 21-13, 21-14 and Anupama Upadhyaya eased past Rituparna Das. **PTI**

Direct entry for Rohan-Ramkumar

Pune: The Indian duo of Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan were on Tuesday handed a direct entry into the doubles main draw of the fourth edition of Tata Open Maharashtra tennis tournament, beginning here on January 31. The pair, which won the Adelaide International ATP-250 event earlier this month, earned a spot in the main draw with a combined ranking of 156. The direct acceptance list consists of 14 pairs with a cut off ranking of 250. In the 2019 edition, the Asian Games champion star doubles player Bopanna lifted the title with Divij Sharan while Ramkumar had a semi-final finish in the last edition with Purav Raja. Now playing together, Bopanna and Ramkumar will look to carry forward their brilliant start to the year when they return to Pune. The 2020 Australian Open finalists Max Purcell and Luke Saville have also been included in the doubles main draw. **PTI**

Lewandowski pips Messi for Fifa award

Zurich: Robert Lewandowski was voted the best men's player in the world, retaining the FIFA award he won last year despite being left off the ballot paper filed by runner-up Lionel Messi. The Bayern Munich forward overturned the result last month of the Ballon d'Or prize where he placed second behind Messi, who finally led Argentina to a senior title at the 2021 Copa América. Mohamed Salah of Liverpool placed third. Lewandowski was the overwhelming choice of national team captains and coaches plus selected media in more than 200 countries, yet was almost caught by Messi, who got more than double the number of votes from fans worldwide than the Poland captain. All three candidates voted as captains of their national teams, and Lewandowski ranked Messi second of his three choices. Salah had Lewandowski and Messi in his top three. Messi did not pick either of his closest rivals in the voting. His top two choices were Neymar and Kylian Mappé, his teammates at PSG. **AP**



Rahul's apprenticeship begins

He is filling in for Rohit but will be under the microscope as India looks for Kohli's successor in Tests

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
JANUARY 18

HIS SUDDEN promotion has put KL Rahul in uncharted territory. On Monday, the BCCI's Twitter handle posted a picture of the 29-year-old addressing a team huddle. Virat Kohli, a member of the group, was listening with intent. Rahul's body language was quite assertive. When Rahul led India in the second Test against South Africa, after back spasms had ruled Kohli out, he looked cagey, especially during the hosts' run-chase in the fourth innings. But when he came for the press conference on the eve of the ODI series, he showed quiet confidence.

Rahul's tacit approach is the exact opposite of Kohli's high-octane style, but he isn't a pushover either. When reminded about his ordinary record as captain in the Indian Premier League and the Test defeat at the Wanderers, Rahul's reply had a cheeky dig. "Thanks for the stats, man. It gives me a lot of confidence."

He spoke about learning on the job. "I will make mistakes along the way. But I will learn and I will get better. That's where my mind is at. This one-day series is a fresh start again, a new opportunity and a great opportunity to captain my country."

Those who have covered Indian cricket for long enough will find a throwback, when Rahul Dravid took over the captaincy from the gung-ho Sourav Ganguly.

Suddenly press conferences became matter-of-fact, troubling headline writers. This is not Rahul's full-time initiation, but if morning shows the day, his style would be akin to his more illustrious namesake, who is now the head coach of the Indian team.

Expectedly, there were some nerves, when Rahul said by mistake that India were "unfortunate to lose at Centurion" instead of Wanderers.

"We did have a great chance at Centurion to win the Test match. It was a bit unfortunate and I did feel there were a lot of learnings." He stressed upon staying balanced. "I take every game as it comes. (I'm) not someone who really gets worried or gets too happy. I stay balanced with the results." He also spoke about carrying forward his learnings from MS Dhoni and Kohli, "two great captains".

