

# The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE  
SINCE 1932

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**DECISION 2022**



**PRIYANKA PITCHES HERSELF AS PARTY'S CM FACE IN U.P.**

**UTPAL PARRIKAR QUILTS BJP, TO CONTEST AS INDEPENDENT**

**HARAK SINGH RAWAT JOINS CONGRESS**  
PAGES 6, 7

## Delhi govt seeks to ease Covid curbs, but L-G says not yet

Weekend curfew, odd-even for shops to stay; pvt offices can open with 50% staff

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

DELHI LIEUTENANT Governor Anil Bajjal on Friday rejected the government's proposal to lift the weekend curfew in the national capital and ease restrictions at markets, where odd-even is currently in place for shops. He, however, allowed private offices to reopen with 50 per cent capacity.

Bajjal said the restrictions need to remain in place until Covid cases come down in the city.

Responding to the rejection, the Delhi government said: "When all shops are open in Gurgaon and Noida, why should the business community of Delhi suffer?"

Raj Niwas sources said the L-G "had suggested that status quo be maintained with regards to weekend curfew and opening

of markets and a decision be taken once the Covid situation improves further".

Prior to the L-G's decision, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had said in a statement, "Covid cases in Delhi were at a peak on January 12 and the positivity rate was at 30 per cent. But now, cases are reducing daily and have come down to 10,500 today. Keeping in view the dip as well as people who are facing financial crises and losing jobs due to the restrictions, the government has decided to lift the weekend curfew, odd-even system in markets, and allow private offices to operate at 50 per cent capacity."

"Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has approved the proposal and sent it to L-G Bajjal for final approval. Once we get the approval, the same will be implemented in Delhi," Sisodia said, adding that the Covid peak

## POLITICAL FIRESTORM OVER ETERNAL FLAME DECISION

# Amar Jawan Jyoti, War Memorial flame are one; Netaji at India Gate

Statue symbol of indebtedness to him: PM; Govt, party hail move



A hologram statue of Subhas Chandra Bose to be unveiled on Jan 23. *Twitter/@narendramodi*

**MANOJ CG & DIVYA A**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

THE AMAR Jawan Jyoti, the eternal flame burning continuously for five decades at India Gate in honour of soldiers who died for the country, was put out Friday after being merged with the flame at the National War Memorial a few hundred metres away.

The move triggered a political firestorm with the Opposition accusing the government of attempting to rewrite history, a charge that members of the establishment and the ruling party rejected.

Amid the furore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi



A torch being lit from Amar Jawan Jyoti to be taken to National War Memorial on Friday. *PTI*

## War of words over flame, Cong dials down after statue announcement

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to merge the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate with the flame at the National War Memorial triggered a political furore Friday with the Congress attacking the government, saying it amounts to insulting history and memory of soldiers who died for the country.

Government sources, however, said the Amar Jawan Jyoti is not being extinguished and is being merged with the flame at the National War Memorial where names of "all Indian martyrs" in all wars, including 1971,

**EXPLAINED**

**SIMPLY PUT**  
**FLAME AND AN ICON**  
PAGE 13

**THE EDITORIAL PAGE**

**A DELAYED TRIBUTE**  
**BY ARUN PRAKASH**  
PAGE 10

are inscribed.

While most Opposition parties did not react, the Congress slammed the move but nuanced

## Veterans split: Need to move on versus why extinguish

**MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA & ARANYA SHANKAR**  
CHANDIGARH, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

WAR VETERANS are split on the government's decision to put out the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate and merge it with the flame at the National War Memorial.

Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur, former Additional Director General of the Centre for Air Power Studies, tagging the Prime Minister's Office in a tweet, said the eternal flame at India Gate is "part of India's psyche" and while the National War

## AG clears contempt of court case against Yati



Was arrested on January 15

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

ATTORNEY GENERAL K K Venugopal on Friday gave consent to a Mumbai-based activist to initiate criminal contempt of court proceedings against Yati Narsinghanand, saying his recent remarks about the Supreme Court were a "direct attempt to lower the authority" of the court "in the minds of the general public".

The key organiser of the three-day conclave held last month in Haridwar where several hate speeches were made targeting Muslims and calling for violence against them, Narsinghanand was arrested on January 15.

Earlier this month, activist Shachi Nelli had written to the AG, seeking permission to initiate contempt proceedings against Narsinghanand for his remarks in an interview that "went viral" on social media on January 14.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

## EXPRESS INVESTIGATION - PART 1

### TWO YEARS ON

# Property damage in anti-CAA stir in UP: Officials play judge and jury, due process derailed

No evidence, no hearing: *The Indian Express* found telling patterns in recovery orders issued by the administration

**APURVA VISHWANATH**  
LUCKNOW, ALLAHABAD, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

AS THE election campaign heats up in Uttar Pradesh, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act which set off protests in December 2019 — 22 were killed in clashes with police across the state — is on the backburner. Its rules haven't been framed yet and the law finds hardly a mention in any election speech.

However, one aspect of it continues to simmer: the manner in which the UP government, by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's own admission, has gone about exacting "revenge" ostensibly in its bid to recover the cost of public property damaged in the protests.

Its process under challenge in the courts, an investigation by *The Indian Express* reveals how the state administration cited a High Court ruling that went against an earlier Supreme Court verdict and rushed through an ordinance to play not only prosecutor but judge and jury as well. It gave itself sweeping powers to assess damage, estimate cost, bring charges, and fix liability with many of the accused not even getting a hearing.

Over 500 notices had gone out across 10 districts for damages worth an estimated Rs 3.35 crore.

At Ground Zero of the protests, in Lucknow's Hazratganj, recovery orders were issued by Additional District Magistrate Vaibhav Mishra to 46 individuals named in two FIRs to recover damages estimated at Rs 64.37 lakh. Each



Some of the accused in the Lucknow protests were shown in UP's contentious name-and-shame posters. *Vishal Srivastav*

## EXPLAINED

### Burden of joint liability

THE FIRST key judicial intervention against UP's push to recover money for property damage from those identified as anti-CAA protesters in Lucknow came almost a year after the first recovery notices were issued — in the form of a stay by the Allahabad HC's Lucknow bench on December 3, 2020. The stay followed UP's admission on how it had interpreted the civil law principle of "joint and several liability" in these cases.

**DETAILS, PAGE 9**

**TOMORROW: THOSE WHO HAD TO SHELL OUT MONEY**

was issued a recovery order with the same amount (Rs 64.37 lakh) as per what the ADM, controversially, said was the "doctrine of joint and several liability".

*The Indian Express* investigated all the 46 recovery orders to find patterns that are telling:

■ In civil proceedings before the ADM, 28 of the 46 named in two FIRs registered over the anti-CAA protests in Hazratganj on December 19, 2019 — all are out on bail — were finally held liable to pay for the damage caused.

However, in not a single case, did the police present any visual evidence — photo or video — that showed any of those named indulging in violence that day. All the orders, in fact, had one common line: "Video and photo evidence has not been available because protesters damaged three OB vans by burning them and the photographs that were taken were only of protesters in the front line and even those are not very clear."

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

## CBSE drops experts who set Sociology, English paper

**SUKRITA BARUAH**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

TWO SUBJECT experts identified as being responsible for controversial questions in the CBSE's Class 10 and 12 Term 1 examinations have been dropped from paper-setting panels by the Board, *The Indian Express* has learned. The Board has also set up a committee, headed by former Controller of Examinations Pavnesh Kumar, to review its paper-setting process.

The Term 1 Board examinations, held in November-December 2020, had seen two major controversies. The first was over a multiple choice question in the Class 12 Sociology examination that said: "The unprecedented scale and spread of anti-Muslim violence in Gujarat in 2002 took place under which government?" The options offered to answer this question were: "Congress", "BJP", "Democratic" and "Republican". The second was over the Class 10 English examination,

## Bodies of 2 killed in Abu Dhabi reach homes in Punjab: 'Was planning to start new life'



Grieving relatives at the Amritsar airport. *Rana Simranjit Singh*

**KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR**  
AMRITSAR, JANUARY 21

ONE A 28-year-old newlywed who hoped to soon join his wife in Canada. The other a 35-year-old who had finally settled down in a "safe job", safe enough to take his younger brother along.

On Friday, four days after they were killed in Abu Dhabi, in a suspected drone attack carried out by the Houthis, an Iran-backed militia group in Yemen, the families of Hardev Singh (35) and Hardeep Singh (28), clung

to their memories as they received the bodies at Amritsar airport and carried them back to their villages in Punjab.

At Mehampur village, nearly 35 km from Amritsar, Hardeep's wife Kanupriya Kaur, who arrived from Canada on Thursday, was inconsolable as she received his body. Family members said

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

**SAUDI-LED AIRSTRIKE TARGETS HOUTHAI JAIL, AT LEAST 70 KILLED**  
PAGE 14

## Two children among Indian family of four found frozen to death near US-Canada border

**ENS & AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, TORONTO, NEW YORK, JANUARY 21

BODIES OF four people, believed to be an Indian family of four, including a baby and a teen, were found in Canada near the US border in what authorities believe was a failed crossing attempt

during a freezing blizzard.

Investigators in the US and Canada believe the deaths are linked to a larger human smuggling operation that unravelled on Wednesday as the US law enforcement arrested Steve Shand, a 47-year-old from Florida, near the border and later came across more Indians who said that they were attempting to cross the

border to get into the US.

In India, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said he was shocked to hear about the incident. Jaishankar tweeted, "Shocked by the report that 4 Indian nationals, including an infant, have lost their lives at the Canada-US border. Have asked our Ambassadors in the US and Canada to urgently respond to

the situation."

According to court documents, a US Border Patrol in North Dakota stopped a passenger van just south of the Canadian border on Wednesday. Shand was driving and was with two undocumented Indian nationals. Inside the vehicle, officers found cases of plastic cups,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

## Escaping junta, more Myanmar refugees cross over into Mizoram

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN & JIMMY LEVON**  
CHENNAI, IMPHAL, JANUARY 21

OVER 2,000 people from Myanmar's Chin state have crossed over into the border villages of Mizoram since January 5, according to government sources in the North-Eastern state and NGOs providing assistance to the displaced persons.

Among those who arrived in the last two weeks were four persons with shrapnel wounds. They took admission in a private hospital in Aizawl, where one

succumbed to his injuries. His body had to be taken back across the border to Myanmar.

Since the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021, Chin state has been in the forefront of the armed resistance to the junta and has, therefore, faced the brunt of the Myanmar army's wrath.

Some 15,000 people from Chin state crossed into Mizoram last July-August during the fighting that broke out between a pro-democracy civilian resistance group called Chin Defence Force (CDF), backed and trained by the Chin National Army. Mizoram shares a 510-km



border with Myanmar at Chin state, and people of common ethnicities live on both sides of the border. The junta tried unsuccessfully to break the Chin resistance



Refugees from Myanmar at a camp in Mizoram. *Tora Agarwala*

late last year with a new offensive in the areas of Falam and Thantlang. The entire state is now in ferment with frequent clashes as the CDF and a network of People's Defence Force groups allied to the civilian National Unity Government, which describes itself as Myanmar's government in exile, battle the junta.

According to reports in the news portal *Frontier Myanmar*, entire villages in Chin state have been burnt down, and more troops have been arriving steadily, giving rise to fears of a new offensive. Earlier this month, there were deadly

clashes in Matupi in the south and Tiddim in the north between the civilian armed groups and the junta. A few days ago, clashes were reported in Falam area.

"These days, every day refugees are arriving in the border villages. We are trying to ascertain the number, but it is quite difficult," said a government source.

Unofficial estimates place the number of arrivals from January 5 to January 20 at over 2,000. The highest influx was in Hnahthial, where over 1,000 people are said to have crossed over to escape the violence. Hnahthial is located

right across the Chin township of Falam. Lunglei and Lwangtlai, located opposite Thantlang, Falam and Hakha, have together seen some 1300 people cross over this time. Over 100 people crossed over into Saiha. Over 800 people arrived in Mamit near the Tripura border.

According to M C Lalramenga, president of the Young Mizo Association of Tuipurai in Champhai district, some 50 people crossed in the last two weeks after renewed violence. Champhai is opposite Tiddim. Among those who crossed over were four people

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**







## REPUBLIC DAY-2022

**Invitees/Ticket holders visiting the Republic Day 2022 function at the Rajpath are requested not to bring the following prohibited items:**

आमंत्रित अतिथियों / टिकट धारकों से अनुरोध है कि राजपथ पर गणतंत्र दिवस 2022 के समारोह में निम्नलिखित प्रतिबंधित वस्तुएं साथ में न लाएं:

Entry strictly through invitation card / ticket only  
प्रवेश सिर्फ आमंत्रण पत्र/टिकट के द्वारा ही होगा

Prohibited Items	वर्जित वस्तुएं
Photo/फोटो Particulars / विवरण	Photo/फोटो Particulars / विवरण
 Eatables खाने-पीने की चीजें	 Cigarettes, Bidi's, Lighter सिगरेट, बीड़ी, लाईटर
 Bag, Briefcase थैला, ब्रीफकेस	 Alcohol, Perfumes, Spray शराब, इत्र, स्प्रे
 Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder, CD, DVD, MP3 Players रेडियो, ट्रांजिस्टर, टेपरिकॉर्डर, सीडी, डीवीडी, एमपी3 प्लेयर	 Dagger, Sword, Cutting Material, Sharp/Pointed Edged Material, Screw Drivers नुकीला हथियार, चाकू, पेंचकस
 Camera, Binocular, Handycam कैमरा, दूरबीन, हैंडिकैम	 Umbrella, Replica Fire Arms, Toy Gun or Toys छाता, आग्नेयास्त्र, खिलौना पिस्तौल और खिलौने
 Thermos Flasks, Water Bottles, Cans थर्मस, पानी की बोतल, कैन	 Knives, Scissors, Razors, Blades, Wire, Pluckers चाकू, कैंची, रेजर, ब्लेड, तार, प्लकर
 Inflammable Items, Match Boxes ज्वलनशील पदार्थ, दियासलाई	 Arms & Ammunition, Fireworks, Crackers Explosive etc. हथियार और गोला बारूद, पटाखे आदि
 Various Electronic Gadgets, Devices e. g. I-Pad, I-Pod, Palm Top/Laptop, Computer, Tablets, Power Bank etc. विभिन्न इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों जैसे आई-पैड, आई-पोड, पाम टॉप/लैपटॉप, कम्प्यूटर, टैब्लेट, पावर बैंक इत्यादि	 Avoid keeping Mobile Phones, Remote Controlled Car Keys as it may delay your entry due to checking मोबाइल फोन, रिमोट कंट्रोल कार चाबी रखने से बचें क्योंकि इससे जांच के दौरान आपके प्रवेश में देरी हो सकती है

Any unidentified object, if noticed, may be brought to the notice of the nearest Security Personnel  
यदि कोई लावारिस वस्तु दिखाई दे, तो निकटतम सुरक्षाकर्मी के नोटिस में लाएं

Please co-operate with Police for searching/frisking कृपया तलाशी देने में पुलिस के साथ सहयोग करें | Please be alert to your surroundings कृपया अपने आस पास नज़र रखें

Maintain Covid Appropriate Behaviour/Protocol कोविड अनुरूप व्यवहार/शिष्टाचार बनाएं रखें

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.rakeshasthana@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box. No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

**FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090**



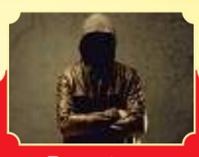




## YOUR SUPPORT CAN STOP TERRORISM



**Before selling a car, motorcycle or scooter, check the credentials of buyer**



**Report any suspicious activity in your area**





**Ensure identification of guest before booking a room of guest house**



**Do not rent out your premises to unverified persons**

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E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.rakeshasthana@delhipolice.gov.in, write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box. No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

**FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090**







# TRAFFIC ADVISORY

## Republic Day Full Dress Rehearsal on 23rd January, 2022 from 10.20 A.M.

**Parade Route: Vijay Chowk ▶ Rajpath ▶ Amar Jawan Jyoti ▶ India Gate ▶ R/A Princess Palace ▶ T/L Tilak Marg ▶ Turn Right on "C" Hexagon ▶ Turn Left and Enter National Stadium from Gate No.1**



**INSTRUCTIONS TO GENERAL PUBLIC**

- In case, any unidentified object or suspicious person is seen, information must be conveyed to the nearest policeman on duty.
- Flying of sub conventional aerial platforms like para-gliders, para motors, hang gliders, UAVs, UASs, microlight aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters or para jumping from aircraft etc. are prohibited over the jurisdiction of National Capital Territory of Delhi from 20.01.2022 up to 15.02.2022 (both days inclusive).
- General public and motorists are requested to keep patience, observe traffic rules & road discipline and follow directions of traffic personnel deployed at all intersections. People are requested to plan their journey in advance and keep sufficient time in hand to avoid inconvenience.

**TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS**

In order to facilitate smooth passage of the Parade, movement of traffic on certain roads leading to the route of the Parade will be restricted as under:-

- No traffic on Rajpath from Vijay Chowk to India Gate from 06.00 PM on 22.01.2022 till Parade is over on 23.01.2022.
- No cross traffic on Rajpath from 11.00 PM on 22.01.2022 at Rafi Marg, Janpath, Man Singh Road till Parade is over.
- "C"-Hexagon-India Gate will be closed for traffic from 09.15 AM on 23.01.2022 till the entire Parade and Tableaux enter National Stadium.

Road users are requested to plan their journey in advance accordingly and avoid the route of Parade, from 0900 hours to 1230 hours, for their own convenience.

**SUGGESTED ROUTES**

However, if the journey is unavoidable, the road users are advised to take following routes:-

**FOR NORTH TO SOUTH AND VICE-VERSA**

- Ring Road – Ashram Chowk – Sarai Kale Khan – I.P. Flyover – Rajhat – Ring Road
- From Madarsa - Lodhi Road 'T' point - Aurobindo Marg – AIIMS Chowk – Ring Road – Dhaula Kuan – Vande Matram Marg – Shankar Road – Park Street or Mandir Marg.

**FOR EAST TO WEST AND VICE-VERSA**

- Ring Road - Bhairon Road – Mathura Road – Lodhi Road – Aurobindo Marg – AIIMS Chowk – Ring Road – Dhaula Kuan – Vande Matram Marg – Shankar Road – Park Street or Mandir Marg.
- Ring Road- Boulevard Road- Barf Khana Chowk – Rani Jhansi Flyover- Faiz Road – Vande Matram Marg – R/A Shankar Road.
- Ring Road – ISBT – Chnadgi Ram Akhara – I.P. College – Mall Road – Azadpur – Punjabi Bagh.

**FOR NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION**

- From South Delhi:-** Dhaula Kuan – Vande Matram Marg – Panchkuan Road – Outer Circle Connaught Place – Chelmsford Road for Paharganj side or Minto Road- Bhavbhuti Marg for Ajmeri Gate side.
- From East Delhi:-** Boulevard Road via ISBT Bridge - Rani Jhansi Flyover - R/A Jhandewalan – D.B. Gupta Road- Sheela Cinema Road- Paharganj Bridge and reach New Delhi Rly Station.

**FOR OLD DELHI RAILWAY STATION**

- From South Delhi:-** Ring Road – Ashram Chowk – Sarai Kale Khan – Ring Road – Rajhat – Ring Road – Chowk Yamuna Bazar – S.P. Mukherjee Marg – Chhatta Rail - Kauria Bridge and reach Old Delhi Rly. Station.
- Though there will be no restriction for people from North Delhi going towards New Delhi Railway Station or Old Delhi Railway Station yet it is advised that they plan their journey in advance and take sufficient extra time to reach their destination to avoid possible delay

**BUS TERMINATING POINTS**

Movement of the City Bus Services will be curtailed at the following points:-

- Park Street/Udyan Marg
- Aram Bagh Road (Pahar Ganj)
- R/A Kamla Market
- Delhi Sachivalaya (IG Stadium)
- Pragati Maidan (Bhairon Road)
- Hanuman Mandir (Yamuna Bazar)
- Mori Gate
- ISBT Kashmiri Gate
- ISBT Sarai Kale Khan
- Tis Hazari Court

**INTER STATE BUSES**

- Buses from Ghaziabad bound for Shivaji Stadium shall take NH-24, Ring Road and terminate at Bhairon Road.
- Buses coming from NH-24 shall take right turn on Road No. 56 and terminate at ISBT Anand Vihar.
- Buses coming from Ghaziabad side will be diverted at Mohan Nagar towards Bhopura Chungi for Wazirabad Bridge.
- All Inter State buses coming from Dhaula Kuan side shall terminate at Dhaula Kuan.

**METRO SERVICES**

Metro Rail Service shall remain available for commuters at all Metro Stations during the Full Dress Rehearsal Ceremony on 23.01.2022. However, Boarding/De-boarding at the below mentioned station will not be permitted as per schedule given:  
**Metro Station Boarding/De-boarding not allowed at Kendriya Sachivalaya & Udyog Bhawan From 5.00 AM till 1200 Noon on 23.01.2022**

**TSR/TAXIS**

No TSR and Taxi will be allowed to enter or ply after 0700 hours on 23.01.2022 in the Area bound by:-  
MOTHER TERESA CRESCENT – BABA KHARAK SINGH MARG UPTO R/A GPO – ASHOKA ROAD UPTO R/A PATEL CHOWK – SANSAD MARG UPTO TOLSTOY MARG CROSSING – TOLSTOY MARG UPTO KASTURBA GANDHI MARG CROSSING – KASTURBA GANDHI MARG UPTO FERZESHAH ROAD CROSSING – FERZESHAH ROAD UPTO R/A MANDI HOUSE – BHAGWAN DASS ROAD UPTO MATHURA ROAD CROSSING – MATHURA ROAD UPTO SUBRAMANIAM BHARTI MARG – SUBRAMANIAM BHARTI MARG UPTO HUMAYUN ROAD CROSSING – HUMAYUN ROAD UPTO Q-POINT – A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM MARG – KAMAL ATA TURK MARG – KAUTILYA MARG AND SARDAR PATEL ROAD (PLEASE NOTE ALL THE ROADS MENTIONED ARE EXCLUDING).

**HTVs/LGVs**

- No HTV/LGV will be allowed to enter Delhi from borders from 2200 hrs on 22.01.2022 till the Parade is over on 23.01.2022
- No HTV/LGV will be allowed to ply between I.S.B.T. Sarai kale Khan and I.S.B.T. Kashmiri Gate on Ring Road from 0730 hrs to 1330 hrs on 23.01.2022

**BE A TRAFFIC SENTINEL Download App from Google Play or App Store 24 Hours Traffic Helpline : 011-25844444, 1095 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090 FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112**

New Delhi

# Deputy commandant with BSF in dock for 'fraud', six luxury cars recovered

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, JANUARY 21

A DEPUTY commandant of the Border Security Force is in the dock for allegedly orchestrating a Rs 140 crore scam in Gurgaon. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has found that the main accused, Praveen Yadav, allegedly posed as an IPS officer on deputation on the National Security Guard's campus in Manesar and allegedly conned contractors on the pretext of allotting tenders for construction work on the campus.

Police have recovered Rs 13.81 crore in cash and six luxury cars (Harrier, Range Rover, Jeep, BMW, Safari and Volvo) from his possession. Earlier this week, police had raided the residence of a relative of Yadav and recovered gold worth over Rs 1 crore. The relative is absconding. Yadav was arrested on January 13, with his wife, Mamta Yadav, sister Ritu Raj Yadav, and

**Police said the accused had applied for voluntary retirement from the BSF and was planning to flee**

an associate, Dinesh Kumar. Police said they have received five complaints from five construction firm owners, to whom he allegedly gave forged letters of intent and tender contracts and made them deposit money in a private bank account in the name of "office of GC (Garrison) station HQ, NSG Manesar" as earnest money for tender allocation.

Gurgaon Police spokesperson Subhash Boken said the probe revealed that Yadav was posted on deputation on the NSG campus in 2021 and since he was involved with construction work, he was in touch with several contractors and knew the tendering processes. "He had suffered a loss of Rs 50 lakh in the share market

and decided to recoup his losses by resorting to fraud. He told contractors he would offer them lucrative contracts for construction of road, fence, installation of electric poles, solar panels on NSG campus. He used to drive luxury cars to impress people and build rapport with them," said Boken. Police said his sister and brother-in-law lived on the NSG campus and with the help of his sister, who worked in a private bank, Yadav allegedly managed to open a fraudulent bank account and got money transferred. He had also opened a company and named himself, his wife, and his sister as directors, said police.

A police officer said, "As he was earlier posted at the NSG, he could use his ID card to enter the campus. Telling contractors he was an IPS officer, he gave forged work allotment letters, pay orders and work permits with NSG letterheads. He had applied for voluntary retirement from the BSF and was planning to flee."

# Man sets himself on fire outside SC; family says he was sacked from job, not paid in three months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

A 50-YEAR-OLD man set himself on fire outside the Supreme Court Friday afternoon, with an initial investigation revealing that he used to work at a factory in Noida but hadn't been paid for three months. Moreover, his employer sacked him recently.

"Eyewitnesses told police the incident took place around 2 pm outside the Supreme Court's new building, where the man came and set himself on fire. The fire was doused by security personnel and he was taken to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital (LNJP), where his condition is said to be stable and he is recuperating," an officer said. "Doctors have informed that

the burns are minor. Only his hair and clothes had caught fire. But he is under observation. He told police in his statement that he worked in an exhaust manufacturing factory in Noida's Sector 128, and was not getting paid for the last three months," an officer said.

Police said the man, Rajbhar Gupta, lives near the factory with his wife, two daughters

and a son. Gupta's daughter, Anjali, told *The Indian Express*, "My father was working as a security guard at the factory and is the sole breadwinner. For months, he has been asking the management of the factory for his salary. On January 15, he took a leave, following which they fired him from the job. He pleaded with them to take him back, but they

misbehaved with him. On Friday morning, he told us he was looking for a new job and left home. But in the afternoon, we received a call and got to know about the incident." "We have not informed our mother about the incident. My father told her that he would come back in two days. I have spoken to him and he is stable," she added.

# 11-yr-old boy dies after accidentally shooting self

Gurgaon: An 11-year-old boy died after allegedly accidentally shooting himself at his house in Nuh Thursday morning. The boy's parents had gone to a police station to settle an old case that his mother had filed against her husband, said police.

Police said the incident was reported around 11 am when the boy's neighbour heard a gunshot and rushed to the house. In the police complaint, he said he saw the boy lying on a cot with a country-made gun near him. "He was bleeding profusely from the chest and was motionless. I asked his 9-year-old sister about what had transpired and she said he was playing with the gun," he said.

Police said the boy was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Tarun Dahiya, SHO of the police station concerned, said, "It appears to be a case of accidental firing leading to death." ENS

**एनटीपीसी NTPC Limited**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Corporate Identification Number: L40101DL1975GOI007966  
Registered Office : NTPC Bhawan, SCOPE Complex,  
7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003. Tel.: 011-24360100  
E-mail: csnip@ntpc.co.in, Website: www.ntpc.co.in

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Company has fixed Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 as the Record date for the purpose of payment of interim dividend for the financial year 2021-22, if declared by the Board of Directors in its meeting scheduled to be held on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.

The Members whose names appear in the Register of Members/Beneficial owners as on record date i.e. 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 shall be entitled to receive Interim dividend, if declared by the Board.

For NTPC Limited Sd/-  
(Nandini Sarkar)  
Company Secretary

Date: 21.01.2022  
Place: New Delhi

**Leading the Power Sector**

**काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY**  
An Institution of National Importance established by an Act of Parliament

**ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2021-22**

Admission to B.V.Sc & A.H. course of BHU during academic session 2021-22 will be done on the basis of NEET 2021 scores only. Desirous candidates who are appearing in NEET 2021 are informed to register themselves and fill-up the online application form on BHU Portal. Course details, Registration Form and other required information will be available on the University's Admission Portal ([www.bhuonline.in](http://www.bhuonline.in)) w.e.f. 23.01.2022 to 06.02.2022. Last date of receipt of online application form is 06.02.2022. Last date of receipt of online application form is 06.02.2022. REGISTRAR

**ICAR-Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan**  
Almora - 263601 (Uttarakhand)

F.No. 23-44/2011-Admn./9706 Dated: 21.01.2022

**Walk in Interview (Online & Offline mode)**

It is proposed to fill up the position of Project Associate-I under the project at this Institute on contractual basis for time bound. The interview will be held by both the online & offline mode. Other detail terms & conditions is available at our website [www.vpkas.icar.gov.in](http://www.vpkas.icar.gov.in) (R.S. Negi)  
Senior Administrative Officer

**काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY**  
An Institution of National Importance established by an Act of Parliament

**NOTIFICATION FOR ADMISSION TO PH.D./ VIDYAVARIDHI/M. PHIL. PROGRAMMES**

The Banaras Hindu University invites ONLINE APPLICATION for admission to Ph.D./VidyaVaridhi/ M.Phil./Integrated M.Phil.-Ph.D. programmes for the session 2021-22. Candidates desirous of applying for admission to the said programme may visit the University's Entrance Test Portal ([www.bhuonline.in](http://www.bhuonline.in)) for details of RET Information Bulletin-2021. The online application form would be available on the Entrance Test Portal with effect from 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 and last date for submission is 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. The date of Test-A of RET is scheduled on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. REGISTRAR

**भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड**  
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.  
(भारत सरकार का स्वतंत्र उपक्रम)

(A NAVRATNA UNDERTAKING OF GOVT. OF INDIA)  
Regd. Office & Investors Relation Centre: CONCOR Bhawan,  
C-3, Mathura Road, App. Logo Hospital, New Delhi - 110076.  
CIN : L63011DL1988GOI030915, e-mail : investorrelations@concorindia.com,  
Tel. Nos. : 41673093-96, 41222500/600/700 website : <http://www.concorindia.co.in>

**NOTICE OF RECORD DATE FOR 2<sup>nd</sup> INTERIM DIVIDEND**

Notice is hereby given that CONCOR's Board of Directors in its meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 has fixed Record date as 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 (Thursday) for the purpose of determining the entitlement of members to 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Dividend @40% (Rs 2.00 per share on equity share of Rs.5/- each), declared by the Board in its aforesaid meeting for the financial year 2021-22. Further, 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim dividend will be paid:

(i) to those Members whose names will appear in the Register of Members of the Company, after giving effect to all valid Share Transfers in physical form lodged with the Company and its Registrar on or before 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2022; or

(ii) in respect of Shares held in electronic form, to those "deemed members" whose names appear on the Statements of beneficial ownership furnished by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL), at the end of business hours on 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.

In order to avail the facility of payment of dividend through Electronic Clearing Service (ECS), members of the Company, holding their shares in Demat mode are requested to submit the duly filled in ECS mandate form to their Depository Participant and those holding physical shares to Company's Share Transfer Agents and Registrar: **Mis Bestal Financial & Computer Services (P) Ltd., BESTAL HOUSE, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 99, Madangiri, Behind Local Shopping Centre, Near Dada Harsukhdas Mandir, New Delhi - 110062.** ECS instructions once furnished by the member will supersede all his/ her previous bank mandates/details. ECS mandate form is available on Company's website: [www.concorindia.com](http://www.concorindia.com).

For Container Corporation of India Ltd. Sd/-  
(Harish Chandra)  
ED (Finance) & Company Secretary

Place: New Delhi Date: 20.01.2022

**कार्यालय, चैत्यमेन काउंसलिंग बोर्ड,**  
(सू.जी. / पी.जी. आयुष काउंसलिंग बोर्ड, राजस्थान सरकार)  
112-113, प्रथम तल, प्रशासनिक भवन,  
डॉ. सर्वपल्ली राधाकृष्णन् राजस्थान आयुर्वेद विश्वविद्यालय,  
नागौर रोड, करवड, जोधपुर 342037

**M.D./M.S.(Ayurved) एवं M.D.(Homoeopathy)**  
पाठ्यक्रम में सत्र 2021-22 में प्रवेश हेतु काउंसलिंग-रजिस्ट्रेशन की सूचना

अखिल भारतीय कोटे (निजी विश्वविद्यालय / निजी महाविद्यालयों में) की 15 प्रतिशत सीटों एवं राज्य-कोटे (राजकीय एवं निजी महाविद्यालयों में) की 85 प्रतिशत सीटों के लिए AIAPGET - 2021 के पात्रताधारक अभ्यर्थियों से डॉ. सर्वपल्ली राधाकृष्णन् राजस्थान आयुर्वेद विश्वविद्यालय जोधपुर से सम्बद्धता प्राप्त सभी राजकीय एवं निजी महाविद्यालयों तथा राजस्थान के समस्त निजी विश्वविद्यालयों के संघटक आयुष महाविद्यालयों में संचालित स्नातकोत्तर आयुष पाठ्यक्रमों में सत्र 2021-22 में प्रवेश हेतु ऑन-लाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन-आवेदन पत्र दिनांक 25.01.2022 से 31.01.2022 तक आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। सर्वप्रथम निजी विश्वविद्यालयों / निजी महाविद्यालयों में अखिल भारतीय कोटे की 15 प्रतिशत सीटों पर काउंसलिंग के दो चरणों के माध्यम से प्रवेश आवंटित किये जायेंगे, किन्तु रिक्त रही सीटों को राज्य-कोटे की राजकीय एवं निजी महाविद्यालयों की 85 प्रतिशत सीटों के साथ शामिल करके राज्य-कोटे की सीटों पर प्रवेश प्रक्रिया प्रारम्भ की जायेगी।

रजिस्ट्रेशन, आवेदन शुल्क एवं अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी काउंसलिंग बोर्ड की वेबसाइट [www.rajugpgayushcounseling.in/rajayushcounseling.com](http://www.rajugpgayushcounseling.in/rajayushcounseling.com) पर उपलब्ध है, जिनका नियमित रूप से अद्यतन करते रहें। हेल्पलाईन नं. 7230043374, 0291-2795346

रजिस्ट्रेशन आवेदन-पत्र भरने के पहले, अभ्यर्थियों को समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ना चाहिये। आवेदन-पत्र में की गई त्रुटि के लिये अभ्यर्थी स्वयं उत्तरदायी होंगे। आवेदन-पत्र में भरी गई सूचना को अंतिम माना जायेगा।

प्रो. (डॉ.) राजेश कुमार शर्मा  
चैत्यमेन

**TMB** Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd  
BHLWARA BRANCH  
Plot No. A-1 J.S. Building First Floor,  
Pur Road, Bhlwara-311001, email:- Bhlwara@tmbank.in  
CIN : U65110TN1921PLC001908 Phone No.01482-240366, 240367

**Auction Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties**  
SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS MORTGAGED/CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT/R/W RULE 8(6) AND 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, Bhlwara Branch, (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 11.02.2022, for recovery of Rs.9,34,730.26/- due to Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, Bhlwara Branch (Secured Creditor) from Mr Rajesh Kumar Nyati, and the Co-Applicant/Borrower, Mr Subhash chandra Nyati and Guarantor Mr. Ajay Kumar Nyati.

The Reserve Price for property No will be Rs.21,75,000/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs.2,17,500/-

**DETAILS OF AUCTION**

<b>Place of Auction</b>	On EQM of land to the extent of 1000 sq.ft. and house building constructed thereat to the extent of 1574.43 sq.ft. (6D-940.37 sq.ft. +FF 504.06 sq.ft. + Mummy area -130 Sq.ft) situated at Plot No: A-31 Araj No: 727, Sharda Dream City, Vill Gathila Khera, Bhlwara - 311001 standing in the name Mr. Rajesh kumar Nyati and Subhachandra Nyati. Boundaries: North by :Plot No-A 40 South by: Road East by :Plot No-A-32 West by :Plot No-A-30
<b>Date and Time of Auction Sale</b>	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd Plot No. A-1 J.S. Building First Floor, Pur Road, Bhlwara-311001, email:- bhlwara@tmbank.in Phone No.01482-240367, 240367
<b>Date and Time of Auction Sale</b>	11.02.2022 and 01.00 PM

The intending bidders should pay Ten Percent (10%) of the reserve price of the property as Earnest Money Deposit(EMD) by means of a "Demand Draft" drawn in favour of "Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited" payable at Bhlwara Branch on or before 11.02.2022 within 12.30 PM.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in secured creditors website ([www.tmb.in](http://www.tmb.in))

Place: Bhlwara Date: 21.01.2022

Authorised Officer  
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd  
Ahmedabad Regional Office

**INTRODUCING**

**Achieve Life Goals with Security**

**LIC's Dhan Rekha**  
Plan No.:863 UIN:512N343V01

**Guaranteed Addition**  
**Money Back**  
**Full Payout on Maturity**

**(A Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Individual, Savings, Life Insurance Plan)**

**Also Available Online**

**Salient Features :**

- Age eligibility: 90 days - Max 60 years
- Single Premium or Regular Premium Payment Mode (Limited Premium Paying Term)
- Optional Riders available
- Special Premium Rates for Female Life

**Maximum Guaranteed Additions @ ₹60/- per thousand Basic Sum Assured**

**Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827**

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch/visit [www.licindia.in](http://www.licindia.in) or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474

Follow us : [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/licindia) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/licindia) [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/licindia) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv3R0L10Mh1973PLC019786) | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

**LIC** भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम  
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA  
Har Pal Apke Saath

Beware of spurious phone calls and fictitious/fraudulent offers. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

**EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS POLYCLINIC HALDWANI & RUDRAPUR)**

1. ECHS invites applications to engage following staff on contractual basis in ECHS Polyclinic Haldwani & ECHS Polyclinic Rudrapur for a period of FY 2022-2023:-

Ser No	Appointment	ECHS Polyclinic			Remarks	
		Haldwani	No of Vac	Rudrapur		
(a)	Med Offr	Haldwani	03	Rudrapur	01	For terms & conditions, application from, Remuneration kindly see web site <a href="http://www.echs.gov.in">www.echs.gov.in</a>
(b)	Dental Offr	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	-	
(c)	Gynecologist	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	-	
(d)	OIC Polyclinic	Haldwani	-	Rudrapur	01	
(e)	Radiographer	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	-	
(f)	Lab Asst	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	-	
(g)	Lab Tech	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	01	
(h)	Physiotherapist	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	-	
(j)	Pharmacist	Haldwani	-	Rudrapur	01	
(k)	Nursing Asst	Haldwani	02	Rudrapur	01	
(l)	Dental Asst/Tech/Hyginist	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	-	
(m)	Driver	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	01	
(n)	Chowkidar	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	-	
(o)	Female Attendant	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	01	
(p)	Peon	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	-	
(q)	Safaiwala	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	01	
(r)	Clerk	Haldwani	-	Rudrapur	01	

2. For details please contact Station HQ (ECHS Cell), Haldwani at Tele No 05946-282374. Last date of receipt of application on 10 Feb 2022. Interview will be conducted on 17 Feb 2022 (Thursday) at 1000h onward at Military Station, Station Headquarters Haldwani. Candidates will bring original certificate/degree along with one certified copy including testimonials/ experience duly attested by a gazetted officer & medical fitness certificate is also required from Govt Hospital at the time of interview. No T/ADA is admissible for the interview

No. I.T.B.P.F./28TH BN./EC-02/Absent CT/(GD) Araveti Muni Sekhar/2021-6186

**Office of the Commandant, 28th BN. I.T.B.P. Force**  
MHA/Govt. of India  
P.O. Jatusana, District-Rewari (H.R.)-123401

**SHOW CAUSE NOTICE**

Regt No. 120460863 CT(GD) Araveti Muni Sekhar S/o Sh. Araveti Lakshminarayana, V.P.O- Kalluru, Tehsil-Yellaur, Dist-Anantpur, State-Andhra Pradesh-515465 is absenting from joining time granted by 2ND Bn on transfer to 28TH Bn w.e.f. 29.05.2021(AN) without any information permission of competent authority. You have been directed to report at 28TH Bn I.T.B.P.F. vide 28TH Bn I.T.B.P.F. Office Memorandum No. 4440 dtd 07.10.2021 but you have not reported to 28TH Bn I.T.B.P.F., a request was made to the Superintendent, District- Anantpur (Andhra Pradesh) for apprehended you and hand over to Commandant, 28TH Bn I.T.B.P.F., Jatusana, Rewari (H.R.)-123401 vide 28TH Bn I.T.B.P.F., letter No. 70-71 dtd 05.11.2021. But after this action too, you neither reported himself nor apprehended by the District Police.

2. You have declared "Deserter" w.e.f. 29.05.2021(AN) vide 28TH Bn I.T.B.P.F. Order No. 5836-47 dtd 07.12.2021. You are directed that within 30 days of the receipt of this notice, you should report to the Commandant, 28th Bn. I.T.B.P.F., Po-Jatusana, District-Rewari (Haryana)-123401. If you fail to do so then why should not you "Dismissed from Service" under the provision contained in I.T.B.P.F. Act-1992 and Rule-1994.

3. If you do not submit any reply/ clarification or do not report to this unit within 30 days of issue of this notice the I.T.B.P.F. will be bound to dismiss you from service.

Sd/-  
**COMMANDANT,**  
28TH BN, I.T.B.P. Force

davp 19112/110181/2122

**Reliance Industries Limited**  
Growth is Life

Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021.  
Phone: 022-3555 5000 • Fax: 022-2204 2268 • E-mail: [investor.relations@ril.com](mailto:investor.relations@ril.com)  
CIN: L17110MH1973PLC019786

**Extract of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months Ended 31st December, 2021**

(₹ in crore, except per share data)

Particulars	Quarter Ended	Nine Months Ended	Quarter Ended
	31st December, 2021	31st December, 2021	31st December, 2020
Value of Sales & Services (Revenue)	2,09,823	5,60,217	1,37,829
Less: GST Recovered	18,552	50,470	13,832
<b>Revenue from Operations</b>	<b>1,91,271</b>	<b>5,09,747</b>	<b>1,23,997</b>
Profit Before Exceptional Item and Tax	22,391	58,895	15,103
Profit Before Tax	25,227	61,731	14,982
Profit for the Period*	20,539	49,824	14,894
Total Comprehensive Income (after Tax) *	15,085	63,534	6,351
Paid up Equity Share Capital, Equity Shares of ₹ 10/- each	6,765	6,765	6,445
Other Equity excluding Revaluation Reserve**			
Earnings per Equity Share (Face value of ₹ 10/- each) (Not Annualised)			
Basic (in ₹) – After Exceptional Item	28.08	68.01	20.33
Basic (in ₹) – Before Exceptional Item	23.79	63.68	20.51
Diluted (in ₹) – After Exceptional Item	27.76	66.93	19.93
Diluted (in ₹) – Before Exceptional Item	23.52	62.66	20.12

\* Includes share of Non-Controlling Interest.  
\*\* Other Equity excluding Revaluation Reserves for the year ended as on 31st March, 2021 was ₹ 6,93,727 crore.

**Notes:**

- The Audit Committee has reviewed the above results and the Board of Directors has approved the above results and its release at their respective meetings held on 21st January, 2022. The Statutory Auditors of the Company have carried out a Limited Review of the aforesaid results.
- Additional information on Unaudited Standalone Financial Results is as follows:

(₹ in crore)

Particulars	Quarter Ended	Nine Months Ended	Quarter Ended
	31st December, 2021	31st December, 2021	31st December, 2020
Value of Sales & Services (Revenue)	1,22,811	3,26,364	71,454
Less: GST Recovered	5,415	14,980	4,054
<b>Revenue from Operations</b>	<b>1,17,396</b>	<b>3,11,384</b>	<b>67,400</b>
Profit Before Exceptional Item and Tax	12,440	33,582	6,957
Profit Before Tax	12,440	33,582	6,841
Profit for the Period	10,167	27,990	8,628
Total Comprehensive Income (after Tax)	10,395	27,743	9,161

3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended on 31st December, 2021 filed with the Stock Exchanges pursuant to Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

The full format of the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended on 31st December, 2021, are available on the Stock Exchanges' websites ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) / [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com)) and the Company's website [www.ril.com](http://www.ril.com).

For Reliance Industries Limited  
Sd/-  
Mukesh D. Ambani  
Chairman & Managing Director

Date: 21st January, 2022 [www.ril.com](http://www.ril.com)



**VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS**  
**91,869**

**OMICRON CASES**  
**549**

**PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 2,656**

**OXYGEN SUPPORT** 769

**VENTILATOR SUPPORT** 156

**DELHI: TOTAL CASES**  
**17,71,028**

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	15,409	12,793
ICU BEDS	4,440	3,570

	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Jan 20	12,306	18,815	43	57,290
Jan 21	10,756	17,494	38	59,629
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,954*</b>	<b>16,83,533</b>	<b>25,541</b>	<b>3,43,31,522</b>

\*Total active cases in Delhi

	NOIDA	
	Jan 20	Jan 21
Cases	1,684	1,465
Deaths	0	0

	GURGAON	
	Jan 20	Jan 21
Cases	2,845	3,509
Deaths	2	4

## AIIMS STUDY FINDS

## 'Kids have milder symptoms, lower mortality'

ANONNA DUTT  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

DOCTORS FROM the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) reported milder symptoms and lower mortality among adolescents as compared to adults during the first and the second wave of the pandemic, as per the analysis of 197 patients between the ages of 12 and 18 years admitted to the hospital with Covid-19.

With children between the ages of 15 and 17 years becoming eligible for vaccination January 3 onwards, doctors wanted to study the clinical profile of these patients admitted to the hospital.

The analysis shows that 84.6% of adolescents developed mild disease, 9.1% moderate disease, and 6.3% severe disease. Fever and cough were the most common symptoms, with 14.9% experiencing it. 11.5% of the children had body aches, 10.4% were fatigued, and 6.2% reported shortness of breath, as per the analysis.

In comparison, 50.7% of the adults came in with breathlessness during the second wave as per another study from the same hospital.

As per the analysis, 73% of the children required oxygen support, 2.8% needed non-invasive ventilation or high flow nasal oxygen, and 2.3% needed invasive ventilation. Steroids were given to 24.1% of the children and antiviral med-



Children aged 15-17 years are now eligible for vaccination. Archive

ication Remdesivir to 16.9%.

The study observed an in-hospital death rate of 3.1% in this age group, which is six times less than the 19.1% mortality seen among adults in the same hospital during the second wave.

"We have just attempted to present the clinical profile of the adolescents here; this is probably the first such data set from India. So far, we were mainly focusing on symptoms and treatments in adults. What we have seen is that the children admitted during the second wave of the pandemic definitely had more severe disease; the trend is similar to what we saw in adults as well. Also, the mortality is lower in this age group as compared to

adults," said Dr Anant Mohan, the corresponding author of the pre-print study and the head of the department of pulmonology at AIIMS.

Children with solid organ cancers — cancers with tumours — were more likely to develop moderate to severe disease, the analysis found. Although the study looked at other co-morbidities such as asthma, diabetes, coronary artery disease, none of them statistically changed the risk of severe disease in the adolescents.