Set to open in Rohit's absence

Limited-overs cricket, however, doesn't have the ebb and flow of the long form and a captain's role in the white-ball varieties is somewhat limited. Rahul the batsman will



Stand-in ODI skipper KL Rahul during a training session in Boland Park, Paarl, on the eve of the first ODI. **BCCI**

be more important than Rahul the skipper in the three ODIs and in Rohit Sharma's absence, he will bat up the order.

"Obviously, in the last 14-15 months I have batted at No. 5, No. 4, different positions. That's what the team needed of me then. But now with Rohit not being here, I will bat at the top of the order," he said.

Rahul dropped a hint that India might go with two spinners in the first ODI, for the Boland Park pitch in Paarl is expected to assist twerkers.

"We practised for a couple of days at Boland Park and the pitch does look like it might offer a lot more for spinners than what we got in the Test series. We have quality spinners... (Ravichandran) Ashwin's coming back into the one-day team and we all know what quality he brings in, and (Yuzvendra) Chahal has been a great performer for us. So yeah, if there's any assistance from the pitch, I know, these two will really exploit it."

New fast-bowling allrounder

If Ashwin presents a comeback story - returning to the ODI fold after four-and-a-half

years - Venkatesh Iyer's been a case of a player's meteoric rise, on the back of his performance for Kolkata Knight Riders in half-an-IPL.

The next 50-over World Cup is in 2023, but the Indian team will play this ODI series with an eye to the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year.

From that perspective, the team management is backing Iyer to grow in his job as a seam-bowling all-rounder.

"Yes, fast-bowling all-rounders are always an asset. They balance the team out. So very excited about Venkatesh Iyer; he is really looking good at the nets and it's a great opportunity for him," said Rahul.

A lot has changed for the stand-in skipper over the last six months, from returning to the Test team to leading India on an overseas assignment.

"The only difference I think is, I have been spoken about a lot more. A lot has been written about me," Rahul was tongue-in-cheek.

1st ODI, live on Star Sports network: 2:00 pm

Rabada rested for ODI series: CSA

Paarl: South Africa's lead pacer Kagiso Rabada was released from the team for the 3-match ODI series against India as part of its workload management. "Proteas seam bowler, Kagiso Rabada, has been released from the team for the One-Day International (ODI) series against India due to high workloads over a sustained period of time and the need for him to recover prior the outbound Test series against New Zealand next month," Cricket South Africa (CSA) said in a statement. The board said no replacement will be brought in for Rabada as there is an extended squad in place in the Bio-Secure Environment (BSE), but George Linde has been retained from the Test team as an extra spin-bowling option for the series. **PTI**

Markram oscillates between future captain, vulnerable talent

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
MUMBAI, JANUARY 18

IN OCTOBER 2019, Aiden Markram punched himself out of South Africa's forgettable tour of India. He fractured his wrist while letting his anger out on a "solid object" after scoring twin ducks in the second Test in Pune.

His long-time mentor and current Namibia coach Pierre de Bruyn was worried. He felt Markram's act was the fallout of frustration that had started to build when he was surprisingly named South Africa captain for the home ODI series against India in 2018.

Markram has been South African cricket's great hope since he became the only captain to win a World Cup for his country - the Under-19 title in 2014, when he was also Player of the Tournament. By 2017, he was playing for the senior side, and in only his third ODI, at age 23, he was chosen to lead South Africa after Faf du Plessis got injured. Could there be some truth to the comparisons with Graeme Smith after all? But what actually happened was disastrous.

South Africa were hammered 1-5 by India. By the fifth ODI in Port Elizabeth, where the series was lost, de Bruyn says Markram was completely disoriented.

"I sat down with Aiden after that series and he said to me that when he walked off the field in Port Elizabeth, he could not recall his dismissal, he was so confused," says 44-year old de Bruyn, who had a 15-year long first-class career.

"I believe what we saw later (in Pune) was a build-up, a ticking time bomb. It was a frustrating tour for him, and the whole captaincy thing that had been placed on his shoulders before... there was too much going on off the field. That is not Aiden, to go into a change room and hit the cupboard. When that incident happened, I was worried."