"What we saw was that symptoms were milder in children than in adults. Even during the current wave, we are hardly reporting any cases in children. As it is, hospital admissions are lower during this wave," said Dr Sushma Bhatnagar, another author of the analysis and in-charge of the Covid-19 treatment centre at the AIIMS campus in Jhajjar.

With 94% of all adults having received one dose and 72% both the doses in the country, Dr Mohan said, "The vaccine offers an additional layer of protection on top of other Covid-appropriate behaviours. Children may be offered the vaccines same as everybody else when a safe and effective vaccine is approved."

Currently, children between the ages of 15 and 17 years can only get the Covaxin shot. Zydus Cadila's ZyCoV-D is approved for children over the age of 12 years but is yet to hit the market.

## Cases, positivity rate dip in capital, traders grow restless

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

COVID CASES have reduced further in the capital, with 10,756 fresh infections recorded on Friday. The positivity rate also dipped below 20% after almost two weeks — it stood at 18.04%, meaning less than one in five samples tested were found to have the infection.

In view of the dropping positivity rate, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority has allowed private offices to work with 50% capacity. L-G Anil Bajjal Friday rejected the government's proposal to lift weekend curfew and odd-even at markets.

Health Minister Satyendar Jain Thursday had said that Delhi crossed the peak of the fifth wave. "Despite new cases every day, the number of patients admitted to hospitals is stable," the minister said on Friday.

There are currently 2,656 patients admitted to hospitals.

Delhi reported 38 deaths due to the infection on Friday, lower than the 43 deaths recorded a day ago. The city has seen 434 deaths in January, the highest since June when 740 deaths

were recorded as the second wave was on the wane.

The peak of deaths usually lags behind the peak of fresh cases and hospitalisations, and hospitalisations are yet to go down. Doctors, however, have said that almost all patients admitted to hospitals are those with other conditions but were incidentally found to have Covid.

The number of tests have also gradually increased over the last four days, after a dip to 44,762 on January 17 due to the new ICMR testing guidelines going away with testing on demand for asymptomatic patients.

Tests started going up after a letter by the Centre to states and UTs where numbers were going down to ramp it up. The government has since increased the number of samples collected from the community. With the government slashing prices of RT-PCR and Rapid Antigen tests, numbers may start to fall again with private labs saying that they cannot break even at the new rates.

Meanwhile, the dip in positivity rate and cases has once again prompted traders to call for restrictions to be lifted. Some traders' associations have also written to the L-G on the issue.

Paramjit Singh Pamma, president, Federation of Sadar Bazar Traders' Association, said: "We have already faced huge financial losses and lost many customers; our lives depend on daily sales... When all shops and markets are open in Gurgaon, Noida, and Ghaziabad, why are shops across Delhi still shut?"

Ashok Randhawa, president of the Sarojini Nagar Mini Market Association, added, "We were relieved when we heard the Delhi government's plans to lift weekend curfew and odd-even in markets. But the happiness was fleeting. We request both the L-G and the government not to play politics since the survival of small businesses is at stake."

Confederation of All India Traders general secretary, Praveen Khandelwal, said, "Trade associations may be asked to mandatorily comply with Covid safety protocols, which they are already doing. The local administration along with trade associations can be asked to ensure regulation of crowd in markets. Restrict working hours of markets from 10 am to 5 pm and allow restaurants and bars to re-open with 50% capacity."

(inputs from Gayathri Mani)

## DU releases draft curriculum for UG courses, teachers flag several issues



The varsity has invited feedback from stakeholders. Archive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

DELHI UNIVERSITY Friday released a draft undergraduate curriculum framework (UGCF-2022) in line with the National Education Policy (NEP), and invited feedback from stakeholders. Several teachers, however, said the draft was different from that passed in the statutory bodies (Academic and Executive councils) and had reduced the total number of credits, which will affect teachers' workload and will lead to "dilution" of courses for students.

The number of credits is determined by the study load. To clear a semester, students need to have a certain number of credit points that are determined by the importance of the course and the number of hours put in.

"The University of Delhi is pleased to release a draft undergraduate curriculum framework 2022 (UGCF-2022) which has been formulated to orient its undergraduate programmes with the ethos of National Education Policy 2020. The Draft UGCF is being circulated among stakeholders and placed on the website of the University for the purpose of seeking views from all the stakeholders," Registrar Vikas Gupta said in a statement.

In the draft passed by the AC and EC, there were 196 credits. However, the new draft has a total of 176 credits.

"This is the fourth such template floated by DU in this last year, to introduce NEP with effect from the 2022-23 session. Each draft has varied wildly on fundamentals such as course structure. Cosmetic changes cannot hide the impending job loss. This particular draft has not even been discussed in the Academic Council," AC member Mithuraaj Dhushiya said.

Democratic Teachers' Front secretary Abha Dev Habib said, "The EC approved a framework with 196 credits on August 31 amid dissent. In December, the

University circulated to colleges and departments two more draft FYUP frameworks — with 184 and 164 credits. This is the fourth model, while the UGC seems to be bringing guidelines for an FYUP of 160 credits. This shows that the very idea of a single structure leading to multiple types of certifications is so flawed that meaningful FYUP is not possible."

"The latest model reduces weightage in terms of the number of hours and hence, credits, dedicated toward Discipline Specific Core (DSC), Discipline Specific Electives (DSE) and Generic Elective (GE) from six (as in the current 3-year LOCF or the other models of FYUP) to four. This is not acceptable," she added.

DU Teachers' Association president A K Bhagi said they have collected feedback from staff associations on the proposed structure, and will hold a DUTA executive meeting to examine the draft curriculum framework and formulate their response to it.

After the University forwarded two proposed course structures for the FYUP with reduced credits to colleges, the DUTA executive had met with Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh to raise their concerns.

"Our general consensus is that we have major concerns that we had raised with the V-C. First, we want the three-year honours degrees to continue, whether or not a fourth year is added to it. And since we don't want academic dilution in these three-year degrees, the number of credits should not be reduced. We also stated that multi-disciplinary programmes such as the BSc, BA and BCom programmes should continue. We also stated that by no means should the number of teaching positions in any department or college reduce. We also believe that it would be more fit that all permanent appointments and regularisation be put in place before new reforms are brought in. We will be examining this draft to see if these concerns have been addressed," he said.

## Survey to find psychological impact of Covid on children

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

THE DELHI government plans to conduct a survey to assess the psychological and emotional impact of the pandemic on children and use the findings to adapt their Happiness Curriculum to students' needs. In a review meeting on Friday, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia issued instructions to education department officials to conduct a "large-scale survey" to "understand the changes in the mental and emotional state of children in the past two years".

As per a statement from his of-

ice, this study will also look at changes in parenting style and the psychological and emotional state of parents. The government plans to use the findings from the study and inputs from experts to modify the Happiness Curriculum by introducing new chapters, stories and activities "so that students can learn to stress free in challenging situations like pandemic".

With the stated objectives of developing self-awareness and "mindfulness", critical thinking and inquiry, enabling expression, happiness classes in government schools involve "mindfulness" sessions, storytelling and teacher-student interactions.

## BRIEFLY

## Gurgaon sees 3 new deaths

Gurgaon: The district Friday reported three Covid deaths, including a four-year-old girl, who was suffering from blood cancer. Gurgaon has seen 15 deaths so far this month. Dr Jai Prakash, district surveillance officer, said the girl was suffering from acute lymphocytic leukemia. "A 40-year-old unvaccinated woman, who was Covid positive, died due to blood cancer and a 32-year-old fully vaccinated man without any co-morbidities, who was hospitalised since the past two days, died due to Covid," he added. Over 3,509 fresh cases were reported Friday, taking the tally of active cases in the district to 25,306.

## Third doses drop by close to 6k this week

New Delhi: Fewer precautionary doses have been administered in Delhi this week, dropping to a daily average of 15,215 shots, as per data on the CoWin portal. In comparison, 21,106 shots were administered on average each day, barring Sunday, during the previous week.

## Man shoots at wife, kills self

Gurgaon: A 34-year-old former home guard allegedly shot his wife over a "family dispute", and then shot himself in Nuh Thursday night. Police said his wife is admitted to a Delhi hospital. ENS



## VACCINE STATION

A vaccination queue at Anand Vihar railway station, Thursday. Praveen Khanna

## GitHub case: Court asks if two FIRs in Mumbai, Delhi can be legally investigated

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

A DELHI court will look into whether two separate FIRs filed in the same case against engineering student Vishal Sudhirkumar Jha (21), one of the accused in the GitHub app case in which photographs of 100 Muslim women were hosted without their consent, can be legally investigated.

Jha, a second-year civil engineering student studying in Bengaluru, was arrested by the Mumbai Police earlier this month. He was the first of the four people to be arrested in connection with the app.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana passed the order after it came to his notice that an FIR is also registered in Mumbai based on the same facts, and that the case is also

under investigation there, while hearing arguments on Jha's anticipatory bail application in Delhi.

The investigating officer of the case told the court that the complainant in both FIRs were different. ASJ Rana was of the opinion that "mere difference in the name of the complainant would not make the two FIRs on the same cause of action legally permissible".

The court relied on a Supreme Court judgment dealing with the issue of registration of multiple FIRs on the same cause of action and said a second FIR based on the same cause of action is legally not permissible. "Thus, for a just and legal adjudication of the instant application, it becomes mandatory for this court to resolve the issue as to which of the two FIRs, i.e. one pending investigation in Mumbai and one pending inves-

tigation in Delhi, can be legally investigated," it said.

The DCP concerned has been asked to file a detailed reply in the case to assist the court on the next date of hearing, depicting the difference between the subject matter of the two FIRs and which FIR was filed earlier. Police have been asked not to take any coercive action till the next date of hearing.

Advocate Shivam Deshmukh moved the anticipatory bail application on behalf of the applicant, arguing that he has "no role to play in the creation of the alleged app. Even if, for the sake of argument, it is presumed that the applicant was following the 'Bulli Bai' app, then it in no manner constitutes an offence".

He argued that Jha surrendered to the Cyber Crime (BKC) Western Division, Mumbai, on January 4 and was remanded in judicial custody on January 10.

Additional Public Prosecutor Irfan Ahmed opposed the plea, stating that the applicant was "part of a group chat called 'Trad Mahasabha' and as a result of discussion in said group chat, the alleged app on GitHub was created by accused Neeraj Bishnoi".

The prosecutor submitted that the investigation is at an initial stage, and he needs to be interrogated, for which a team has already been sent to Mumbai.

The app was hosted on US-based GitHub on December 31. On January 2, separate FIRs were registered in Delhi and Mumbai, based on complaints by women who were among those targeted.

Earlier this month, a Delhi court dismissed the bail plea of Neeraj Bishnoi, who is accused of creating the app, observing that his act was an "affront to the dignity of women of a particular community and communal harmony of society".

## 9 STRETCHES PICKED AS SAMPLES FOR GOVT'S STREETSCAPING PROJECT

## Cobblestones to benches, Lodhi Road stretch to soon sport 'medieval look'

GAYATHRI MANI  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

A 600-METRE stretch on Lodhi Road is set to get a revamp to give it a "medieval" look, in line with various historical monuments dotting the area, as part of the Delhi government's streetscaping project. Under this, roads, walkways, and footpaths will be redeveloped using Dholpur and Agra fine red sandstone.

"Nine stretches have been

selected across the city to be redeveloped as samples. Apart from redesigning these roads to make space for pedestrians, we are making the spaces informative by adding interesting facts of the area," said a senior PWD official.

To give the stretch a "medieval" feel, the PWD is planning to use black granite cobblestones and set up benches and bollards made using red Agra sandstone and Dholpur sandstone. It will also sport a stone board with in-

formation about the history of the area, nearest restaurants, parks, and places of significance to visit such as Lodhi Garden, Lodi Tomb, Safdarjung Tomb, etc.

To beautify the stretch, decorative lights and lanterns will be installed. Three kiosks will also come up to act as information hubs during important events as well as to provide historical facts about Lodhi Road.

Said an official: "Currently, we have financial sanction for 5 of the 9 stretches and tenders



An example of what a revamped stretch would look like. Express

have been floated to start work at the earliest. The estimate for work that's remaining is ready and moved for financial approval. CM Arvind Kejriwal is personally monitoring the project and has directed it to be completed soon. Our target is to finish by July."

The department will also redevelop the drainage system and create a rainwater harvesting system to supply water to the horticulture development. Three garbage bins, toilet blocks for

men and women, and a 'water ATM' are also on the cards.

The other areas include a 700-metre stretch on Aurobindo Marg; KN Katju Marg in Rohini; Bhaithan Marg T Point to Rajpath crossing; and a 675-metre stretch in Outer Delhi near the Tikri Border. Tenders have been floated for the redevelopment of all four stretches and the estimated budget is Rs 63.63 crore.

Nelson Mandela Marg, also on the list and expected to get sanction soon, will sport photos

and details of the former South African President.

The first stretches to be redeveloped were Chirag Dilli to Sheikh Sarai on the old BRT corridor and Nehru Nagar near PG-DAV college.

Sources said the CM had appreciated the development but was not satisfied with the design, and directed that nine more stretches be turned into samples. The one with the best design will be implemented across the city.

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**REPEATED SCHOOL CLOSURES IMPACT ACADEMIC LEARNING; ONLINE-OFFLINE SWITCH ADDING CONFUSION**

From education teams at World Bank to UNESCO, experts have been warning against school closures. But, the governments have been stuck in making the tough choice between health and education for children.

**TECH**



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An attempt at making a 'Peleton' for India

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**AASIF MUJTABA ON CURATING PHOTOBOOK 'HUM DEKHENGE'**

'For a Muslim in India, justice is utopian'

**EXPRESS AUDIO**

**Was Djokovic treated unfairly by Australia?**

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In the latest episode of the Express Sports podcast, we discuss why the world No.1 men's Tennis player was deported from Australia, and whether he was treated unfairly.

**FROM PAGE ONE**

**Amar Jawan Jyoti**

announced that a "grand statue" of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose will be installed beneath the empty canopy at India Gate — it has been vacant since 1968 when the statue of King George V was removed and taken to Coronation Park in northwest Delhi.

Saying Netaji's statue there will be "a symbol of India's indebtedness to him," the Prime Minister, in a Twitter post, said: "At a time when the entire nation is marking the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, I am glad to share that his grand statue, made of granite, will be installed at India Gate. This would be a symbol of India's indebtedness to him."

"Till the grand statue of Netaji Bose is completed, a hologram statue of his would be present at the same place. I will unveil the hologram statue on 23rd January, Netaji's birth anniversary," he said.

Hailing the announcement, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said: "This decision is a national expression of respect for Netaji by a grateful nation on the occasion of his 125th birth anniversary. With the installation of the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the inspiration of patriotism, self-respect and valour will be awakened in the minds of the people of India and future generations, and the spirit of sacrificing everything for maintaining the independence of the country will be ignited."

Taking a dig at the Congress, Home Minister Amit Shah said: "Netaji is an epitome of India's true strength and resolve. The Congress has left no stone unturned to forget the immortal contributions of India's brave son. Prime Minister Modi's decision to install Netaji's statue at India Gate on his 125th Jayanti will inspire our generations to come."

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman called it a "welcome decision" and a "fitting tribute to the great hero".

The decision to install a statue of Netaji at India Gate is politically and historically symbolic. The BJP has often accused the Congress of having ignored the contributions of many freedom fighters.

At the Amar Jawan Jyoti, in a short and solemn ceremony, presided over by Air Marshal BR Krishna, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee, a part of the flame was taken and merged with the flame at the National War Memorial with full military honours.

The Amar Jawan Jyoti was established in 1972 to mark India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh. The then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi had inaugurated it on Republic Day in 1972.

The Amar Jawan Jyoti is an iconic symbol. Live TV coverage of the Republic Day parade, watched by millions every year, always began with visuals of the flame and homage being paid to the fallen soldiers. The flame there has now been merged with the one at the National War Memorial, burning ever since its inauguration in 2019.

The sandstone canopy has been vacant ever since the statue of King George V was moved to the Coronation Park.

Sources in the Ministry of Culture say while the graphic model of the 28x6 feet statue has been readied by a team from the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), and has been approved by the PMO, they are shortlisting a sculptor to execute it.

"It won't take more than a few months before the actual statue is ready," sources said, adding that the installation will be done this year itself, to coincide with 75 years of independence celebrations, the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

A senior government functionary privy to the developments, who didn't wish to be identified, said, "This move shouldn't be seen

in isolation. When Bose's 125th birth anniversary celebration was launched on January 23, 2021, it started with packing off British relics from the Victoria Memorial in Kolkata and turning it into a museum dedicated to the life and times of the iconic leader."

**War of words**

its position after PM Narendra Modi announced that a grand statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose would come up at India Gate.

"It is a matter of great sadness that the immortal flame that used to burn for our brave soldiers will be extinguished today. Some people cannot understand patriotism and sacrifice — never mind... We will once again light the Amar Jawan Jyoti for our soldiers!" Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in a Twitter post.

Hours after the PM announced the decision to install Netaji's statue at the India Gate, the Congress said there cannot be any conflict or competition between the icons of the freedom movement and the fallen war heroes as both have made immeasurable contributions to the country.

Congress communication department head Randeep Surjewala said the lustre of the Amar Jawan Jyoti will adorn the statue of Netaji. "Only those who want self-fulfilment and trigger controversies will look for one or the other alternatives... We condemn this sponsored and artificial controversy," he said.

Several Congress leaders hit out at the government but many Opposition parties remained silent. "One cannot even imagine India Gate without the Amar Jawan Jyoti flame... They (BJP leaders) have no valour, sense of sacrifice and respect for our soldiers," said Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha.

Anand Sharma, Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, said the BJP government's mandate was to build the nation and not to rewrite history. "Extinguishing the Amar Jawan Jyoti erected in 1972 in the memory of our soldiers who died in the Bangladesh war is shocking and a national outrage. This is insulting history and the memory of the martyrs. The War Memorial has its place but Amar Jawan Jyoti has sanctity and is the nation's pride," he said.

The government countered the Congress claim. "The flame of the Amar Jawan Jyoti shall continue at the National War Memorial where all the names of our fallen soldiers/martyrs are etched for eternity," said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Government sources said it was "ironic that people who did not make a National War Memorial for seven decades" were "making a hue and cry when a permanent and fitting tribute is being made to our martyrs."

"The flame of the Amar Jawan Jyoti is not being extinguished. It is being merged with the flame at the National War Memorial," a government sources said.

While Congress MP Manish Tewari said "whatever is being done is a national tragedy and an attempt to rewrite history," RJD leader Manoj Kumar Jha said "it is a sad and unfortunate decision".

"I know you (BJP) have made no contribution to India's glorious past but that does not certainly mean that you will extinguish the flame which has been burning for 50 years," Jha said.

BSP MP Kunwar Danish Ali said extinguishing the eternal flame at Amar Jawan Jyoti is unacceptable.

**Veterans split**

Memorial is "great", memories of Amar Jawan Jyoti are "indelible". He said: "Request rescind decision."

The decision, however, was supported by many military veterans including Ashok K Mehta who told *The Indian Express*: "The Congress will obviously oppose

(the decision) because the Amar Jawan Jyoti came up during their time. But with the War Memorial now in place, it does not make sense to have two separate flames to commemorate soldiers. It is the right choice to merge the flames and have only one place for it."

Lt Gen Satish Dua (retd), former Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff, tweeted in favour of the move: "A needless controversy is being created. The flame of Amar Jawan Jyoti is being merged with that of the National War Memorial; it is not being extinguished. NWM is the designated war memorial at National level to pay homage to all India's Bravehearts, past present or future."

Major General Amarjit Singh said: "I think it is okay because you can't have two institutions. One place is better. The new War Memorial is a really good institution, so I think that should be looked after in a better way rather than having two separate places. The War Memorial has everybody; the latest names are there which are not there at India Gate. It also takes a lot of manpower to have two separate places. We have got to move on."

Air Marshal Anil Chopra said: "They have just merged the two in a single place, with no disrespect to the flame having been there for the last 50 years. With the merger, we are just recognising all martyrs in one shot. We have a National War Memorial and that should be the single point where the flame should be. Some people are saying it could have been in both places. It could have been, but if there are two places very close to each other, then it doesn't make sense."

Major General G G Dwivedi, a veteran of the Bangladesh War, said: "Amar Jawan Jyoti was created for the 1971 war martyrs. Thereafter, we lost men in Kargil, Siachen... But we didn't have a War Memorial of a national character. Now we have the National War Memorial. There is the question of the flame... If you think apolitically, it makes sense to have one place where the dignitaries go and pay homage to our martyrs. The other school of thought is that it could have continued but then it would have become redundant because no one would go there. If we don't get into the politics of it, this is a logical step."

However, Lt Col Rajendra Bhaduri (retd), a veteran aviator, in a Twitter post, said: "India Gate has names of Indian soldiers who died in wars. It is immaterial who constructed it. The 1971 war memorial Amar Jawan Jyoti was added to it in 1972. It is sacred and it need not be extinguished even if there is a new war memorial with its own amar jyoti."

Another veteran, Lt Col Manoj Channan wrote: "While NWM is a great step forward, please remember, armed forces are all about remembering your fallen heroes, ethos, traditions. Eternal flame at India Gate will not be a cost which the government of India cannot bear. There are memories attached of people who lost their kith and kin."

**Delhi curbs**

was over in the city. The rejection from the L-G also took a political turn as the AAP government blamed the BJP-led central government. "It is unfortunate that L-G has rejected the strong demand of traders and the business community. The L-G has rejected the proposal of the elected government despite the fact that Covid cases are reducing at a very fast pace. When all markets of Gurgaon and Noida are open, why should the business community of Delhi be made to suffer by the BJP's central government?"

The Delhi government has been facing pressure over the curbs. Its decision came days after the New Delhi Traders Association, Sadar Bazar traders

and other market associations held a protest demanding that the odd-even policy be lifted as it was hurting them financially and many employees were losing jobs.

Following the L-G's decision, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority issued revised guidelines. It also clarified that night curfew from 10 pm to 5 am and weekend curfew from 10 pm Friday till 5 am Monday will continue until further orders.

**Yati case**

"On being asked about the court proceedings in the Haridwar hate speech case, Yati Narsinghanand went on to state that 'we have no trust in the Supreme Court of India and the Constitution. The Constitution will consume the 100 crore Hindus of this country. Those who believe in this Constitution will be killed. Those who believe in this system, in these politicians, in the Supreme Court and in the Army will all die the death of a dog,'" Nelli said in her letter.

"In another clip from the same conversation, Yati Narsinghanand, when asked about the arrest made by the police in the case, goes on to say that 'when Jitendra Singh Tyagi went by the name Wasim Rizvi and wrote his book, not a single policeman, not one of these 'hijde' policeman or politician had the courage to arrest him,'" says the letter.

Nelli said Narsinghanand's remarks sought "to undermine the majesty of the institution and the authority vested in the Supreme Court of India". It was "a vile and clear attempt at interfering in the course of justice by means of abusive rhetoric and baseless attacks on the integrity of the Constitution and the courts" and "any such attempt to harm the majesty of the institution and diminish the faith that citizens of India have in the court can result in complete chaos and anarchy," she said.

Responding to the letter, the AG said he had "watched the video of the statements of Yati Narsinghanand which have been explained to me". "I find that the statement made by Yati Narsinghanand that 'those who believe in this system, in these politicians, in the Supreme Court and in the Army will all die the death of a dog' is a direct attempt to lower the authority of the Supreme Court in the minds of the general public". Granting sanction, the AG said "this would certainly amount to contempt of the Supreme Court of India".