De Bruyn hits out at the "poor decision" that he feels set Markram's white-ball career back by two or three years. "I will never forget that series. He was a young man trying to establish himself in international cricket. He was seen as this leader which he is, he is a natural leader. But that decision put him three steps back in his white-ball cricket. He



South Africa will breathe easy if Markram is able to find form in ODIs after an underwhelming Test outing.

was dropped after that (in 2019).

"The planning by the management then was pathetic. It was like a wish-for-the-best decision... 'can Aiden Markram just get us out of this hole? Is he really the guy? We

don't really know, but let's take a chance."

Markram has divided opinion for a long time. When he gets going with the bat, he is a treat to watch. But many are starting to lose patience with his inconsistency. Like de Bruyn, many also feel his leadership skills are best utilised without a formal title weighing him down.

Test skipper Dean Elgar has spoken about Markram's eloquence in the change room and how his words easily command the attention of even seniors. Also among his backers has been Ray Jennings, who had coached that champion junior side in 2014.

"I don't think he would have punched that door if he was captain," Jennings had said of the Pune incident. Jennings has been in favour of giving Markram the captaincy.

But de Bruyn, who was the Markrams' neighbour in Pretoria, knows how fragile Aiden can be if not handled properly. He once had to talk him out of his desire to quit the game, after he was not selected for the regional age-group team.

"He was confused and disappointed. I told him you must come to the University of

Late night Ashes party: ECB to probe after cops get complaint

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOBART, JANUARY 18

THE ENGLAND and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has launched an investigation into a late night drinking session involving captain Joe Root after police were called to break up the post Ashes party at the team hotel here.

Veteran England pacer James Anderson and three Australian players Alex Carey, Travis Head and Nathan Lyon were also seen in a video as they got together to mark the end of the Ashes at the tourists' Hobart hotel, according to reports. The ECB on Tuesday said it was investigating the incident.

"During the early hours of Monday morning, members of the England and Australia men's teams shared a drink in the team areas of the hotel in Hobart," the ECB said. "The hotel management received a noise complaint by a hotel guest, and as is commonplace in Australia, the local police attended the scene," the statement said.

"When asked to leave by hotel management and the Tasmanian police, the players and management in question left and returned to their respective hotel rooms. The England party have apologised for any inconvenience caused." The video, which has gone viral, was allegedly taken by England assistant Graham Thorpe.

The players were seen being confronted by at least four police officers who told them to shut down the party and disperse. "Lyon and Carey were still in their playing whites having capped off a 4-0 Ashes triumph over England the night before," Fox Sports reported. "Tasmania police confirmed they were called to the Crowne Plaza hotel after 06:00 local time following a report of 'intoxicated people' but said no further action would be taken." In the video, the group of players was asked to stop drinking and move inside from the rooftop terrace.

As per reports, a police officer can be heard saying: "Too loud. You have obviously been asked to pack up, so we've been asked to come." "Time for bed. Thank you. They just want to pack up." According to a spokesperson from Tasmania Police, officers had removed players from a bar at the Crowne Plaza Hotel after noise complaints. "Tasmania Police attended the Crowne Plaza Hobart on Monday morning after reports were made of intoxicated people in a function area," the spokesperson told *The Daily Telegraph*. "The guests were spoken to by police just after 6:00am and left the area when asked. No further action will be taken by police."

LOST YEARS

Journeymen hit hard by Ranji postponement, financially and cricket-wise

ASHISH SATYAM
PATNA, JANUARY 18

WITH THE 2021-22 season of the Ranji Trophy currently postponed due to the pandemic, after the tournament was cancelled last term, it has hit hard particularly those domestic players who only play the long format of the game.

Not only do they lose out on earnings, their cricketing development is stalled also. Bihar captain Ashutosh Aman is one of them.