Under Section 15 of The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, the consent of the Attorney General or Solicitor General is required before the Supreme Court can take cognizance of a contempt of court plea by a private individual.

**2 kids frozen**

bottled water, bottled juice and snacks.

As they were taking the three back to the border patrol station in North Dakota, the officers spotted another group of five Indian nationals walking.

They said they had walked across the border and had expected to be picked up by someone. The group said they estimated they had been walking for more than 11 hours, the report added.

A woman stopped breathing several times as she was transported to hospital. Court documents said she will require partial amputation of her hand. A man was also hospitalised for frostbite but was later released.

One of the men in the group was carrying a backpack that had baby supplies in it — clothes, a diaper and a toy. Court documents said he told the officers that it belonged to a family who got separated from their group overnight.

The bodies discovered in Canada have been tentatively identified as that of the family of four, the release from the US Attorney's Office said.

In Winnipeg, Canada, on Thursday, Manitoba Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Assistant Commissioner Jane MacLachy told a news conference that once they were notified that the family may still be in Manitoba, officers immediately began to search the area.

After a difficult search, she said, officers found three bodies together — a man, a woman and a baby — just 10 metres from the border. The search continued and a teen boy was found a short distance away. It is believed they died from exposure.

They were wearing winter clothing, she said, but it would not have been enough to save them with the freezing conditions.

"These victims faced not only the cold weather but also endless fields, large snowdrifts and complete darkness," MacLachy said, adding wind chill had driven down the temperature to -35 C.

On Friday, India's Ambassador to Canada Ajay Bisaria tweeted calling it a "grave tragedy" and that Indian authorities were working with Canadian officials.

**Bodies reach**

the couple had barely been married nine months and that Hardeep was to soon leave for Canada.

"Hardeep had to go to the UAE when he got a driver's job at the oil company. But he always wanted to go to Canada or Europe... He got married to a girl who had cleared her IELTS and was studying in Canada. Everything was on track... he was so happy," said Rajbir Singh, a relative. "Hardeep was to have returned to India on January 19. His father died about two and half years ago and he was planning to start a new life in Canada with his wife and mother, but fate had other plans," he added.

At Bagha Purana village in Moga district, Hardev Singh's brother Sukhdev said they are still in the dark about what happened in Abu Dhabi. "We haven't got any information yet from the company," said Sukhdev, who lived with his brother in Abu Dhabi.

"Hardev was 18 years old when he first went there. He

changed several jobs because they were not safe. When he got the job at the oil company, he said things were finally getting better. Earlier we would be worried for him because the Middle East was always at war. But the situation has been better over the last few years. That was why my parents agreed to send me to my brother. He arranged a job for me at a construction site. He was my only support there. Now I don't know how I will work there without him," said Sukhdev, adding, "My brother has a four-year-old child. The government should help his family and his child."

**CBSE**

which featured a comprehension passage in one set of question papers that was criticised as being retrograde and offensive to women as it seemed to draw a link between "lack of parental authority in the home" and "the emancipation of the wife".

"We had been engaging the services of the two paper setters based on an agreement because of their expertise and experience. It was decided that we will no longer be utilising their services. They are accomplished at their work and will continue at their institutes. The questions were not 'wrong' but were not in line with discipline," said a CBSE official.

The question on the Gujarat riots had been picked from a paragraph in the NCERT's Class 12 Sociology textbook.

After facing a barrage of criticism over the English comprehension passage, the Board had put out a statement that it would set up an expert committee to "thoroughly review and strengthen the question paper setting process".

"The committee will look at the process in its entirety and see what is required to be done. If you look at the present system, there are actually enough checks and balances but new situations are emerging and at times you have to prepare with new techniques of allocating the work," said a member of the constituted committee.

**Refugees**

with injuries apparently caused by a bomb explosion. One of the four succumbed to the injuries, while three remain in the ICU of a private hospital in Aizawl, said Lalramenga.

It is not clear where they were injured.

The government source said NGOs, church groups and village officials had formed "refugee caretaker committees" and were looking after the displaced persons, with the local administration also assisting them. The NGOs are also mobilising donations of funds and relief such as clothes and food for the refugees.

Last year, the Centre had instructed the governments of the North-East states and Assam Rifles not to provide shelter to any of the displaced people and to deport them. But Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga had declined to abide by that order and said it was

the duty of the Mizo people to care for the refugees.

**Anti-CAA stir**

All 46 were also booked under IPC Sections 146 (rioting), 186 (obstructing a public official), 152 (using criminal force and deterring public officials from discharging their duties) and breaking curfew imposed under CrPc Section 144, along with provisions of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

The process of recovery follows three steps: estimation of damages, determination of "protestors" liable to pay damages; and recovery. All three steps were taken by the state raising questions of due process.

The Rs 64.37 lakh was estimated as cost of damage caused to roads and vehicles; Rs 8,80,000 for damage to four government buses; Rs 10,00,000 for a personal car; and, Rs 98,000 each for three personal motorcycles of government officials. No details were specified as to how these estimates had been arrived at.

None of the 28 has paid so far because their lawyers say a sum of Rs 64.37 lakh, as an individual payment, is way beyond their means and they fear the "real target" is their property that can be attached to recover the amount.

Besides, the "joint liability" provision has been challenged in the Allahabad High Court by protesters facing similar notices from other parts of the state — most notably by Syed Saif Abbas Naqvi, a Shia cleric, who was the first to secure a stay from the Allahabad High Court on December 3, 2020, against a recovery notice issued in a separate case by the Lucknow ADM for Rs 67.73 lakh.

Of the 28 held liable, the Magistrate proceeded ex-parte (without hearing them) against 15 and held them liable for damages. In at least 10 of these cases, the Magistrate recorded in the order that the individuals were arrested by the Lucknow police on December 19, 2019. But the magistrate does not record whether those arrested were granted bail while deciding the case ex-parte. Although the law gives Magistrates the power to pass ex-parte orders, such action in these cases raises serious questions of denial of due process.

In 25 cases, the mere inclusion of an individual's name in an FIR on the day of the protests is considered proof of involvement. Only in three cases did the Magistrate rely on "evidence" such as GPS locations on the phone confiscated and call data records to ascertain that the individual could be located in the protest site.

Curiously, in a case of six men from Malda in West Bengal, all daily-wagers with the same local address, three who questioned the Magistrate's power or argued that protesting against NRC or CAA is not unconstitutional were held liable. But those who simply

claimed they had no "nexus" with the protests were not. Incidentally, the evidence against all six is the same: the police arrested them from the site of the protest without specifying their roles.

Significantly, of the 28 held liable, 10 invoked the fundamental right to protest and questioned the Magistrate's powers to issue such a notice. All these 10 were held guilty.

Named in the FIR were social activist and teacher Robin Verma; former IPS officer S R Darapuri; Congress leader Sadaf Jafar; and an Alambagh resident identified only as Pulkit. The other 43 were from the minority community. Verma and 77-year-old Darapuri were held liable although they claimed they were not present at the site of the protests. Darapuri was under house-arrest on December 18, 2019 and was arrested on December 19 when protests intensified in the state capital. According to the order against Darapuri, the "nexus" was that he had delivered a provocative speech three days before the protest. He was released on bail on January 3, 2020.

The man identified as Pulkit was not held liable although the order records that he provided no response or evidence. In his case, the Magistrate cited the lack of "solid, clear evidence" — the only case where the Magistrate demanded more convincing evidence from the police.

The order in the case of Serial No. 8 in the list of 46, Sameen Ahmed, is identical to that of Serial No. 7, Mohammad Shaanu. In fact, in the concluding line, the Magistrate refers to Sameen Ahmed, son of Salim as Mohammad Shaanu, son of Nafees, showing that the orders were a copy-paste job.

When told about these patterns, ADM Vaibhav Mishra, who is now posted in Bulandshahr district, said: "I have passed these orders, acting in a judicial capacity. It would not be fair for me to comment on them."

Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra did not respond to a questionnaire sent by *The Indian Express* on the nature of evidence presented in these cases while determining liability. DGP Mukul Goel, too, did not respond.

In the Hazratganj cases, among the 18 let off from the original list of 46 for lack of evidence were: Rehan Khan, a Zomato employee who brought proof that he was delivering an order near the protest site when he was stopped by the police and arrested; a 19-year old who brought a family member to testify that he was visiting his aunt; and, another 19-year old student preparing for competitive exams who showed that he was returning from a coaching institute in to his hostel that was near the protest site.

FULL REPORTS ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

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F. No. 2-1/2022-Admn./I  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

1. Walk in interview for the posts of Assistant Professor in the teaching sub-cadre (Faculty) on purely contract basis for a period of one year in the following specialities on the dates mentioned against each will be held in Office of the Director, Lady Hardinge Medical College & S. K. Hospital, New Delhi: -

S. No.	Name of the Deptt.	No. of posts	SC	ST	OBC	UR	Date of interview & registration
1.	Blood Bank	01	-	-	-	01	01.02.2022
2.	Neonatology	02	-	-	-	02	01.02.2022
3.	Neurology	02	-	-	01	01	01.02.2022
4.	Forensic Medicine	01	-	-	-	01	01.02.2022
5.	Pediatric Nephrology	01	-	-	-	01	02.02.2022
6.	Plastic Surgery	01	-	-	-	01	02.02.2022
7.	Radiotherapy	02	01	-	01	-	02.02.2022
		10					

2. For further details, please visit login to website: <http://hmc-hosp.gov.in>

Sd/-  
(Sunil KS Bhadoria)  
Deputy Director (Admn.)

davp 17148/12/0026/2122

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of all the concerned that the advertisement was published on 13.01.2022 in newspaper regarding e-auction of Residential, Commercial, Nursing Home, School, Hospital, etc. sites from 18.01.2022 to 30.01.2022 is now re-scheduled for 29.01.2022 and 30.01.2022. The advertisements regarding the same have already been published in newspapers on 16.01.2022 and 17.01.2022. However, the revised schedule of e-auction and detail of properties is also available on [www.hsvp.hry.org.in](http://www.hsvp.hry.org.in).

Chief Administrator,  
HSPV, Panchkula

7062/HRV



## HASHTAG POLITICS



## • With blessings

After her high-profile entry into the BJP, Archana Yadav met her father-in-law Mulayam Singh Yadav in Lucknow on Friday. She tweeted a picture of her with the SP founder and wrote, "Took the blessings of father-in-law in Lucknow..."

26.8K LIKES, 4K RETWEETS IN 11 HOURS

## • Aazad releases manifesto

Chandra Shekhar Aazad posted his party's election manifesto for UP polls on Twitter. The manifesto promises free quality healthcare and education for all, fertilizer and seeds to farmers, and writing off all farm loans.

4K LIKES, 1.5K RETWEETS IN 11 HOURS

## BALLOTIN

## On Manipur statehood day, PM pitches for 'double engine' govts

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted that impediments to Manipur's progress have been removed and the state's development has begun on a fast pace under the BJP government. Greeting people on Manipur's statehood day, Modi said in a speech that the state deserves peace and to be ridden of frequent bandhs and blockades. The PM said that under the "double-engine" of development — a reference to the BJP being in the power at the state as well as the Centre — Manipur was finally getting long-awaited facilities like railways. PM Modi said the government is committed to making Manipur the sports powerhouse of the country, and that the state has a key role to play in the Act East policy. PTI

## I HEREBY DECLARE

## SURESHRANA

THANA BHAWAN  
BJP

## TOTAL ASSETS

₹37,02,480 (SELF)

## MOVABLE

SELF: ₹25,55,480

WIFE: ₹13,20,958

## IMMOVABLE

SELF: ₹11,47,000

WIFE: ₹30,46,000



## BANK LOANS/DEBT

NIL

## CRIMINAL CASES

3 (MUZAFFARNAGAR -1, SHAMLI-2)

CONVICTED: NONE

The battle for Hastinapur:  
A ladki in the mix

Up against heavyweights, Archana Gautam is not likely to win. But the model, actor and contestant from this reserved seat has not let that stop her earlier

## AMIT SHARMA

MEERUT, JANUARY 21

"A WOMAN faces challenges starting from her birth, at her parent's place to that of her husband's. For me too, there are many challenges, but I am not frightened and will face all," says Archana Gautam.

On Friday afternoon, Gautam filed her nomination papers as the Congress candidate from the Hastinapur (SC) seat in Meerut. It might be the 26-year-old's first election, but the model-turned-actress-turned-politician has been making much news since Priyanka Gandhi Vadra announced her name as one of the Congress's women candidates, in an Uttar Pradesh campaign centred around the theme 'Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon'.

Not many roads for a woman from a Dalit middle-class family, in a city like Meerut, lead to Mumbai or other tinsel towns. Gautam, who has a Miss Bikini India title and some Tamil and Hindi films under her belt, says that never stopped her. When some right-wing Hindu outfits sought to embarrass her with her modelling pictures after the Congress gave her a ticket, Gautam shot back in a statement to ANI: "I request people to not merge my profession in the media industry with my political career." In a Facebook Live interaction, Vadra took on those attacking Gautam, asking why questions regarding the choice of clothes or prospects of marriage are not asked of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Why are such questions asked only of women?... It is to di-



Archana Gautam (centre) after filing her nomination from Hastinapur constituency on Friday. Express

minish them."

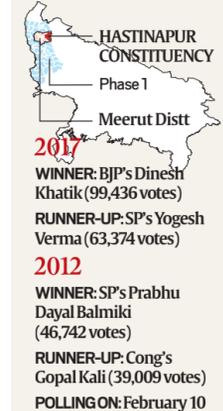
On the electoral field at least, the task before Gautam is daunting. Facing her are sitting BJP MLA Dinesh Khatak, who was inducted as a Minister of State in the Yogi Adityanath government three months ago; former MLA Yogesh Verma, a candidate of the SP-RLD alliance; and the BSP's Sanjeev Javav. Gautam, a Mass Communication graduate, says entering politics was a well-thought-out move. "I joined inspired by Priyanka didi, only because I wanted to give a strong message to women..."

Born to Gautam Budh and wife Sunita, she had her first exposure to the world of glamour when she won the Miss UP title in 2014 while doing her graduation. In 2018, she won the Miss Bikini India title and represented India at the Miss Cosmos World. Gautam claims politics is in her

blood, citing a grandfather who was in the party around the time of Indira Gandhi. "I heard a lot about the Congress from him." Vadra's Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon decided it for her, she adds. "I knew I would be trolled as a Bikini Girl but nothing was going to deter me from my goal."

Pointing to Hastinapur's significance as one of the mythical sites in the Mahabharata, she adds: "Hastinapur's MLAs a minister in the Yogi Adityanath Cabinet but the place has seen no development. The BJP is giving a facelift to Ayodhya and to Varanasi, but no one thought about developing Hastinapur."

Hastinapur has been a reserved constituency since 1967, and its residents pride themselves on choosing an MLA whose party went on to form the government. While Muslims form the biggest group here (nearly 75,000), by



virtue of it being reserved (the only one of Meerut's seven), it is the Dalits (70,000) who call the shots in the constituency. People laugh that, here, all the Dalit candidates are out wooing the non-SCs. There is also a 10,000-strong congregation of Bengali Hindus, many of whom migrated here in the 1970s.

Verma, an SP leader, is facing protests from some workers of ally RLD over his nomination. However, he is dismissive of the challenge posed by Gautam. "The Congress likes to field Bollywood faces from Meerut. During the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, it fielded Nagma, but she got only 13,222 votes," he says. The gram pradhan of Hastinapur village, Kusum Siddharth, says: "Even though Gautam's victory at the moment seems a distant dream, elections can be unpredictable. Let us wait and watch."

## Six yrs after felling Cong govt, Harak Singh returns

## AVANEESH MISHRA

DEHRADUN, JANUARY 21

FIVE DAYS after being removed as a BJP member and Uttarakhand minister on charges of indiscipline, Harak Singh Rawat joined the Congress in Delhi Friday along with his daughter-in-law Anukriti Gusain. The low-key welcome party included Harish Rawat, the Congress campaign head in Uttarakhand who had opposed the junior Rawat's entry.

In a long history of party-hopping, Harak Singh's last stint in the Congress ended in 2016, when he was part of the MLAs who defected, bringing down Harish Rawat's government.

Putting up a united front, the Congress Friday ensured the presence of its entire Uttarakhand

line-up in Delhi for Harak Singh, including PCC president Ganesh Godiyal, Leader of Opposition in the Uttarakhand Assembly Pritam Singh, state party in-charge Devender Yadav and others. Sources indicated that the Congress might not oblige him further though, and Harak Singh would have to choose between himself and his daughter-in-law for a ticket.

Harak Singh first gave a hint of his days in the BJP being numbered last month, when he threatened to resign as Minister of Forest and Environment, Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Energy at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. The reason he gave was the state BJP government's lack of approval for a medical college in his Kotdwar constituency.



Harak Singh Rawat (centre-right) joins Congress in the presence of senior leader Harish Rawat. Courtesy: Congress/Twitter

BJP sources said the real provocation was the party's reluctance to give a ticket to Gusain besides Harak Singh.

While the senior leader hoped to traipse into the Congress, the BJP's action removing him re-

duced his bargaining power. As Harish Rawat held out, the Congress took five days to decide, finally taking Harak Singh on the same day as nominations began for Uttarakhand elections.

Harish Rawat's animus dates

back to March 2016, when Harak Singh had joined eight other Congress MLAs in joining hands with the BJP to fell his government. Harak Singh reportedly wanted more portfolios and was turned down by the CM.

Talking to *The Indian Express* last month, Harish Rawat had indicated he would be accommodating, to an extent. "I have already said we will not take those involved in dislodging the government. But later I also said that if the party thinks it right, then we can consider. However, the person has to regret that the step was against Uttarakhand and democracy... Regret for toppling the government is a must," he said.

The senior Rawat's reservations notwithstanding, Harak Singh's long run of election victories is too attractive to pass up. A

'doctorate in military science', he was a reader at Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna University in Srinagar Garhwal before he joined the BJP in 1984. He lost the first Assembly election he contested in then undivided Uttar Pradesh, but won in 1991 from Pauri and became the youngest minister in the Kalyan Singh government. Harak Singh then shifted to the BSP, and when it denied him a ticket, jumped to the Congress in 1998. He won the next two elections from Lansdowne, in 2002 and 2007 (Uttarakhand was carved out in 2000). In 2016, following the rebellion against Harish Rawat, he was back in the BJP.

BJP spokesperson Suresh Joshi said the decision to take back Harak Singh proved that all the allegations the latter had once made against the Congress were correct.



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi release the Congress's Youth Manifesto, in New Delhi. Anil Sharma

## HIGHLIGHTS OF MANIFESTO

- Provide 20 lakh govt jobs
- Fill up vacancies, including 1.5 lakh teaching positions
- Relax 'one product, one district policy', declare as clusters areas with 100 units of same industry
- Waive fees on forms for competitive exams, make travel free for appearing for exams; draw up a job calendar
- Increase UP's education budget, upgrade facilities in schools & universities
- Organise annual youth festival
- Set up cricket academy, sports academy with different centres

## PROTEST &amp; POLITICS

## DU teacher, farm activist now ready for poll debut with SSM

## RAAKHI JAGGA

LUDHIANA, JANUARY 21

TWENTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD Anuroop Kaur Sandhu, who is an assistant professor in Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College affiliated to Delhi University, can be seen canvassing in Muktsar villages for the coming Punjab Assembly polls. Sandhu has been fielded by the Samyukt Samaj Morcha (SSM) as its candidate for the February 20 election from the Muktsar constituency.

The SSM, headed by Balbir Singh Rajewal, is a political front launched by 22 farmer unions on December 25 for fighting the Punjab election. Its constituent farmer bodies were part of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) that spearheaded the year-long farmers' agitation.

Looking forward to making her electoral debut, Sandhu has been on leave from her job as a DU college teacher. "I am working out technicalities as whether I should resign or not because I am not on regular rolls," she says.

Sandhu, who belongs to a farmer's family, hails from



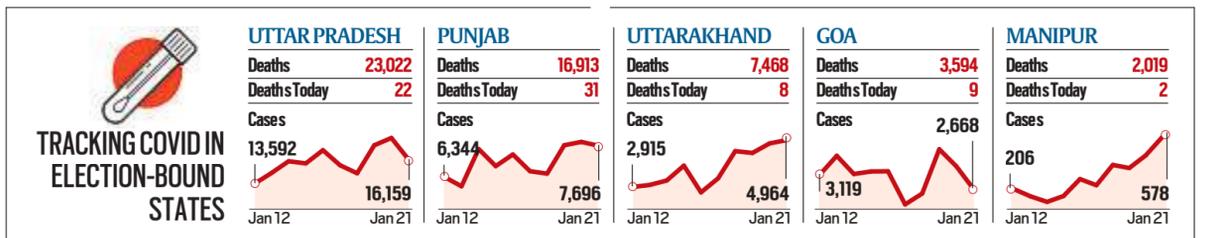
Anuroop Kaur Sandhu (centre) in Muktsar. Express

Kanianwali village in Muktsar. "Until class 10, I studied in Muktsar... I did my class 11 and 12 from Mussoorie and later got admission in Delhi University for BA and for my MA in English... since early 2018 I have been working in Delhi while also pursuing my MPhil in comparative Indian Literature from DU," she says.

It was during farmers' agitation that Sandhu started visiting the protest site at Delhi's borders. "I even started a blog on the human cost suffered in the course of farmers' protests in which I tried to compile deaths of all those who died during the agitation. When

some farmer unions of Punjab decided to contest the polls, I was willing to work as a campaigner or to do whatever task they assigned me... (I) was overwhelmed when they nominated me as a candidate." Acknowledging that she will be pitted against "big wigs", she says, "I am a novice in politics but I have a passion to bring a change in society..."

Her father Gurshinder Pal Singh Sandhu, 61, who believed in providing the best education, says: "I am so proud that she decided to contest the election. I am also happy that she contributed to the kisan andolan (agitation)."



## With EC curbs in place, Goa parties scale up digital campaign on FB, Instagram and more

## MAYURA JANWALKAR

PANAJI, JANUARY 21

WITH THE Election Commission extending the ban on physical rallies and roadshows for the upcoming Assembly elections in five states to January 22 amid the raging Covid third wave, political parties in poll-bound Goa have ramped up their social media campaign in their bids to woo voters and take on their opponents.

From Facebook Live to Instagram Reels to WhatsApp groups, the contestants in the Goa electoral battlefield are using various social media platforms aggressively to direct their messaging to voters ahead of the polls. All the major political parties,

including the ruling BJP, Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and the latest entrant into the fray, Trinamool Congress (TMC), have stepped up their election campaigning via social media.

Although door-to-door canvassing by their leaders have already begun in parts of Goa, the parties are now prioritising digital outreach. They have augmented the strength of their social media cells by bringing in more "social media warriors", as they gear up for virtual rallies and more interactive engagement.

With the EC's ban on physical rallies and roadshows coming into effect since January 8, they have amped it up, giving an extra push to their engagements with voters as well as the profiles of their elec-

VOTING ON  
FEBRUARY 14

tion candidates. "This is a challenge because nobody has experienced such restrictions in election campaign before. This situation has arisen for the first time," said Goa BJP general secretary Narendra Sawalkar.

"There are Instagram Reels, Facebook Live, short videos for people on WhatsApp. That's the best way to do it," Sawalkar said. Tailoring their messaging to each of the 40 constituencies in Goa seems to have been their focus now. "We had to organise ourselves more effectively so we can reach the last person. We have WhatsApp groups in all con-

stituencies," said Sawalkar.

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) social media department's national coordinator-in-charge of Goa, Hasiba Amin, said, "Social media also gives you the option of targeted messaging and engagement. In a rally you give one message to all those who have gathered. But what social media gives you is the engagement platform." She said, "We have approximately 2,000 WhatsApp groups to percolate to the booth level. Our focus now is on how to have a more person to person, two-way communication on our digital platforms."

The AAP had to induct more members into its 20-member social media team, a party

spokesperson said. The AAP has been using Twitter and YouTube actively for its campaign. It went live on Facebook with party supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's door-to-door campaign in three constituencies in the state recently. The party has also regularly made use of memes and Instagram trends for connecting with the youth.

The TMC that arrived in Goa with the campaign management expertise of Prashant Kishor's iPAC, has over 2,500 social media volunteers. According to the party, Goa has 13.5 lakh digital users and their aim was to touch each user at least 500 times. The TMC claims that WhatsApp is its biggest strength digitally, connected to at least 30 per cent Goans.

# 7 GOVT & POLITICS



## FLASHBACK MODE

ANNIVERSARIES APPEAR to have become the new fad in political parties as it has become an opportunity to appropriate, take credit or slam opposition. However, Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar took it to a different level on Friday when he tweeted about the 11th anniversary of his disclosure on irregularities in the 2G spectrum allocation. "Flashback to 11 years ago", when he "outed" Congress leaders Kapil Sibal and P Chidambaram, he said in a tweet. Chandrasekhar, then a Rajya Sabha MP, also remembered those who backed him. In another tweet, the minister said he "paid a heavy price" for his disclosure, which included "tax raids, harassment, disrupting and losses in business" with which he was associated. "But it left me with a permanent determined resolve to always fight Cong goons n crooks," he tweeted.

## TESTING POSITIVE

MEGHALAYA CHIEF Minister Conrad Sangma, who held a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in Delhi on Thursday, has tested positive for Covid-19. In a tweet on Friday, Sangma said, "I have tested positive for Covid-19. I am isolating myself for the required time. I have mild symptoms. All those who came into contact with me last few days are requested to observe their symptoms and test if necessary." Sangma had met Shah and Sarma to resolve Meghalaya's boundary dispute with Assam and submitted a report on possible resolution with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

## DOCTOR, MINISTER

DR JITENDRA SINGH is one of the busiest minister in the Modi administration with as many as six portfolios under him — as Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, MoS for the PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space. But this has not kept him from juggling roles as a political leader on one hand, and a medical doctor on the other. During the pandemic, Singh has been in constant touch with central government officials who have been struck with Covid-19, monitoring their health on the phone and giving them medical advice.

## AMID COVID-19 SURGE IN KERALA

# CPM wraps up meet after Kerala HC orders curbs in Kasaragod

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JANUARY 21

HOURS AFTER it began a three-day district conference in Kasaragod on Friday, the ruling CPI(M) in Kerala was forced to wind up the party meet following a Kerala High Court order banning gatherings of more than 50 people in the district as part of Covid-19 restrictions.

A division bench of the court acted upon a PIL, which challenged the sudden withdrawal of an order of the Kasaragod Collector, putting restriction on meetings attended by more than 50 people.

The Opposition alleged that Collector Bhandari Swagat Ranveerchand was forced to withdraw the order Thursday night, hours after it was issued, under duress from the CPI(M), which wanted to have its district conference attended by 200-odd delegates and other volunteers. Incidentally, when the gov-

ernment introduced grading for districts to impose Covid-19 restrictions from Thursday, the districts of Kasaragod and Thrissur, where CPI(M) conferences were slated to begin on Friday, did not fit into the new criterion for imposing restrictions, despite both reporting high test positivity rate.

Following the court order, Bhandari issued a fresh order in the evening, banning all functions attended by more than 50 people for a week. After issuing the order, he went on leave till the end of the month.

While Kasaragod district conference was abandoned on the first day itself, the CPI(M) decided to continue the district conference in Thrissur.

CPI(M) state secretary Koodiyer Balakrishnan said: "The meeting in Thrissur would be cancelled on Saturday. The High Court has issued the directive (banning meetings with attendance of more than 50 people) without hearing the CPI(M). However, we respect the court order," he said.



Utpal Parrikar addresses a press conference in Panaji on Friday. Mayura Janwalkar

toiled with my father to build this party and now they are toiling with me. I also enjoy the support of the general population of Panaji. In spite of that, I have not been able to get the candidature of Panaji constituency," said 40-year-old Utpal after resigning from the BJP on Friday evening.

# Goa elections: Utpal Parrikar quits BJP, to contest from Panaji as Independent

MAYURA JANWALKAR  
PANAJI, DECEMBER 21

AFTER THE BJP refused to name him as its candidate from the Panaji constituency for the February 14 Goa Assembly elections, Utpal Parrikar, the son of former defence minister and three-time Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar, resigned from the party on Friday and announced that he would contest as an Independent from the state capital.

"I tried my best to convince my party during the last election (the 2019 bypoll after Manohar Parrikar's death) and this election that I enjoy the support of all the workers who have been with this party for the last 30 years. They

## GOT INPUTS ON PAK-BASED CHANNELS FROM INTEL AGENCIES: MINISTRY

# I&B orders blocking of 35 YouTube channels over 'anti-India' content

KRISHN KAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

A MONTH after it invoked new powers under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 to get 20 YouTube channels banned, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Friday said it has issued orders to ban 35 more channels on the online social media platform after receiving intelligence inputs against them.

These channels, with more than 100 crore views, were all based in Pakistan, ministry officials said. They were involved in spreading "anti-India fake news in a coordinated manner over digital media," they said.

It also passed orders to block two websites, two Twitter accounts and one Facebook account.

The ministry said in a statement that five separate orders were issued to block the web-

sites and YouTube channels after intelligence agencies, which were closely monitoring these social media accounts and websites, flagged them to the ministry for "immediate action". The ministry issued the orders to block them immediately after it received the intelligence inputs Thursday.

The 35 accounts were all operating from Pakistan, and were identified to be part of four co-ordinated disinformation networks, the ministry said. It identified two of them as Apni Duniya Network, which was operating 14 YouTube channels, and Talha Films Network, which was operating 13 YouTube channels. "All these networks appeared to be operated with a single goal of spreading fake news oriented towards the Indian audience," the ministry said.

The channels used common hashtags and editing styles, and cross promoted each other's content. Some of the channels were being operated by anchors of Pakistani TV news channels.

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** In a first, use of Intel inputs

THE USE of Intelligence inputs to regulate online content comes in the wake of increased anti-India propaganda on social media by pro-Pakistan channels and sites. To curb the challenge, officials said, more such channels and sites are likely to be blocked.

"The channels propagated content to encourage separatism, divide India on the lines of religion, and create animosity among the various sections of the Indian society. Such information was feared to have the potential to incite the audience into commission of crimes adversely affecting public order in the country," the ministry statement said.

Speaking to reporters, I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra said the channels had combined subscribers strength of 1.2 crore and had more than 130 crore views. These, he said, were "very, very toxic channels". "It was sort of a war against the country. War of misinformation," he said.

The ministry invoked Section 69A of IT Act, 2000 to get the channels blocked.

Chandra said that in December last year, the ministry had blocked 20 YouTube channels and two websites after receiving intelligence inputs. Fresh intelligence inputs were received by the ministry on Thursday, he said. The common factor in the blocked channels was that "they operate from Pakistan and spread fake anti-India content".

He highlighted that the content was on "serious issues" such as "Indian Armed Forces, Jammu and Kashmir, India's foreign relations, separatist ideas," and the recent death of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat.

He said the "intelligence agencies are now alive to this issue" and added that "now since this process has started, I'm sure more and more such channels will get blocked". He asked for people to send the ministry inputs on any channel or website involved in propagating such content.

Speaking about the role of intermediaries such as YouTube and Facebook among others, Chandra said it is their responsibility also, and such content "should get flagged in their system". However, he added, the ministry has received a "very good response" from the intermediaries. In December, when the last such order was issued, they implemented it within 24 hours, and blocked them "at the global level".

The channels have been ordered to be blocked invoking emergency powers, however, Joint Secretary Vikram Sahay said an inter-departmental committee will review the orders. The panel is expected to meet next week.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh, Union minister Anurag Thakur and UP Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya at the launch of the party's song for the upcoming Assembly elections, in Lucknow on Friday. Vishal Srivastav

# Yogi praises his govt: Better law & order, mafia properties freed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 21

LAUNCHING THE new BJP song 'UP Phir Maange BJP Sarkar' for the Assembly polls, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday praised his government for a "better" law and order as "photographs of rioters... were put up and public properties usurped by them were also freed".

Union Minister Anurag Thakur and BJP state chief Swatantra Dev Singh were also at the launch ceremony at the party office in Lucknow. The song depicts "achievements" of

the outgoing BJP government.

Speaking at the launch, Adityanath said, "The BJP government has kept the promises it made before the 2017 elections. We stopped the dynastic politics in the state, and established cultural nationalism. We gave the state a better environment of security. Photographs of rioters supported by the previous governments who were a threat to peace in the state were put up, and public properties usurped by them were also freed. It is an example for the country." After protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in 2020, at least 10 district administrations have issued no-

titles to around 500 protesters, seeking Rs 3.35 crore in damages.

"It was the BJP which has given mothers and daughters security in the last five years. Bulldozers were run over properties of the mafia which used political patronage to take away from the poor and create an atmosphere of fear," said the CM.

He attributed investment in the state and its development to a better law-and-order situation. "We have given the state a good environment for investment, and security has been given to everyone without discrimination. No one was appeased...," he said.

# BJP retains over 80% MLAs in 4th UP list

LALMANI VERMA  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 21

THE BJP on Friday announced its fourth list of candidates for the Uttar Pradesh elections, retaining more than 80 per cent of its MLAs. In the 85 seats for which candidates were declared, the ruling party retained 13 sitting legislators. It won 72 of the constituencies in the 2017 state elections.

Former Kanpur police commissioner Asim Arun who has been fielded from Kannauj, and former Agra mayor Anjula Mahor who has replaced sitting MLA Harishankar Mahor in Hathras are among the new faces to have received poll tickets. Both constituencies are reserved for Scheduled Caste communities.

Asked why Harishankar Mahor was replaced with Anjula Mahor, who is a state secretary of

the party, a BJP leader said, "Harishankar Mahor did development in the area but he lacked connect with local people. Anjula is an active lady. But more important is that in view of the case of the Dalit girl's sexual assault, fielding a woman could be better for the party in the elections."

The party leader was referring to the alleged sexual assault and murder of a Dalit girl in Hathras in September 2020.

## PUNJAB POLLS

# BJP's first list of 34 includes 4 former Congress leaders, 13 Sikh candidates

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA  
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 21

THE BJP Friday released its first list of 34 candidates, including a mix of old guard, new entrants from the Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal and Sikh faces, for the February 20 Assembly polls in Punjab. The list has 13 Sikh candidates, eight Dalits and two women.

Releasing the list in Delhi, BJP general secretary Tarun Chugh said the party has given representation to all sections of society. The names include former ministers Manoranjan Kalia, Surjit Kumar Jyanti and Tikshan Sood, and Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi—the sitting MLA from Guruharsahai who quit the Congress to join the party recently — and Nimisha Mehta — who too joined saffron party after Congress declared its first list and whose candidature was supported by Chief Minister Chhanni from Garhshankar. Sodhi, a former sports minister, will contest from Ferozepur City while Nimisha Mehta will contest from Garhshankar seat.

The others include Kanwarveer Singh Tohra, the grandson of late Akali stalwart Gurcharan Singh Tohra, and former CM Capt Amarinder Singh's close relative Arvind Khanna, who had quit Congress some years back while he was an MLA from Dhuri. He will contest from Sangrur while Tohra will test waters from Amloh.

This is the first time since 1997 when BJP will not be contesting in an alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD). The party has entered into a seat

## SAD (Sanyukt) releases list of 12 candidates

Chandigarh: Two-time MP Paramjit Kaur Gulshan, who had in March 2020 quit Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and joined breakaway faction of Akali Dal led by Rajya Sabha member of Parliament Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, is among 12 candidates announced by SAD (Sanyukt) on Friday for the February 20 elections. Gulshan will contest from Jaito (SC reserved) constituency. Sitting MLA and Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa's son Parminder Dhindsa would be SAD (Sanyukt) candidate from Lehragaga, the constituency he currently represents after he won from there on SAD ticket in 2017. **ENS**

sharing agreement with Amarinder's Punjab Lok Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal (Samyukt) led by Akali veteran Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa.

While the division of seats between the alliance partners has not yet been made public, state BJP president Ashwani Sharma said that the party would contest on around 65 seats. "We have given tickets to a cross section of the society. It includes Sikhs, farmers, a retired IAS officer, those from Schedule Caste. We are very confident that we will form the government in Punjab," he said.

# PG admissions unlikely in common test for central universities

SOURAV ROY BARMAN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

THE PROPOSED common entrance test (CET) for central universities, which the University Grants Commission (UGC) plans to hold from the next academic year, is not likely to have admissions to postgraduate courses under its ambit for now.

The test is likely to be held twice a year, sources privy to the discussions held by the Education Ministry with vice-chancellors of central universities on Thursdays, said.

It is learnt that the universities are not inclined to adopt a centralised admission process, like in the case of JEE Mains and Advanced for engineering courses. In the next academic year, admission to undergraduate courses is likely to be individually controlled by universities based on scores obtained by candidates in the entrance. Sources said various aspects of the proposed test came up during Thursday's discussion, but the modalities have not been finalised yet.

The report of a committee set up by UGC in December 2020 under Central University of Punjab Vice-Chancellor, R P Tiwari, which had provided an outline of the test, will be revised accordingly.

"The test will be computer-based in all likelihood, and likely to be held twice a year. But we have not received consent from all central universities yet on whether they want to adopt CU-CET," an official said on the condition of anonymity.

National Education Policy-2020 envisages a common entrance test to be held by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

In December 2020, the Tiwari committee set up by UGC had suggested that CU-CET be rolled out from 2021-22 academic session, but the Covid-19 pandemic forced UGC to shelve the plan. The plan to implement it from the 2022-23 session surfaced after UGC wrote to V-Cs of central universities on November 26, 2021, to make preparations to hold the test.

# Channi threatens defamation suit against Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 21

PUNJAB CHIEF Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Friday said he would sue his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal for defamation for calling him a "dishonest man".

"I have requested my party to allow me to sue Kejriwal. I will file a defamation suit against him. I am forced to do this as he is calling me a dishonest man. He has put it on Twitter," Channi said while addressing media in Chamkaur Sahib, his constituency.

Kejriwal had on Wednesday said that Channi was not a common man but a "dishonest man". Kejriwal's comment came after the ED had on Wednesday conducted raids in connection with an anti-money laundering probe, and seized cash amounting to over Rs 10 crore, including about Rs 8 crore from a relative of Channi.

# J&K: DDC chair leads dharna seeking jobs for locals at under-construction power project

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, JANUARY 21

AT AN altitude of 12,000 feet, with temperatures hovering around of 5 degrees Celsius, District Development Council (DDC) chairperson Pooja Thakur has been sitting on a dharna in Dachhan tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district since Wednesday. Thakur and others, including local residents who joined her, are demanding that people from the area be hired as workers at the under-construction 1,000-megawatt Pakal Dul hydro electric power project at Dangdoru.

DDC members, who were elected in 2020 during the first-ever DDC elections in Jammu and



At the site of the dharna. Express

Kashmir, have been presented as a link between the people and the administration in the aftermath of the abrogation of J&K's special status and its reorganisation into two Union Territories.

Thakur, who is from the National Conference (NC), took

office as Kishtwar DDC chairperson on February 18, last year.

The Pakal Dul hydro electric power project is expected to complete by the end of 2023 and start operations from March 2024. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the the foundation

stone for the project in May 2018. The project is being constructed by Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPL) on Marusadar river, a tributary of Chenab river at an estimated cost of Rs 8112.12 crore. For civil works of the dam, CVPL has allotted contract to Jaiparkash Associated Limited.

The dharna had led to the suspension of work on the project. However, work resumed on Friday afternoon after Thakur appealed to the workers to resume work, and asked local residents to return to their homes to observe Covid-appropriate behaviour.

"I have conveyed to the administration that I will continue to hold the dharna at the project site until issues concerning the local people are met," Pooja Thakur told *The Indian Express*.

STATEHOOD DAY

Modi: Tripura becoming land of opportunities

DEBRAJ DEB  
AGARTALA, JANUARY 21

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Friday greeted the people of Tripura on its 50th Statehood Day, and said the state is fast becoming a trade corridor and business hub of the region and a "land of opportunities" now.

Stating that the people of Tripura have a great contribution in the way the state is progressing towards new heights of development, the Prime Minister, in a video message to the state, made a reference to the past three years of the BJP-led government in the state, saying "three years of meaningful change" is testimony of it. In a similar message to Meghalaya, the Prime Minister praised Chief Minister Conrad Sangma and said the state government is working to reach benefits of PM Grams Sadak Yojana, Rashtriya Aajeevika Mission and other schemes to the common people.

President Ram Nath Kovind, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh were among others who greeted the three states of Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur.

# Our govt builds places of pride unlike earlier regimes: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 21

AFTER INDIA'S independence, 'renovations' were done only for a few families in Delhi and it was his government that started building new "places of pride" in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during a virtual address Friday.

"After independence, renovation (Nav Nirman) was done only for a few families in Delhi. India has now left such a narrow mindset behind and is building new places of pride and glorifying them. It is our government that built the Babasaheb Memorial in Delhi and a memorial for (former president) APJ Abdul Kalam in Rameshwaram. Similarly, sites associated with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Shyamji Krishna Verma were given a place of dignity," Modi said as he virtually inaugurated the Circuit House near Somnath Temple in Gir Somnath.

The 48-room Circuit House has been built at the cost of Rs 30 crore and is spread across 15,000 sq metres. "The need for



PM Narendra Modi speaks during inauguration of a new circuit house in Gujarat's Somnath on Friday. PTI

a Circuit House was felt as there is one guest house that is also far from the temple. The temple trust was always under pressure to accommodate people. But after this, the trust will not be pressurised and they will devote more time and attention to the temple", the PM stated in his virtual address.

The grand facility, with its front façade resembling the architecture of a medieval-era palace, has come upon a 15,000-square metre plot adjoining Sagar Darshan, the VVIP guest

house of Shree Somnath Trust. The four-storey Circuit House has two VVIP suite rooms, eight VVIP rooms, 24 deluxe rooms, kitchen, general and VIP dining areas and an auditorium having a seating capacity of 200. "The state government felt a need for such a facility and the Somnath Trust returned ownership of a plot of land to the state government for this project," Vijaysinh Chavda, general manager of SKT said.

Listing the facilities at Somnath Temple, Modi said a

pilgrim plaza and complex proposal are in their final stages while similar facilities are being proposed for Ambaji Temple in Banaskantha district, too.

The PM also declared the commencement of a special train from Delhi to Divya Kashi Darshan on Saturday.

Modi also elaborated on four ways - cleanliness, facilities, time and thinking - that were necessary to promote tourism. "Today is an era of Twenty20, people want to cover maximum places in less time. The highways, expressways, modern trains and airports have given an impetus to this... Now, much has been halted because of Covid... It is necessary to be innovative and modern. Also, we are so proud of our ancient heritage because of which the statues that were stolen have been brought back," he said.

He spoke of how tourism was at the centre of economies across the globe and added that in India, every state and region has the potential of a country and endless possibilities.

(WITH INPUTS FROM ENSRJAKOT)

PLEAS AGAINST MARITAL RAPE IN DELHI HIGH COURT

# 'Expectation can't lead to forcible sex with wife'

SOFI AHSAN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

SENIOR ADVOCATE Rebecca John, an amicus curiae in the case seeking criminalisation of marital rape, on Friday contended before Delhi High Court that while an expectation of conjugal relationship is normal in a marital relationship, the same cannot result in the husband having forcible sex with his wife. She also said that if the exception in IPC 375 were gender neutral, it would have been in disregard of the lived experiences of women as wives.

The submissions were made before the division bench of Justices Rajiv Shakdher and C Hari Shankar during the hearing of the petitions challenging Exception 2 in IPC Section 375 that protects men, who have forced non-consensual intercourse with their wives, from criminal prosecution under Section 376 IPC.

John was responding to Justice Shankar's queries and observations in which he reiterated his opinion that there is a qualitative difference between the sexual equation existing between the parties who are married and

those who are not married. There is a right to expect sexual relation in the case of a married couple but same does not exist in the case where the couple are not married, he said. "Therefore there is an intelligible differentia in the sexual equation between the parties. It would be kind of closing our eyes to reality... that there is no intelligible differentia between these two cases," said Justice Shankar, adding that the emphasis being put on consent in context of the exception was "obfuscating the entire argument, this entire rationale which prima facie may exist to justify this exception".

John said the whole argument is predicated on the point that the husband has a right to a conjugal relationship. "That right does not exist." After Justice Shankar said that "let's not call it a right, let's call it an expectation", John said that an expectation can be there and the same in absence of a willingness can lead to dialogue and even the wife being satisfied that she should be in a conjugal relationship with her husband.

"In a marital space, there can be any number of misunderstandings and the wife out of hurt, anger, withdraws from having

sexual relationship with her husband for the time being. The manner to resolve is you come out and talk, you make some kind of adjustment... All this is part of marriage... That is not what this exception is all about... This is about a man exercising his dominant right over his wife despite the wife saying I cannot and will not do it with you." She said the consequences of unwillingness to have a conjugal relationship may result in the marriage breaking down and the husband seeking civil remedies. "In a given situation, the husband may be right and the wife may be unreasonable... there is no right. There can be expectations. The expectation cannot lead to forcible sex on your wife... That is my complete answer."

On the question whether her arguments would remain the same if the IPC 375 and Exception 2 were gender neutral, John said it would create a false equivalence to suggest that in reality husbands and wives are equals. She argued that in a given situation the members of transgender community are sometimes more vulnerable than women and that the present law has been formulated based on the experiences of women.

## Ireo Group siphoned off Rs 1,225 cr: ED to court

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

THE IREO Group allegedly siphoned off Rs 1,225 crore of homebuyers' money and used tax havens such as British Virgin Islands to launder the money, Enforcement Directorate (ED) has told a special court in Panchkula, Haryana.

The ED has filed a prosecution complaint against the company and its chairman and managing director, Lalit Goyal. On Friday, the Panchkula court took cognisance of the complaint, which is equivalent to a chargesheet.

"Customer receipts to the tune of Rs 1,225 Crore have been diverted outside India in the form of redemption/purchase/transfer & buy-back of shares/FCDS

etc, violating FDI policy and other laws," ED has said in the complaint. "The modus operandi adopted by the group includes routing of funds to India from various entities based in tax havens like British Virgin Islands, Mauritius, recording of fictitious expenses in books of account, writing off project in progress, interest-free loans and advances to sister concerns and round tripping of funds through shell companies and creation of assets within and outside India."

The agency had arrested Goyal in November last year in connection with its money laundering probe into the firm's finances. In its statement after the arrest, ED had also made a mention of *The Indian Express* investigations into the Pandora Papers, which revealed that Goyal had al-

legedly moved an estimated \$77 million in the form of investments, shareholding and real estate, even as home buyers and investors ran from pillar to post for their money.

In its prosecution complaint, ED has alleged that Goyal is "settler and named beneficiary of a overseas Trust which owns and controls entities holding assets outside India". "Recent Pandora Papers Leak has also named four entities (which are beneficially owned by Lalit Goyal), which are holding assets of more than USD 77.73 million (Rs 575 crore approximately) overseas," it said.