A left-arm spinner by trade, Aman bagged 68 wickets in the 2018-19 domestic season, surpassing Bishan Singh Bedi's 44-year-old record - the former India skipper had 64 scalps during the 1974-75 season - in the process. But two years without first-class cricket has made it a distant memory for the 35-year-old. A lucky few in domestic cricket have IPL contracts, but Aman is not one of them.

"It doesn't matter if a cricketer is playing the IPL or not. Everybody wants to play the Ranji Trophy and perform well, aspiring to

play for the country," Aman told *The Indian Express*. "We work hard for the entire year, but it's unfortunate that the Ranji Trophy has been postponed again. Still, we are hopeful that soon everything will be under control. The BCCI has also assured the players that they will try their best to organise the tournament."

Born in Gaya, Aman's journey has been an eventful one.

His parents wanted him to study and get a decent job. So when after completing school, he got a job with the Indian Air Force, it was accepted as good news.

Aman, though, had already fallen for cricket, after watching Sachin Tendulkar on television.

"I was inclined towards cricket since my childhood. I watched Sachin Tendulkar on TV, which triggered the interest. At the time, however, Bihar had very little cricket and as there was no professional cricket played in Gaya, we used to play a lot of tennis ball stuff," Aman said.

"After completing Class X, I joined the Indian Air Force. Eventually, I came to know



Ashutosh Aman took 68 wickets in the 2018-19 season, surpassing Bishan Bedi's 44-year-old record of 64.

that the Air Force has its own cricket team as well. I never played any leather-ball cricket until I joined the Air Force. But some experience in tennis-ball cricket allowed me to make the transition."

Aman soon started to impress people. "I got selected for the Air Force cricket team and practised with them in Delhi. Selection to the main squad comes via performances in inter-departmental games. I started in 2005-06 and took three years to reach the next level," he said.

In 2010-11, he got into the Services team, played some limited-overs matches but couldn't graduate to play the Ranji Trophy.

Aman returned to Bihar and got into the state Ranji team.

"When I came to Bihar on my holidays, the Gaya District Association approached me to play for them in inter-district matches and I agreed. The matches were played at Moin-ul-Haque Stadium in Patna and my performance was very good. An offer came from the state association to appear for the Ranji trials, subject to Bihar getting BCCI affiliation. That eventually happened," he recalled, adding:

"At the time, Pragyan Ojha was the captain of the Bihar team and Subroto Banerjee the coach. They picked me and boosted my confidence. I performed well and became the Bihar captain in that season itself. My family wanted me to study and get a decent job. Initially, I was also focusing on academics but when I got a good job, they all supported me. They encouraged me to play professional cricket," Aman said.

Now in his mid-30s, he looks after his fitness, workout sessions and diet, and still harbours hope of playing for the country. He is happy that the infrastructure in Bihar cricket "has started to improve".

"Age is just a number. Wriddhiman Saha is playing Tests at 38 years of age. So, I'm not much concerned about my age. I always hope to get a chance in the future, if I play well. I just focus on the process."

The quagmire

The Covid pandemic has stalled that process and he is not alone in this quagmire. "It's not only about the monetary aspects. Our cricketing progress has hit a roadblock.

Missing two years of first-class cricket on the bounce can be a big setback for any player. He can lose his form and lose the opportunity to knock on the Indian team's door. The BCCI compensated the players for last season's cancellation, which has been sort of 50 per cent. But if you play a full season, at least eight games in the Ranji Trophy, with the match fee being increased to Rs 60,000 per day for the players who have 40-plus games under their belt, one is set to earn around Rs 19 lakh in a season," senior Bengal batsman Anustup Majumdar told this paper.

His state team-mate Koushik Ghosh, basically a one-format player, rued the postponement.

"Yes, we received 50 per cent match money for last season, but haven't played red-ball cricket this season at all. The biggest problem is that this has been impacting our mindset. You need a different mindset to play first-class cricket."

Ghosh urged Cricket Association of Bengal to organise the office league, for his job with the Income Tax department is linked to it.