According to ED, it initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIRs registered in Panchkula by Haryana Police, an FIR of the Economic Offences Wing, Delhi Police, and an FIR

registered at Hauz Khas police station in Delhi against M/s. IREO Private Limited, M/s. IREO Fiveriver Private Limited, Lalit Goyal and Others.

ED claimed 30 FIRs have been identified in the case as on date. The agency stated,

"ED investigation inter-alia revealed that over 1050 homebuyers/investors of IREO Projects, namely IREO Fiveriver, The Corridors, IREO City, Gurgaon Hills in Haryana and IREO Waterfront Township in Punjab, among others, had made advance payments but are yet to receive their booked flats/plots despite elapse of more than 4-5 years. Investigation further reveals that IREO Group of companies could not complete its projects due to diversion and siphoning of funds."

## Hate chatroom: Mumbai cops arrest 3 in Haryana

SAGAR RAJPUT & JAYPRAKASH NAIDU  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 21

MUMBAI CRIME Branch officials on Friday arrested three persons from Haryana for allegedly being part of an audio chat room on Clubhouse application in which they abused, made derogatory comments and also virtually auctioned women. The process of bringing the trio to Mumbai has begun even as the Delhi Police late Thursday night questioned a 19-year-old youth from Lucknow in the same case.

Police said the three accused arrested from Haryana have been identified as Akash Suyal (19), Jaishnav Kakkad (21) and Yashkumar Parashar (22) who were on clubhouse under the

names of Kira XD, @jaishnav and pradhan@haryana. alla.

Suyal is an HSC student from Karnal district in Haryana and was the alleged moderator of the two chatrooms on the app while Kakkad and Parashar are B.Com and law student respectively and were arrested from their residence in Faridabad.

Officials said Suyal and Kakkad created the two chat rooms on January 16 and 19 under the names "Muslim women are better than Hindu women" and "Girls don't have privileged to marry upper caste woman" respectively on an open forum and the chatroom had more than 300 participants. "Suyal and Kakkad, along with a few other participants, were making derogatory comments about women. They also spoke about auctioning their

body parts while Kakkad made remarks about raping women," said an officer.

The incident came to light when videos of the purported conversations in the chat room were shared on social media that subsequently went viral.

An investigator said, "After the video reached a 30-year-old woman working with an IT firm, she informed us that something similar had happened two months ago as well." In her police statement, the complainant alleged that on October 27 and November 27 last year.

When a similar video went viral on Wednesday, she approached the cyber cell unit at Bandra Kurla Complex following which an FIR was registered under sections 153 (a) (promoting enmity between two groups) 295

(a) (deliberate acts to outrage religious feelings) 354 (a) (sexual harassment), 354 (d) (stalking), 500 (defamation), 509 (insulting modesty of a woman) of the IPC and section 67 of IT Act 2000. They are also trying to identify and trace others in the chat room.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police Cyber Cell questioned a man from Lucknow for allegedly creating the group. They believe the 19-year-old also made derogatory remarks in the chat room. Police sources said teams have also been sent to four states to question others in connection with the case. Delhi Police have also registered an FIR and had earlier identified 4-5 suspects as the 'main speakers'.

A Clubhouse spokesperson said, "There is absolutely no place for hate or abuse on the platform..."

# 'If we don't adopt technology or other sources of energy, meeting targets will be problematic'

In this explained. Live session, RR Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, Earth Science and Climate Change, TERI, discusses how climate mitigation pledges would fall flat without climate finance and the absence of strategies in developed countries

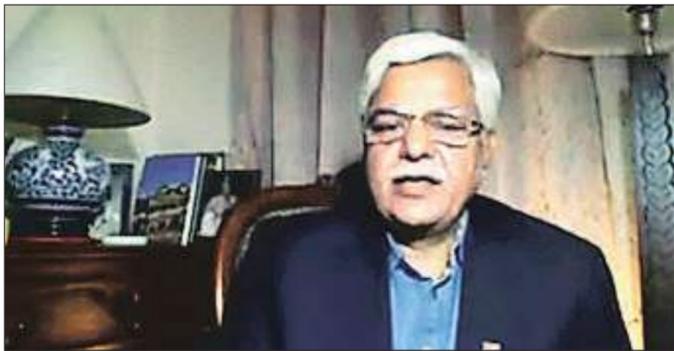


On the progress that was made at COP26

COP26 was a missed opportunity for climate stabilisation. There was global expectation that the NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) would be revised. Three things critical for COP26 to succeed were raising ambition, enhancing NDCs and improving the net-zero goal.

The Paris Agreement was signed in 2015 and I would have treated COP26 as an opportunity for action by setting ambitious NDCs. What countries pledged in 2015 are no longer relevant because we have now started moving towards the 1.5 degree climate stabilisation goal as opposed to the two-degree goal that had been agreed earlier. Research shows that the plans countries have laid out for reducing NDCs still add up to a terrifying 2.4°C of temperature rise by the end of the century. Given the climate emergency, we must reduce emissions. Otherwise, the future is extremely dark. COP 26 unfortunately set a long-term goal of net-zero. It would take another 40-50 years for some countries to get there. But the immediate requirement was to have ambitious NDCs and goals for 2030, which were given the short shrift.

The other worrying factor is the lack of clear commitment in terms of finance. Africa was willing to dig in its heels and not let this issue go away but everyone realised that in the interest of balance, we need to let all stakeholders go forward. Developed nations have admitted failing on the climate finance front, saying they were not able to provide enough and meet their goal of \$100 billion by 2020. They have started a process at COP26 and one doesn't know if we will see the light at the end of the tunnel in 2025, which is the year by which we are supposed to agree to a new commitment. Lastly, I felt disappointed about technology. If we really want transformative climate action in the short-term, we must promote transformative technologies, create necessary platforms, finance the deployment of technologies that are available and support their development.



RR Rashmi in conversation with Amitabh Sinha, Resident Editor, Pune The Indian Express

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

On India's share in vehicular emissions

Globally, India hardly has a large market share in automobiles but its vehicle intensity is rising. Therefore, it will certainly need to do something about vehicular emissions, which are currently about 40 per cent of its total emissions. The automobile and transport industry are highly resource-intensive. We need to distinguish between long-distance and short-distance transport. Two and three-wheelers have taken very well to electric batteries. There is no doubt that we need to bring in electric vehicles on a large scale in the four-wheeler sector but the strategy will need to be different.

We can't have a target of overnight transition to electric vehicles in a matter of six years or even by 2030. We need a hybrid approach for effective solutions. Long-distance trucking is a different ball-game altogether because we will need new technologies and sources of energy. We can't rely entirely on

electric batteries unless we change the battery ecosystem itself. Unless we move towards hydrogen or large biofuel production, we will not be able to reduce vehicular emissions.

On the practicality of reducing carbon emissions while African countries are still developing and would increasingly contribute to total emissions

The contribution of the developing world to climate change is historically small. So, we should not be concerned about Africa's or India's rising emissions. We need to establish a balance between short-term goals and long-term goals for the world as a whole. The challenge before us is to ensure that we reduce our emissions proportionately to our resources and production in the developing world. But the developed world produces at a faster pace and needs to cut emissions faster.

On India's commitments at COP26

They are a mixed bag. Some elements of the five major announcements made by the Prime Minister at Glasgow are easily achievable. For example, the reduction of 1,000 million tonnes of carbon emission by 2030. That's achievable because of a number of specific, dedicated programmes. He mentioned LEDs, electrification of the Indian Railways, focussed programmes for energy-saving, efficiency and transition. But that doesn't mean that our total emissions will be

less than now. It only means that we will be increasingly reducing the proportion of energy and emissions. Today, our emissions are in the range of 2,800 million tonnes, including the carbon sinks. Our energy consumption is growing, so we are going to land up in the range of 4,000 million tonnes. But in the BAU (business as usual) scenario, this would have been higher.

The second easy part is reducing the emissions intensity, currently at 35 per cent. The PM has raised the bar to 45 per cent by 2030, which

is doable. But I do see a problem. While it may be easy to achieve our target by 2030, continuing this emissions intensity reduction beyond that could be difficult because currently we are riding the crest of energy efficiency. Very soon, we will hit a wall if we don't reduce emission intensity in the industry and transport sectors, both of which are extremely carbon-intensive. For example, the steel, cement, pharmaceutical and chemical industry are heat-intensive. If we don't introduce new technologies and switch over to other sources of energy, it would be problematic.

The PM also said that India would push its renewable energy capacity to 500 gigawatts by 2030. And that is linked to his other announcement that India will meet 50 per cent of its energy requirement through renewable energy by the same time period. Currently, we have reached 105 gigawatts of renewable capacity, including hydro and solar, but generating 500 gigawatts by 2030 is almost a five-time jump in about nine years. That requires a huge investment, a large institutional change in our energy production and consumption system. We have to include States as they will be a part of the changes that will take place in the energy pricing and distribution policy. Distribution companies will have to be overhauled and financial instruments will have to be mobilised. So that is really challenging but once we are able to set up a 500-gigawatt capacity, I think 50 per cent of generation is doable. The peak demand today is in the range of 180-200 gigawatts, so if you have 500 gigawatts of capacity set up by

2030, it's possible to beat even 50 per cent of generation. The net-zero goal of 2070 is long-term and it is difficult to assess its implication.

On whether the net-zero announcement for 2070 was about capitulating to international demand or national interest

Any long-term goal has two aspects. One is its feasibility and the other is consistency with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement. Now, none of these two require developing countries to have a net-zero goal, which is meant for developed countries. That is a legal position. But as a progressive country, India has also set ambitious goals in the right spirit. I would compliment the PM for putting his best foot forward. The more difficult part is feasibility and fixing a strategy. Unfortunately, none of the developed countries have actually laid out their emissions trajectory for a net zero goal. So, India alone cannot be faulted. As per legal obligations, developed countries were to bring their emissions down to zero by 2030. Instead of that, they have put out a goal for 2050 but without a strategy. Most worrying.



SCAN THE CODE TO WATCH VIDEO

On India, China and some other countries changing the language from "phasing" coal to "phasing-down" coal

I look at coal as one of the elements of fossil fuels, so singling out coal for advanced phase-out was rather unexpected. The G20 had not been able to reach an agreement on this, so it was unfair of developed countries to push for a coal phase-out and project coal as the only bad boy in the game. India did well to fight for a phase-down rather than a phase-out, because coal today is almost 60 per cent of its energy production.

On whether the undifferentiated time frames being imposed on developing countries created friction in dialogues

International treaties will only succeed if there is trust between the parties. International cooperation is built on support to developing countries in terms of technology and finance. Ambitions can be raised if there is a certain degree of assured, predictable climate finance available from developed countries. And it is a legal obligation in the UNFCCC, where 38 industrialised countries have to provide climate finance from both public and private sources.

EXPRESS INVESTIGATION - PART 1

# How DMs selectively used a court ruling; despite pleas in High Court and Supreme Court, cases still in limbo

APURVA VISHWANATH  
LUCKNOW, ALLAHABAD,  
JANUARY 21

DESPITE SEVERAL pleas in the Supreme Court and Allahabad High Court, the first key judicial intervention against the UP government's push to recover money for property damage from those identified as anti-CAA protesters in Lucknow came almost a year after the first notices were issued — in the form of a stay by the High Court's Lucknow bench on December 3, 2020.

The stay followed UP's admission in the High Court on how it had interpreted the civil law principle of "joint and several liability" in these cases. In essence, the state said the entire amount assessed as compensation can be recovered from one person, who can then claim it equally from the others identified as protesters by filing civil suits against them.

The High Court stay came on a plea from Syed Saif Abbas Naqvi, a Shia cleric. Naqvi was among nine persons against whom the Additional District Magistrate (ADM) in Lucknow had issued an order dated March 3, 2020, to recover Rs 67.73 lakh for damage caused to property during the protests in the Hazratganj area.

The ADM's recovery order stated that it was "applying the doctrine of joint and several liability, since those held liable shared a common object of illegality, whether they acted on their own or otherwise".

"The amount can be recovered either jointly from all those

held liable or from any of them individually. If the amount is recovered from one or a few of those held liable, then they are free to proceed against the other participants in civil proceedings to recover their share," the recovery order stated.

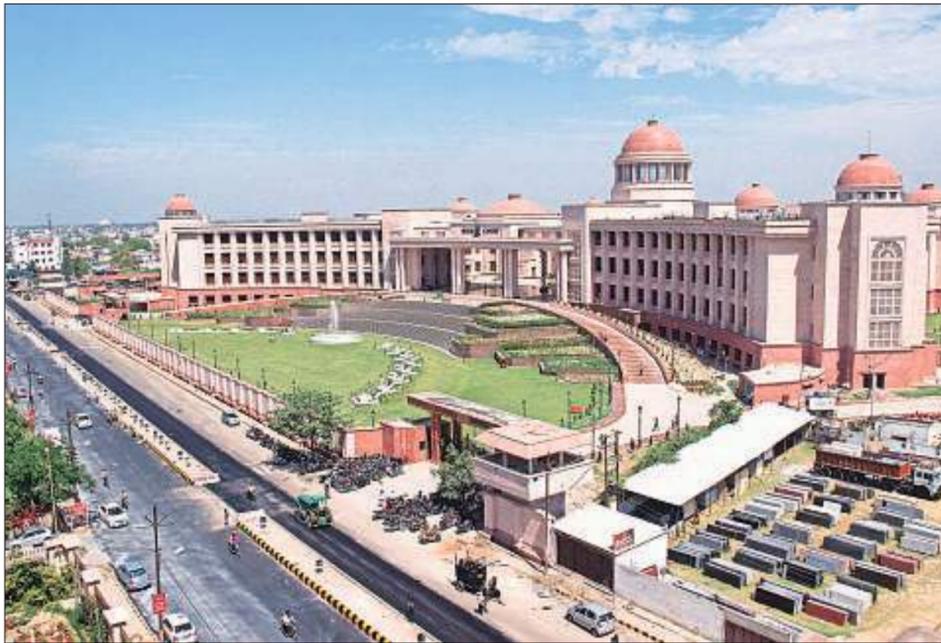
The principle of joint and several liability is a legal term used to describe a partnership where each party would hold separate but equal responsibility for liability. This would mean that joint liability would be divided in separate but equal parts among each party.

Pursuing this line of action, Naqvi was served a recovery notice dated June 16, 2020, by the Tehsildar in Lucknow requiring him to pay the entire amount. Failure to deposit the amount within a week would lead to seizure of his movable and immovable property, the Tehsildar's order warned.

The order also stated that the accused cannot take the defence that while others participated in the protest, only they were found liable for the damage caused and that a disproportionate burden was placed on them. "There is no parity in crime," the recovery order noted.

This brought into focus a 2010 judgment of the Allahabad High Court — Mohammad Shujaiddin versus State of Uttar Pradesh — that was relied on initially by district magistrates across the state to issue recovery notices to over 500 persons identified as anti-CAA protesters.

Significantly, the 2010 Allahabad High Court ruling by a single-judge bench of Justice



The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. At least 35 pleas were filed in the Allahabad High Court, all praying for protection from recovery orders issued by tehsildars. Vishal Srivastava

Sudhir Agarwal had involved protests by political parties. The bench had asked the government to reply to a set of "directions", which included the state assessing the damage to public property and "realising the amount" from those responsible.

Besides, the 2010 High Court ruling contradicted the landmark

2009 ruling of the Supreme Court on the issue of damage to public property during protests.

The Supreme Court — in the Destruction of Public and Private Properties versus State of Andhra Pradesh — had held that the cost of damage must be recovered by those responsible but through a judicial process and

not by the state. The apex court had upheld this precedent in two other cases in 2018.

When contacted by The Indian Express, legal experts described UP's interpretation of a "well-settled provision" as "odd" and "lacking in legal basis".

"It perhaps makes the process easy for the state to recover damages

from one person instead of recovering petty amounts from several individuals. However, there is hardly any legal backing to this," said Siddharth Chauhan, Assistant Professor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

"Joint and several liability is invoked, say in bank loans. If the debtor defaults, the guarantor

who has agreed to be liable will be asked to pay. Here, however, the state is assuming prior agreement for joint and several liability, which is problematic," Chauhan said.

The existing law to deal with damage to public property is the 1984 Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, which punishes anyone "who commits mischief by doing any act in respect of any public property" with a jail term of up to five years and a fine or both.

However, this law wasn't invoked because under its criminal proceedings, a higher level of proof would have been required beyond reasonable doubt. Additionally, a trial under this law would have made it mandatory to hear the other side and so taken longer to conclude. Instead, the ADM's orders of presumption of guilt in the CAA protests in Hazratganj came in barely seven days — the final orders were passed in less than two months.

The orders of district magistrates in UP and the recovery process were also challenged in the Supreme Court through a PIL. On January 31, 2020, a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and K J Joseph agreed to hear the plea and issued notice to the state government but refused to stay the recovery process. The case has not been listed.

Meanwhile, on March 12, 2020, the Supreme Court refused to stay an order by Allahabad High Court directing the UP government to remove name-and-shame posters with photographs and names of those who allegedly damaged property dur-

ing the protests. Four days later, the state government promulgated the Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damage to Public and Private Property Ordinance to replace the legal basis of the process.

On July 6, 2020, an Allahabad High Court bench comprising then Chief Justice Govind Mathur and Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh said in interim orders that petitions against UP's recovery notices will be listed for final hearing on July 16 and "no coercive action be taken against the petitioners till then." However, the batch of cases is yet to be listed for final hearing.

On December 3, 2020, in its stay order on cleric Naqvi's plea against the recovery notice for over Rs 67 lakh, another Allahabad High Court bench of Justices Alok Singh and Karunesh Pawar stated: "The challenge to notice is on a premise that the Executive Officer/ ADM has no power/ authority to issue such a notice in view of the decision of the Apex Court in Re Destruction of Public and Private Properties (Supra) and the rules framed by the state government are in the teeth of the decision by the Apex Court. To relegate the petitioner to raise his objections as to the jurisdiction/competency of the notice issuing authority would be an exercise in sheer futility."

Following this stay order, at least 35 pleas were filed in the Allahabad High Court, all praying for similar protection from recovery orders issued by Tehsildars across UP. The High Court has extended the stay in each of those cases. None of them have been heard in detail since then.

## Waze cross-examines Deshmukh at Chandiwai Commission hearing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 21

DISMISSED MUMBAI Police officer Sachin Waze on Friday cross-examined former home minister Anil Deshmukh at a hearing of the Chandiwai Commission.

The commission was set up by the Maharashtra government to probe allegations of corruption made against Deshmukh by suspended officer and former Mumbai Police commissioner Param Bir Singh.

Waze is currently lodged at Talajai jail in connection with the Ambani terror scare case while Deshmukh is at Arthur Road jail in connection with a money laundering case registered by the Enforcement Directorate.

During the cross-examination, Waze asked Deshmukh if he was party to the government decision of setting up of Chandiwai Commission.

Denying the same, Deshmukh said, "I had requested the CM for appointment of a committee and he may have thereafter initiated such a committee."

Waze then asked Deshmukh about information related to police procedures, including the difference between a special inspector general and an inspector general of police. To this, Deshmukh said he did not wish to reply.

Waze also asked Deshmukh if anybody informed him about the procedures and functions of the home department after he took over as the minister and how many departments and sub-departments existed in the home department. Waze further asked him the difference between cadre and non-cadre postings, to which Deshmukh said he knew the difference but "would not be able to differentiate and give definition/terminology".

The cross examination has now been deferred to Monday.

## Ex-soldier kills man, accused of raping daughter, outside UP court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 21

A 25-YEAR-OLD man, accused of abducting and raping a 16-year-old girl, was allegedly shot by her father, a retired Army jawan, with his licensed pistol outside a Gorakhpur court on Friday afternoon. The 52-year-old father was taken to police custody.

Police said the rape accused was waiting for his lawyer in the parking area where he was shot in the head. After hearing gunshots, people caught the father and handed him over to police, who arrived later. The weapon was seized.

"The father was the only person involved in the crime," said a police officer. No FIR has been lodged at the time of going to press.

Police said the rape accused reached the court to know the status of his case. He informed his lawyer on the phone that he was waiting for him at the bicycle stand near the court gate. The retired Army jawan, who was already there, fired at him, said the police.

The rape accused was arrested in March 2020 after the father filed a case against him for allegedly eloping with his daughter. Rape charge was invoked later after the girl's statement. Police said the youth recently got bail in the case.

## 194 SCHOOLS HAVE APPLIED FOR SAINIK SCHOOL SOCIETY AFFILIATION, SAYS MoD

New Delhi: A total of 194 schools have applied to get affiliated to the Sainik School Society, the Ministry

of Defence (MoD) said on Friday. The Union cabinet had in October last year approved a proposal of set-

ting up 100 affiliated Sainik Schools under the Sainik School Society in partnership with states, others. PTI

**University Grants Commission**  
(Ministry of Education, Government of India)  
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002

### F.No. 7-3/2012 (AMPC) Sub:-Public Notice on Fake Universities

The University Grants Commission Act, 1956 under section 22 (1) provides that a degree can be awarded only by a University established by a Central, State/Provincial Act or an institution deemed to be university under section 3 or an institution especially empowered by an Act of Parliament to confer UGC specified degree under section 22(3) of the Act.

Further, section 23 of the UGC Act prohibits the use of word "University" by any institution other than a university established as stated above. Students and public at large are hereby informed that presently 20 self-styled, unrecognized institutions functioning in contravention of the UGC Act, have been declared as fake universities and these are not empowered to confer any degree. The detailed list of fake Universities is available at UGC website [www.ugc.ac.in](http://www.ugc.ac.in).

davp 21205/11/0021/2122

Secretary

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This is to inform the Public at large that my client ie Regal India Logistics Pvt Ltd\* Registered Office Address:- 11, 1st Floor, Nirman Arcade, Bhakti Shakti Chowk, Nigdi, Pune, State Maharashtra - 411 044 through Complainant Mr Mukeshkumar Dharamchand Yadav had filed complaint bearing CR no. 103/2012 RCC no. 30/2014 against Mr. Vikas Shriram Singh Verma and other (3) under section 407, 420, 120(B), 504, 506, 34 IPC before Hon'ble JMFC Dhule Court and the said cases had been disposed in accordance with the order passed on National Lok Adalat dated 11/12/2021. My client is in the legal possession of Seized muddamal ie 13 Radiators of Railway wooden Box of amount Rs. 18,78,638/- for year 2012 till today's date of Ms Perfect Radiators and coolers Pvt Ltd Office situated at 8-10/1, Okhala Industries Area, Phase-II, New Delhi - 20. At present there is no claimant for the Radiators my client presumed to be absolute owner and holder of property described and my client has agreed to sell the said Radiators along with all the rights and benefits thereon. As such any person having any right, title, interest, documents or any claim, of any nature, should inform me in writing about the same along with all original documents or at the below mentioned address or at company address, Mail:- info@regalindialogistics.com within 7 days from the publication of this notice, failing which my client shall presume that there is no objection regarding said property ie Radiators and if any person having any right, title, documents or claim has intentionally and knowingly waived and surrendered the same, and thereafter my client shall complete the sale transaction and no any claim or objection shall be binding on my client for the said property ie Radiators.  
Date : 21-1-2022  
Place: Pune Chetan Joshi- Advocate  
Office at : "Pantli Kalbhok colony, Opp Gold Gym, Akurdi, Pune - 411035  
Mail:- chetan\_joshi@yahoo.in

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davp 06143/12/0009/2122

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1. ECHS INVITES APPLICATIONS TO ENGAGE FOLLOWING MEDICAL, PARA MEDICAL & NON MEDICAL STAFF ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS IN ECHS POLYCLINIC HEMPUR FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FOR ESMs & 11 MONTHS FOR CIVIL CANDIDATES.

S. No.	Appointment	Minimum Qualification	No. of Vac.	Fixed Remuneration	Reservation of ESM
(a)	Medical Officer	MBBS Work experience Minimum 05 years after internship. Preferable add qualification in medicine/ surgery. Merit in MBBS, PG qualification. Experience more than 10 years.	01	75000	60%
(b)	Dental Officer	BDS, Minimum 05 years work experience.	01	75000	60%
(c)	Lab Tech	(i) B.Sc (Medical Lab Technology) or Matriculation/Higher Secondary/Senior Secondary (10+2) with Science from Recognized Institution/Board. (ii) Diploma in Medical Lab Technology from a Recognized institution. Minimum 03 years experience as a Lab Assistant in Medical Lab.	01	28100	70%
(d)	Nur Asst.	GNM Diploma/Class I, Nursing Assistant Course (Armed Forces). Minimum 05 years experience. Degree in Nursing/any Diploma speciality nursing experience of more than 10 yrs.	01	28100	70%
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(f)	Female Attendant	Literate. Work experience Minimum 05 years service in Civil/Army Health Institutions.	01	16800	70%
(g)	Safaiwala	Literate. Work experience Minimum 05 years service. Experience of more than 10 yrs.	01	16800	70%

(2) For Terms & Conditions, Application Form & Remuneration: Kindly see our website [www.echs.gov.in](http://www.echs.gov.in) For additional details, please contact Stn. HQ (ECHS CELL) Hempur at Tel. No. 9458321262 & E-mail ID: [esmcellhempur@gmail.com](mailto:esmcellhempur@gmail.com). Preference will be given to the ESM. (3) Last date of receipt of application as per format given at our website: Application as per requisite format alongwith self attested photocopies of testimonials in support of education qualification and work experiences will be submitted to OIC, Stn HQ (ECHS CELL) Hempur by 09 Feb 2022 in duplicate. Any application received after 09 Feb 2022 will not be accepted. (4) Interview date, Timing & Venue: Candidate must reach Stn. HQ Hempur at 1000h on 19 Feb 2022 for interview to be held between 1030h to 1345h. Candidates must bring all the original certificate/marksheets/degree of 10th, 10+2 & Graduation/Diploma/Courses, work experience and disc book, PPO service records and 02 PP size colour photographs at the time of interview. NO TA/DA is admissible. Only candidates meeting the qualitative Requirements may apply.

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CABINET SECRETARIAT Vacancy Notice

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for Direct Recruitment to the following post in a Government of India organization:-

Name of Post and Number of vacancies	Deputy Field Officer (GD) [Group 'B', non-Gazatted post] and 38 vacancies in 9 different languages [Balochi (4), Bhasa (2), Burmese (4), Dari (4), Dzonkha (4), Dhivehi (4), Kachin (4), Russian (8) & Sinhala (4)]
Pay	Post carries minimum pay of Rs.44,900/- in level-7 of Pay Matrix and allowances as per CCS(RP) Rules, 2016.
Eligibility Criteria	Age Between 21 to 30 years as on 04.03.2022.
Educational Qualification	Bachelor's Degree with specified language as a subject. OR Bachelor's Degree in any discipline with :- (i) Two years Diploma in specified language. OR (ii) Native Level Proficiency* in specified language. *For claiming Native Level Proficiency in specified language, an undertaking certified by a Gazetted Officer of Central / State Government with official stamp is mandatory.

For detailed information and application format, please refer to Employment News dated 22.01.2022.  
Closing Date - 04.03.2022.

Davp-58101/11/0020/2122

**LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.**  
8th Floor, BSFC Building, Fraser Road, Patna - 800001, Tel : +91 612 2332128 / 30

### [Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on following date calling upon the following loanee under below mentioned loan A/c to repay the below mentioned amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The loanee having failed to repay the amount, notice in hereby given to the loanee and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said ordinance read with rule 9 of the said Rules on the following date.

The loanee in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD for below mentioned amount.

The loanee attention is invited to provisions of section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name and Address of Loanee (A/c No.)	Date of Demand Notice & Due Amount	Description of the Immovable Property
Mr. Jagdeo Das S/o Shri Bideshi Das and Smt Neelam Devi W/o Mr. Jagdeo Das At- Bhagal Chouki, P.S-Moffasli Munger P.O-Nauwa Gadhi District-Munger State-Bihar Pin Code- 811211	27.10.2021 Rs. 41,58,493.15 + Sarfaesi & Others charges thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Original Token 11275 Sale Deed No-11617 Sale Deed No.-11466 Dated 23.09.2000 Sub division-Bhagalpur City Anchal-Sabour Mauja-Dhankar Ibrahimpur Near Dhankar Holi Family School Sabour Khata No-12, Plot No-1 Total Area-7.8125 Decimal sub registry office Bhagalpur District-Bhagalpur State- Bihar in the name of Smt Neelam Devi W/o Mr. Jagdeo Das S/o Shri Bideshi Das Boundary : North: Road, South: Hal Khanidar, East: Road, West: Khiro Yadav
Mr. Manish Kumar Rai S/o-Balmiki Rai Vill-Shree Rampur Tili Po-Temha Parbatia, P.S-Parbatia, District-Khagaria State- Bihar, Pin Code-851216	27.09.2021 Rs. 49,24,636.14 + Sarfaesi & Others charges thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Original Serial No-17555 Sale Deed No.-16306 Dated 29.10.2010 At-1st Floor Flat No- 104 Baba Bhudheshwar Nath Apartment Mohalla/Mauja-Mundichak P.S-Kotwali Bhagalpur Anchal- Jagdishpur Ward No-28/37 Holding No-Jogara Khata No-120 Plot/Khata No-87 Total Area-1020 Sq Feet sub registry office Bhagalpur State-Bihar in the name of Mr Manish Kumar Rai S/o-Balmiki Rai Boundary : North: Passage & Flat No-103, South: Passage, East: Ak Pandey, West: Chhotu Lal Ram & Sons
Mr. Priya Manish Tiwari S/o Late Vinod Kumar Tiwari At- Shree Radhe Kunj Apartment Flat No-4 B 4th Floor B B Ghosh Lane Mahatma Gandhi Path Thana-Adampur Old Ward No-19 Present Ward No-23 Holding No-118 Mauja-Masagachak P.S-Asdmour Anchal-Jagdishpur Khata No-859 khata No- 1445 Total Area-1050 Sq. feet sub registry office Bhagalpur in the name of Priya Manish Tiwari S/o Late Vinod Kumar Tiwari Boundary : North: Apartment Common passage Lili, South: Common Park of the Apartment, East: Flat No-4A, West: Flat No. 4C	27.09.2021 Rs. 21,54,833.58 + Sarfaesi & Others charges thereon	

Place - Patna Date - 15.01.2022 Authorised Officer (LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD)



## The Indian EXPRESS

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## BATTLEFRONT IAS

Centre-state face-off over amendments to IAS cadre rules has long-term consequences, calls for sober dialogue

THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED by the Union government to the IAS cadre rules are turning into yet another flashpoint in already fraught Centre-state relations. Various state governments, including some headed by the NDA, have registered their disapproval of the changes that could give the Centre greater control over officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who has written two letters on this subject to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the past eight days, has described the amendments as going against the "basic structure of India's constitutional scheme". In her second letter, sent on Thursday, Banerjee has warned that the move could turn into a major political confrontation between the Centre and the states.

The four amendments proposed to the IAS cadre rules concern the deputation of officers to the Centre. The officers are recruited and appointed by the Centre and allotted to various states, to work in the states or under the Centre as per requirement. The convention has been that officers are deputed to the Centre after a consultative process involving the Union government, the state government and the concerned officer, and with the consent of the officer and the state government. The proposed tweaking of the rules would make the Centre's preferences overriding, making it mandatory for the state government to provide a certain number of officers every year for central deputation, which could force the state governments to compel even reluctant officers to go to the Centre. One reason behind the Centre's push is reportedly the decline in the number of officers opting for central assignments — only 10 per cent mid-level IAS officers were posted with the central government in 2021 as against 19 per cent in 2014, according to a report. The shortfall in officers on central deputation has, reportedly, started to show. This is a problem that calls for a quick resolution, of course. However, solutions have to be found without upsetting the federal balance or alienating the state government and the services. A starting point could be to find the reasons behind the reluctance of officers to go on central deputation. One of the reasons could arguably be that they prefer the relative autonomy in their home cadre to an excessively centralised system at the Centre. The Centre's preference for lateral entrants in important positions has also made central deputation unattractive for many senior officers, who prefer more challenging assignments in the state government. Such concerns call for the Centre and the states to sit together and resolve them in the true spirit of federalism.

Centre-state relations have reached a new low in recent months and can be said to resemble the Indira Gandhi era, when an overbearing Union government was frequently accused by the Opposition of trampling on the rights of the states. Recently, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala — run by Opposition parties — accused the Centre of rejecting their Republic Day tableaux for political reasons. The face-off over the IAS cadre rules, however, is far more serious, with long-term consequences.

## RIGOUR, NOT JUST SPEED

Centre's move to rank states on pace of green clearances will spark unhealthy competition, dilute regulation

THE CENTRE'S DECISION to rank states according to the speed at which they issue environmental clearances is ill judged and short sighted. It undermines the role of regulatory oversight in environmental protection — recognised in several Supreme Court verdicts as one of the key instruments to ensure the right to life — by incentivising state environment impact assessment authorities (SEIAA) to seek "fewer details" from project developers. There is no denying that clearance procedures are often riddled with red tapism. And that environmental protection must be balanced with developmental priorities. These are complex tasks that require strengthening of institutions and making regulatory procedures foolproof. Experts have rightly pointed out that the ranking exercise will compromise the SEIAAs' mandate to assess the impact of industrial, real estate and mining schemes on the environment and lead to an unhealthy competition amongst these agencies to swiftly clear projects without due diligence.

In recent times, the MoEF has laid much store on speedy clearances of projects. In a statement issued in December last year, it pointed out that the average time taken to issue environmental clearances had reduced from 150 days to 90 days in the past two years and that the clearance time is as low as 60 days in some sectors. But the ministry has not clarified if this reduction in time has improved the level of scrutiny of projects on critical environmental yardsticks. The MoEF's self-congratulatory tone about the rate of approval has been rightly criticised because it has coincided with moves to chip away at key environmental regulation. Last year, for instance, it weakened the public hearing provision for Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), extended the deadline for compliance with emission norms for most thermal power plants from 2022 to 2025 and planned to reduce the ecological protection accorded to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It has also diluted the Coastal Zone Notification and proposed to amend the Forest Conservation Act to allow the use of forests for infrastructural projects in areas of "strategic importance". The new grading system will further weaken the country's environmental protection regime.

At a time when climate change is driving home the ecological fragility of large parts of India and pollution and water scarcity are taking a serious toll on the well-being of people in cities, towns, and villages, regulatory bodies require enabling policies to perform their tasks with rigour. The grading exercise, instead, reduces them to clearing houses. The Centre must rethink its move.

## BULLY IN CORNER OFFICE

Ashneer Grover's abusive call row shows that new start-up culture suffers from old malaise of entitlement

REALITY TALENT SHOWS follow a set pattern, a la *American Idol*. There are three judges — the amiable one, the one who does the "balancing act", and the bully. Ashneer Grover — who played the latter role on *Shark Tank India* — clearly wasn't putting on an act. If the audio clip of him allegedly abusing, threatening and berating a Kotak bank employee is anything to go by, he was even underplaying his abrasiveness on TV. Unfortunately, tempting as it is to think of the BharatPe co-founder's alleged verbal assault as an aberration, his behaviour may be typical of a significant section of India's entitled elite.

Grover — who has gone on leave after the scandal broke — is a symbol of the start-up culture that has been celebrated in recent times for establishing a new eco-system that breaks from the inequities and hierarchies of the old. BharatPe, a "unicorn" valued at over \$3 billion, is part of the aspirational archetype. Yet, the way Grover apparently screamed at a bank employee is an example of an older and sadly, more entrenched, pattern of behaviour. The sheer uncivility of words and tone is symptomatic of a feudal arrogance. Even the self-made entrepreneur can treat others as though they have no dignity.

In the aftermath of Grover's outburst, questions have been raised over the toxic work culture in India's start-ups. If the rich and powerful need a lesson in decency, though, they should look at how the Kotak employee conducted himself during the call. He was polite, he stood up for himself and kept trying to remind Grover not to squander the respect he has worked hard to earn.

# A delayed tribute

Shifting of Amar Jawan Jyoti sets right an incongruity, should not become a political controversy



ARUN PRAKASH

THE VOCIFEROUS PROTESTS being heard from various quarters at the shifting of the Amar Jawan Jyoti — the eternal flame which honours India's "unknown soldier" — from its location under India Gate to the National War Memorial (NWM) not only represent an irony for India's military veterans, but also a deep schism in India's socio-political landscape.

Let us first address the "schism". Such is the level of suspicion and distrust in India's contemporary politics, and so heated is the environment, that every action by the government of the day is seen as a move to bolster the electoral prospects of the ruling party. Nowhere is this trend more perceptible than in the military sphere. Ever since the Prussian strategist Clausewitz classified "war as a continuation of politics..." politicians, worldwide — from Indira Gandhi to Margaret Thatcher — have unabashedly made political capital out of military achievements.

In India, however, given that elections are an endemic phenomenon, there is a need for governments to exercise prudence in this context and draw "red lines" for themselves. The concern here is not so much about the undue advantage accruing to parties as about the corrosive influence of excessive political posturing and exposure, which can undermine the integrity and cohesion of our — so far — apolitical military leadership as well as the rank and file. The political theatre about the shifting of the Amar Jawan Jyoti, being enacted live and on social media, is merely the latest manifestation of this schism.

As for the "irony", it requires us to take a look back at recent history. For as long as one can remember, India's servicemen had ruefully noted what seemed like not just a lack of gratitude, but also an acknowledgement, on the part of their compatriots of the sacrifices of their soldiers. Since November 3, 1947, when the gallant Major Somnath Sharma fell in the Battle of Badgam, earning India's first Param Vir Chakra, there has hardly been a day in the life of our embattled nation when some grieving family somewhere has not welcomed home a hero — someone's father, son

or husband, brought to the doorstep in a tricolour-draped coffin.

For years, post-independence, while our wayward media took cursory note of such episodes, politicians studiously ignored the soldiers' sacrifices in upholding the nation's integrity. As the adventurism of our neighbours led to conflicts in 1947, 1962, 1965 and 1971, pleas from veterans and citizens that the gallantry and sacrifice of our armed forces deserved recognition in the form of a war memorial continued to fall on deaf political ears.

This indifference was in stark contrast with the attitude of other nations. Whether it was the Arlington Memorial in Washington, the Cenotaph in London, the Arc de Triomphe in Paris or the Liberation War memorial in Dhaka, these magnificent monuments acknowledged the sacrifice of their warriors and enabled fellow citizens to pay homage. Finally, in recognition of the sacrifices of our soldiers, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi inaugurated the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate on January 26, 1972. Such was the feeling of relief and elation at this belated gesture that most of us overlooked two glaring incongruities.

Firstly, the location chosen for the flame was not the most appropriate. India Gate, Edward Lutyen's half-hearted attempt to copy the magnificent French Arc de Triomphe was a war memorial erected by the British, in 1921 in memory of soldiers who died in World War I and the Third Anglo-Afghan War. While most of the names engraved on the granite walls are of Indian soldiers, a few British officers and soldiers find a place too. The monument does not celebrate a national war and could, at best, be an ad-hoc memorial for India's fallen.

Secondly, the cenotaph was surmounted with what is known as the "battlefield cross", consisting of an upright 762 mm rifle embedded by the barrel, with a steel helmet mounted on its butt. This symbology originated from an American Civil War custom, wherein it was used as a temporary marker for the location of a soldier's body on the bat-

tlefield till it was collected for permanent interment. It was expected that a suitable, stone monument would be erected in memory of India's "unknown warrior" but nothing of the sort happened and we retained the "battlefield cross" for 50 years.

There were other slights to soldiers too. The government's inexplicable refusal for many years to pay homage to fallen soldiers on the anniversaries of the Bangladesh and Kargil wars or the Sri Lanka Indian Peace-keeping Force (IPKF) operations on political grounds rankled. The crowning ignominy was the fact that the Sri Lankan government erected an impressive monument to the IPKF dead in 2008, while these brave soldiers remained unsung in their motherland.

Against this background, the BJP's 2014 election manifesto, which contained a pledge to "Build a War Memorial to recognise and honour the gallantry of our soldiers" brought hope to many veterans. Five years later, the pledge was redeemed with the inauguration of a 40-acre NWM complex in a central location in the Capital. This was seen by veterans not only as a belated mea culpa by the nation and its political establishment, but also a morale-booster for a million and a half men and women bearing arms. The NWM is now a place for citizens to pay homage to our fallen military heroes. Co-locating the Amar Jawan Jyoti with the NWM seems a logical step, and need not become a subject of political controversy.

National capitals, worldwide, are replete with memorials to wars and warriors, heroic statues of soldiers and squares and avenues named after generals, admirals and famous battles. In India, statues and street names focus mainly on politicians and, occasionally, on religious figures, business tycoons or scholars, with soldiers mostly forgotten. In this context, displaying the statue of Netaji Subhas Bose, a freedom-fighter and a quasi-military Indian icon, on his 125th birth anniversary, at India Gate canopy is to be welcomed.

The writer is a retired chief of naval staff



ARUN M KUMAR

AFTER 20 MONTHS of living through a pandemic, with the ever-present threat of new variants, the world is navigating the path forward with caution. With increasing vaccination coverage, many economies and businesses are getting back on track and gaining momentum.

In the context of continuing uncertainty, new roles are emerging for multilateral groupings of countries. The Quad, which was born in response to a natural calamity, the tsunami of 2004, is once again moving to harness its energies to address another crisis — the pandemic. The countries of the Quad are unified in saving the planet from environmental degradation. Alongside economic development, progress must be sustainable, given the climate crisis the world faces today.

The first-ever in-person leaders' summit of the Quad was held last year when US President Joe Biden hosted Narendra Modi, Scott Morrison, and Yoshihide Suga at the White House. At the historic meeting, the leaders formulated ambitious goals to strengthen partnership and improve collaboration on new-age challenges such as ending the pandemic; promoting advanced infrastructure; fighting the climate crisis and partnering on emerging technologies.

The two areas where the Quad nations can make a consequential impact are energy and climate action.

In a scenario where rising population will lead to an increase in energy demand, countries cannot afford to depend on fossil fuels for power generation. These deplete natural resources, have high input costs and produce often uncontrollable emissions. At a time when the

## CLIMATE AND THE QUAD

Through tech transfers and investments, group can aid energy transition

world is suffering from major catastrophes such as floods due to unseasonal rainfall, forest fires and the hampering of biodiversity, the alternative of renewable energy is imperative. The Quad can drive inclusive energy transition in technology, manufacturing, and finance.

With regards to technology, Quad nations such as Australia, Japan, and the US can provide much-needed technology expertise required to achieve the energy transition goals set under frameworks such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and OSOWOG (One Sun One World One Grid). The US recently became the 101st member of ISA, a re-emphasis of its commitment to lead broadly in the global fight against climate change.

India is well-placed to provide manufacturing infrastructure to build these technologies. To take over from China as the "world's factory", it will have to mirror its advantages of large-scale production at low costs. Doing this successfully will also help create much-needed employment in the country.

Like many major long-term initiatives, energy transition needs adequate funding. The developed nations of the Quad have a role and an opportunity to drive capital investments towards helping developing nations to move towards sustainable forms of energy. For instance, "climate finance" is required to facilitate global interconnected grids.

The climate crisis calls for urgency in action. With a focus on adaptation, resilience, and preparedness, Quad nations are already driving their efforts toward climate ambition, including working on the 2030 targets for national emissions and renewable energy, clean-energy innovation, and deployment. The most

commendable commitment is their focus on increasing the Indo-Pacific region's resilience to climate change by improving critical climate information-sharing and disaster-resilient infrastructure.

Plans such as building a new technical facility through the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure to provide technical assistance in small island developing states and setting up a Climate and Information Services Task Force are good steps. But these will require constant monitoring and periodic review to ensure that a real difference is made on the ground.

Japan is slated to host the second in-person meeting of the Quad group next year, where the focus will be on vaccine diplomacy, supply chain security and infrastructure development in the Indo-Pacific region. While these are pressing issues, the summit must not overlook or forgo a follow up on energy and climate action tasks.

The massive investment planned from now till 2050 to reach the 1.5°C pathway illustrates the scale of what needs to be done. Nations have already shown a great deal of commitment in the Quad vaccine partnership to help enhance equitable access to safe and effective vaccines in the region and the world. A similar form of commitment needs to be replicated in energy and climate action.

Through concerted efforts and tangible strategies, the Quad nations are strategically placed to make an impact not only on their own problems, but also those of the entire planet. The time has come for them to lead the path to a truly sustainable future.

The writer is chairman and CEO, KPMG India



## JANUARY 22, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

### ATTACK ON DARBARA

PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER Darbara Singh escaped an attack on his life when a Sikh youth pounced on him and hit him on the neck at Panchatta village, 45 kms from Jullundur. The assailant tried to take out a sharp-edged weapon but was overpowered by the police and public. The weapon was seized from him, the police said. Singh had gone to the village to inaugurate a one-day convention on national integration and communal harmony at Guru Nanak Navbharati College. About 40 people including film actor Raj Kapoor, Punjab Congress (I) Darshan Singh Kapurthala and Punjabi singer Surinder Kaur were sitting on the

dais when the Punjab CM was assaulted. The youth believed to be a Dal Khalsa member has been identified as Iqbal Singh of Mangal Jandla village in Hoshiarpur.

### ARRESTS IN MIZORAM

THE MIZORAM AUTHORITIES have arrested about 100 volunteers and sympathisers of the Mizo National Front, which was banned on January 20. Official sources said that amongst those arrested were close relatives of the MNF chief Laldenga, including his younger brother and brother-in-law. Chief Secretary Aubrey H Scott said that many heavy calibre automatic arms had been im-

pounded from the hideouts of the banned outfit. Meanwhile Laldenga has indicated that the breakdown of the talks, the truce with the government in force since 1976 could be revoked.

### US BACKS ISRAEL

THE UNITED STATES has vetoed the diluted Arab resolution calling all states to consider punitive measures against Israel for its annexation of the Golan Heights. The vote in the UN security council was 9-1 with five abstentions. Britain and France, two other permanent members, abstained as did Ireland, Japan and Panama.

# 11 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Justice in the time of virus

Vaccines and masks will continue to present legal challenges — whether through tennis stars or governments or members of the public



OPENING ARGUMENT

BY MENAKA GURUSWAMY

JUDGES ARE CONSTANTLY confronted with new crises that demand responsible adjudication. This is what makes the practice of law — both at the bar and on the bench — exciting. In the past few weeks, two fascinating court cases involving Covid-19 vaccination regimes have captured the public imagination and warranted the attention of judges in the United States and Australia.

On January 13, 2022, the United States Supreme Court (SCOTUS) delivered a judgment in *National Federation of Independent Business v Department of Labour, Occupational Safety and Health Administration* pertaining to the Joe Biden administration's vaccine or weekly-test mandate for all employers with 100 or more employees. In a 6-3 decision, the judges ruled that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) had exceeded its power in issuing such a mandate, minus an authorisation from Congress. The majority comprised the six conservative judges appointed by Republican administrations.

The majority's rationale was that while Congress has given OSHA the power to regulate workplace dangers, it "has not given that agency the power to regulate public health more broadly." The court reasoned that while Covid-19 "is a risk that occurs in many workplaces, it is not an occupational hazard in most." Noting that Covid-19 can spread practically anywhere that people gather, the court declared that the universal risk the virus presents is no different from the day-to-day dangers that people confront from crime or air pollution.

Yet, in a companion case *Biden v Missouri*, SCOTUS allowed the government to temporarily enforce a vaccine mandate for healthcare workers at facilities that receive federal funding. This time, the court was split 5-4, with Chief Justice John Roberts and Donald Trump appointee Justice Brett Kavanaugh joining the three liberal judges Justices Stephen Breyer, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor.

I highlight the political persuasions of the ruling majorities and dissenting minorities in these cases because vaccines and masking are deeply politicised issues in the United States. Conservatives, including many Republicans, fiercely oppose both vaccine and mask mandates, viewing them as infringing upon freedom, while also questioning their utility. Justice Neil Gorsuch, a Trump appointee, has reportedly refused to wear a mask while hearing cases in physical court. Meanwhile, his senior colleague Justice Sonia Sotomayor has been hearing cases from home because she has diabetes, an underlying condition that puts her at a greater health risk should she contract Covid. In ordinary course, Justices Sotomayor and Gorsuch sat next to each other, and Justice Gorsuch's refusal to wear a mask has resulted in a controversy about his bench etiquette.

Meanwhile, on January 20, 2022, in *Djokovic v Minister of Immigration*, the Federal



C R Sasikumar

Court of Australia supported the Australian government's decision to deport the world's no. 1 tennis player, Novak Djokovic from the country. Djokovic, a Serbian national, had entered Australia to defend his Australian Open championship and bid for a record-breaking tenth title. The drama that unfolded over the last two weeks saw Djokovic being detained twice, winning a challenge before one judge, practising on the tennis courts for a few days, and then being hauled back into detention after a higher court ruled against him.

Prior to his arrival in Australia, Djokovic chose not to get vaccinated, and consistently played down the threat of Covid-19. Shortly after he tested positive in early December 2021, he continued to attend public events in Serbia unmasked. The player came into conflict with Australia's zero-Covid policy, which involves strong vaccine imperatives and allows entry to only those foreigners who are fully vaccinated.

The Federal Court of Australia approved the Minister of Immigration's argument that Djokovic's continued presence, as a celebrity athlete and role model known to oppose vaccinations, "would foster anti-vaccination sentiment." The court observed that there was sufficient material before the minister to show that anti-vaccination groups had portrayed Djokovic as a hero and icon of freedom for his stance opposing vaccination. Under Australian law, the Minister of Immigration can cancel a visa if the visa holder presents a risk to the health or good order of the Australian community. In this instance, the minister and the court both agreed that Djokovic — an iconic tennis star — may encourage people who were uncertain as to whether they should vaccinate to follow his example in eschewing vaccinations. On January 16, the world's top tennis player was deported from Australia. Djokovic's tennis career may be imperilled due to his refusal to get vaccinated. Reports have emerged that the French Open will also not allow unvaccinated players to compete.

The central government recently informed the Supreme Court in a case concerning the vaccination of those who are physically challenged in *Evava Foundation v Union of India*, that there are no vaccine mandates in the country, nor will vaccinations be conducted on a person who does not consent. The government's affidavit made it clear that while they strongly support and publicise the need to get fully vaccinated and wear masks, there will be no coercion.

Fortunately, in India both vaccination and mask-wearing are bipartisan issues. All across the political class have welcomed the availability of vaccines and have supported the wearing of masks. If anything, the critique of India's vaccination policy has revolved around the insufficiency in vaccine procurement by the government during the second wave last year, and not whether vaccines work or not.

In May 2021, the Supreme Court of India in *Re: Distribution of Essential Supplies and Services during the Pandemic* took suo motu cognisance of the insufficiency of vaccine availability and influenced the government in changing its policy. As a result, the central government now procures 75 per cent of all vaccines, and the remaining 25 per cent are available in the open market. The earlier policy required state governments to purchase vaccines from the open market to meet their requirements. Interestingly, the central government recently informed the Supreme Court in a case concerning the vaccination of those who are physically challenged in *Evava Foundation v Union of India*, that there are no vaccine mandates in the country, nor will vaccinations be conducted on a person who does not consent. The government's affidavit made it clear that while they strongly support and publicise the need to get fully vaccinated and wear masks, there will be no coercion.

As the Omicron variant shows signs of receding, it is still unclear whether this is the waning of the pandemic or the start of a new reality of living with the virus. What is certain is that vaccines and masks will continue to present legal challenges in courts — whether through tennis stars or governments or members of the public. The courts and judges will certainly be adjudicating more on public health dilemmas, while engaging a fundamental question — where does freedom end and responsibility to the larger good begin?

Guruswamy is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"With vaccines and treatments now available, it is entirely reasonable that people are rethinking what constitutes appropriate and proportionate responses to the virus."  
— THE GUARDIAN

## Slipping through the cracks

If we want to get rid of open corruption through defections, steps must be taken to plug loopholes in Tenth Schedule



KAPIL SIBAL

IT IS TIME that we took a fresh look at the Tenth Schedule to our Constitution. We need to supplant it with a regime that does not make a mockery of those who openly flout its provisions and enjoy the trappings of power without any serious consequences. The flaws in the functioning of the Tenth Schedule, as it exists, are many.

First, paragraph 3 of the Tenth Schedule was omitted by the Constitution (91st Amendment) Act, 2003, which came into effect on January 1, 2004. Paragraph 3, as it existed prior to the amendment, protected defectors as long as one-third of the members of a political party formed a separate group. In the context of small assemblies, one-third of the members could easily be cobbled together. In such situations, a government's stability was always in jeopardy. It also allowed for piecemeal defections reaching the threshold of one-third of the total members of a political party, thereafter allowing the defectors to claim protection under paragraph 3. Often, the speaker of the assembly was seen to be collaborating with the political party in power to protect the defectors under the one-third rule. Such partisan conduct of the speakers is at the heart of a non-functional Tenth Schedule.

Second, after the omission of paragraph 3, paragraph 4 allowed for the protection of defecting members provided two-thirds of the members of the legislative party merged with another political party. This provision has invariably been misused. The seeming political bias of the speakers acting as tribunals is apparent from how disqualification petitions are dealt with. We have seen this happen in Manipur, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and other jurisdictions.

Third, there is a constitutional flaw in the manner in which the provisions of paragraph 4 have been enacted. Paragraph 4(1) stipulates that a member of the house will not be disqualified from his membership where his original political party merges with another political party and he claims that he and other members have become members of the other political party or a new political party is being formed by such merger. However, paragraph 4(2) provides that such a merger would be deemed to have taken place only if not less than two-thirds of the members of the legislative party agreed to such a merger. This allows for clandestine corruption where two-thirds of the members of the legislative party are bought over, by means fair or foul, together topple governments or to strengthen a razor-thin majority of the party in power. This makes the entire provision unworkable and unconstitutional. Protection of defectors under paragraph 4 is often deployed in situations where the disgruntled elements within a political party, as members of the legisla-

tive party, are persuaded to use these provisions even though no merger has taken place in terms of paragraph 4 of the original political party.

We have witnessed situations where, even though the provisions of paragraph 4 are not ex-facie attracted, the speaker of the assembly makes sure that the proceedings are interminably prolonged so that the term of the assembly comes to an end before the proceedings under the Tenth Schedule against those ex-facie defectors have been concluded. The case of Goa is a glaring example where proceedings dragged on for a couple of years and now that fresh elections are around the corner, these proceedings have no value in law. We witnessed the same in Manipur. In Madhya Pradesh, too, the Congress government fell because of such open defections. The same fate befell a coalition government in Karnataka.

The other very disconcerting constitutional feature in relation to defections that requires urgent attention is Article 164(1B). It stipulates that a member of the legislative assembly who is disqualified from being a member of the house under paragraph 2 of the Tenth Schedule shall also be disqualified to be a minister from the date of his disqualification till the date on which the term of his office as such a member would expire or where he contests the election to the legislative assembly before the expiry of the term of the assembly. This allows for the toppling of governments by inducements of various kinds. The motivation is that a fresh election allows the disqualified member to be re-elected. He then becomes a member of the assembly once again, as its term is not over and can also be appointed a minister. Under Article 164(1B), such a defection has no real consequences. It is clearly a provision that surpasses all canons of morality.

To supplant the Tenth Schedule, speakers, when elected must resign from the party to which they belong. At the end of their term, there should be a cooling-off period before they can become members of any political party. Second, paragraph 4 of the Tenth Schedule should be omitted by moving a constitutional amendment. Third, all those disqualified under paragraph 2 of the Tenth Schedule should neither be entitled to contest elections nor hold public office for five years from the date of their disqualification. And Article 164(1B) should be omitted by moving a constitutional amendment.

All petitions for disqualification of members under paragraph 2 of the Tenth Schedule should be decided, by adopting a summary procedure, within a period of three months counted from the date of filing of petitions for disqualification. An appeal should be provided for under the Tenth Schedule only to the Supreme Court.

If our polity wants to get rid of open corruption, it needs to take urgent steps to plug existing loopholes that have made the Tenth Schedule unworkable. Let our politicians not be seen as collaborators in flouting the Constitution.

The writer, a senior Congress leader, is a former Union minister

## A National Border Guard

India needs a single security agency to guard the borders



RAMESH DAVESAR

FOR THE LAST few years, along with usurping its neighbours' territories, starting with Doklam and followed by the Galwan crisis, China has escalated armed activities resulting in enhanced cross-border infiltration and armed intrusions. Similarly, the continued Pakistan-backed infiltration of terrorists poses fresh challenges to India.

Two recent developments initiated by China have made our borders more vulnerable. China's Land Border Law (LBL) will enhance Beijing's aggressive posture and is aimed at resolving border disputes on its terms. Equally alarming is the move to build 628 "Xiaokang model border defence villages" along the 3,488 km Line of Actual Control (LAC), which is conceived as a tactic to consolidate Chinese claims over disputed areas and garner local support. Additionally, these villages are capable of acting as forward assembly and administrative areas during hostilities. Two villages have already come up in the disputed area across Arunachal Pradesh. These developments warrant a comprehensive review of border management to ensure the all-weather security of our borders.

India shares land borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, which stretch approximately 15,106 km. In addition, we have an approximately 3,323 km-long LoC with Pakistan,

which further extends to the rechristened 110 km stretch of "Actual Ground Position Line" (AGPL) dividing the Siachen glacier region. Further east, we have the 3,488 km LAC with China. We share maritime boundaries with Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar and Indonesia; we have a 7,683 km coastline and an approximately 2 million sq km exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

This makes India's task more complex than most other countries. This complexity is accentuated by the fact that along with the army, we have multiple other security agencies — the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) and the Paramilitary Forces (PMF) — sharing the responsibility. While the army is deployed along the LoC and AGPL, the Border Security Force (BSF) looks after the international border with Pakistan and Bangladesh. Guarding the LAC has been assigned to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Assam Rifles. The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) is responsible for guarding the borders with Nepal and Bhutan. The Assam Rifles looks after our border with Myanmar. In a nutshell, in addition to the army, we have four agencies guarding borders with six neighbours. Conversely, maritime borders are guarded by a single agency — the Coast Guard.

Most countries have raised specialised and dedicated armed bodies for border se-

curity. For example, Iran has the Border Guard Command, Italy has the Border Police Service, Russia has created a Border Guard Service, whereas in the US, it is under Homeland Security. Closer home, in China, it is the People's Armed Police, while Pakistan has a Frontier Corps for its western border and the Rangers looking after the Indo-Pak Border. Most of these countries, based on threat perception and for better combat cohesion, have placed these organisations under the command of the armed forces.

In India, we have unwieldy arrangements. As a result, there is a lack of a coherent policy on training, planning and the conduct of guarding operations among various outfits. Overall coordination is also affected. Going by the instances along the western border, our adversary has often escalated violations by resorting to the prolonged use of military resources. Similarly, their modus operandi has also undergone a qualitative change whereby they have butressed border security by co-opting military battle drills and sub-unit tactics such as sniping, launching raids and ambushes on the LoC/international border by deploying regular troops. Chinese provocations along the LAC are military operations. Clearly, the peace-time scenario is now by and large militarised.

In this scenario, India needs a single se-

curity agency adequately equipped, suitably armed and trained in advanced military drills and sub-unit tactics to guard our borders. The manpower and infrastructure should be created by pooling and merging the resources of the CAPF and Assam Rifles. Further, to augment the battle efficiency, a fixed percentage of manpower, including the officer cadre, should be drawn on deputation from the army. The proposed outfit, let's call it the National Border Guard, (NBG), should have the explicit mandate to effectively retaliate against cross-border transgressions and stabilise the situation till the operations are taken over by the armed forces.

To ensure the desired training and operational standards, the NBG should be designated as a paramilitary force under the Ministry of Defence and operate under the army. Finally, a collateral spin-off — an opportunity to prune the bulky CAPF into a cohesive, lean and efficient force. The ITBP and the SSB should be fully merged into the new outfit; the BSF and CRPF still have important internal security duties and can be partially merged. The reorganised Assam Rifles too should retain its role of conducting counter-insurgency operations and act as a reserve for the army for conventional operations.

The writer was a colonel in the Indian Army

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LESSONS UNLEARNT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The missing federal spirit' (IE, January 21). The gradual dismantling of the federal structure by the ruling dispensation is having predictable repercussions on the country, in the form of slippages in many development indices — Human Freedom, Gender Gap, Hunger Index, Inequality, Education, etc. Our founding fathers had the wisdom and the sagacity to truly understand the diversity and pluralism of the country and designed the Constitution accordingly. This is why India has survived as a nation while many around us who failed to do so, have fallen. Unfortunately, this lesson is being lost on those who are attempting to ignore the Constitution and tread on precarious ground.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

### KEEP TESTING

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Tests matter' (IE, January 20). There is still a lot of uncertainty surrounding Omicron, the new variant, but the belief about its mildness is hurting precautionary measures like testing. Conflicting signals emanating from the LCMR are not helping. While people in panic is the last thing the government wants, more so when some states are in election mode, letting people be lulled into complacency may also not be very prudent. If tests are given short shrift, it is bound to affect data collation making predictions about the virus that much difficult. Aggressive testing alone can help in the fight against the virus.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

### MOSCOW'S POSTURE

This refers to the article, 'At stake in Ukraine' (IE, January 21). In the eventuality of an active Russian military action against Ukraine, the Kremlin might find it difficult to get Beijing to support its action overtly. China will be hosting the upcoming Winter Olympics and Paralympics, starting next month. It is already facing pressure from the international community, about a dozen of countries have diplomatically boycotted the winter games. Moscow's stance of violating Ukrainian sovereignty will invite western intervention, which could escalate to a full-fledged conflict. Russia is unlikely to get into a conflict that it could find difficult to sustain, it is just raising its stakes on the table through its military buildups. It wants western assurance against a plausible eastwardly expansion of the NATO alliance.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

### RESTORE CONFIDENCE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Look in, and out' (IE, January 20). The ruling NDA is justified in lashing out at its predecessor for the legacy disputes that are denting India's reputation among international investors. Earlier this week, PM Modi showcased the country as an ideal investment destination, citing reforms implemented by his government. Such measures won't achieve the best results unless the Devas tangle is sorted out. The onus is on the government to resolve arbitration issues without loss of face so as to regain investors' confidence.

SS Paul, Nadia





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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

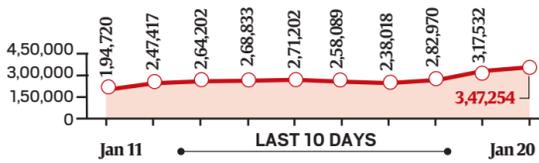
### DASHBOARD, AS ON JAN 20

690  
DAYS SINCE  
PANDEMIC  
BEGAN

New cases **3,47,254** | Active cases **20,18,825** | Deaths **703**

Weekly CFR: **0.79%** | Overall CFR: **1.39%** | Total deaths: **4,88,396**

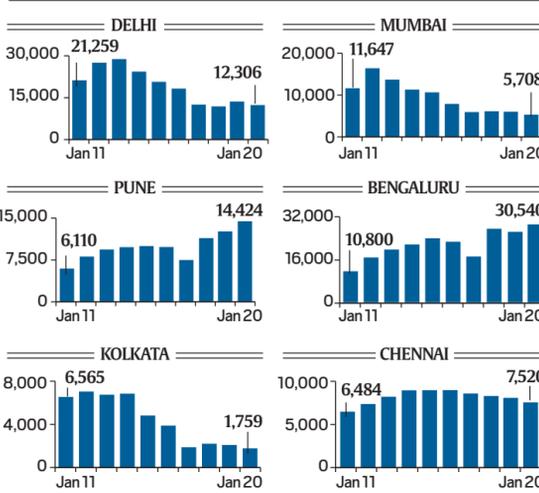
### NEW CASES, DAILY



### SURGE IN THE STATES

State	ON JANUARY 20			Weekly positivity
	New Cases	Active Cases	Deaths	
Karnataka	47,754	2,93,261	29	16.90%
Kerala	46,387	1,99,749	341	33.39%
Maharashtra	45,932	2,58,569	46	20.98%
Tamil Nadu	28,561	1,79,205	39	17.01%
Gujarat	24,485	104,888	13	13.21%

### CASES IN THE CITIES, LAST 10 DAYS

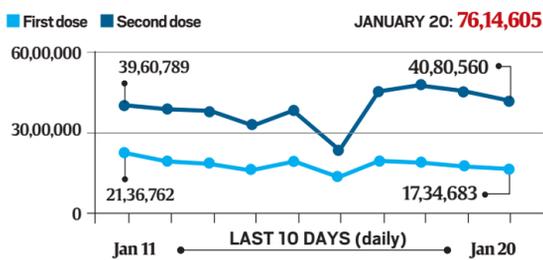


TOTAL TESTS **71,15,38,938**

TESTS ON JAN 20 **21,82,108** | WEEKLY POSITIVITY **15.95%** | OVERALL POSITIVITY **5.42%**

INDIA TOTAL DOSES **160,43,70,484**

(Adults 1st dose: **88,25,13,9129**; adults second dose: **67,53,88,182**; 15-18 age group first dose: **3,96,06,464**; precautionary doses: **68,61,926**)



# The flame and an icon

As part of the Central Vista redevelopment project, the Amar Jawan Jyoti flame has been merged with the one at National War Memorial, and a Netaji statue is coming up under the grand canopy at India Gate

## Nation's eternal flame of gratitude to the war dead

KRISHN KAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

THE ETERNAL flame of the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate has been put out and "merged" with the one instituted at the National War Memorial a few hundred metres away.

### Eternal flame

The eternal flame at the Amar Jawan Jyoti under India Gate in central Delhi is the iconic symbol of a grateful nation's tribute to soldiers who had laid down their lives in various wars and conflicts since Independence.

The flame was inaugurated on Republic Day, 1972 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to mark India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 War that resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.

The Amar Jawan Jyoti includes a black marble plinth with an inverted L1A1 self-loading rifle with a bayonet, topped by a war helmet, which acts as the tomb of the unknown soldier.

There are four urns on the installation, with four burners. On normal days, one of the four burners would be kept alive, and all four would be lit on important days such as Republic Day.

These burners constitute what is called the eternal flame, and it had never been allowed to be extinguished since the day it was lit a half century ago.

### Keeping it burning

From its inauguration until 2006, the flame was fed by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), one cylinder of which could keep one burner alive for a day and a half. Then, in a project that cost Rs 6 lakh at the time, the fuel was changed to piped natural gas, or PNG.

### Why India Gate

India Gate, formerly known as the All India War Memorial, was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and inaugurated by Lord Irwin, then Viceroy of India, in 1931.

It was erected as a memorial to around 90,000 Indian soldiers of the British Indian Army, who had died in several wars and campaigns till then. The inscription on the monument reads:

"To the dead of the Indian armies who fell and are honoured in France and Flanders Mesopotamia and Persia East Africa Gallipoli and elsewhere in the near and the far east and in sacred memory also of those whose names are here recorded and who fell in India or the North-West Frontier and during the Third Afghan War."

The names of more than 13,000 dead soldiers are mentioned on the 42-m-tall memorial, built in an architectural style that is often compared to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

### Shifting of the flame

Government sources have claimed that the "correct perspective" is that the flame has not been extinguished; only moved to be merged with the one at the National War Memorial. Sources have said that the eter-

nal flame paid homage to the soldiers killed in the 1971 War, but did not mention them by name, and that India Gate is a "symbol of our colonial past".

"The names of all Indian martyrs from all the wars, including 1971 and wars before and after it are housed at the National War Memorial. Hence it is a true tribute to have the flame paying tribute to martyrs there," the sources have said.

Defence establishment officials said that since the National War Memorial was inaugurated in 2019, Indian political and military leaders and foreign dignitaries have paid tribute to fallen soldiers at the memorial, and not at Amar Jawan Jyoti. It is now felt that two separate flames are no longer needed — even though at the time the National War Memorial was built, officials had said that both flames would be kept alive.

The shifting of Amar Jawan Jyoti is expected to focus greater attention on the National War Memorial. The move — along with the announcement that a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose would be installed under the India Gate canopy — can also be seen as part of the ongoing redevelopment of the Central Vista, of which India Gate, Amar Jawan Jyoti and the National War Memorial are parts.

### National War Memorial

The memorial located around 400 m from India Gate, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February 2019. Built in an area of around 40 acres, it commemorates all soldiers who have laid down their lives in the various battles, wars, operations and conflicts of Independent India. While there are several memorials for separate groups of soldiers, no single memorial had existed commemorating all of them together at the national level.

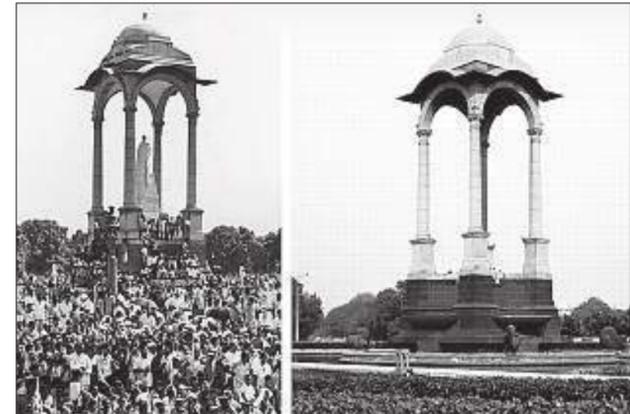
Discussions on building such a memorial had been ongoing since 1961, but its construction was approved only in 2015, at a location to the east of India Gate at C Hexagon. The design of the memorial was chosen through a competition.

The design includes four concentric circles: Raksha Chakra (Circle of Protection) marked by a row of trees, representing soldiers who protect

the country; Tyag Chakra (Circle of Sacrifice) of circular concentric walls of honour with granite tablets for each soldier who has died for the country; Veerta Chakra (Circle of Bravery), which has a covered gallery with six bronze crafted murals depicting the battles and actions of the Indian armed forces; and Amar Chakra (Circle of Immortality) which has an obelisk and the Eternal Flame.

The flame from the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate has been merged with this flame, which has been burning since 2019, when the memorial was unveiled. The flame is a symbol of the immortality of the spirit of the fallen soldiers, and a promise that the country will not forget their sacrifice.

As of today, 26,466 names of soldiers are etched in gold letters on the granite tablets. A tablet is added every time a soldier is killed in the line of duty.



Above: The canopy at India Gate pictured with and without George V's statue; below: hologram statue of Netaji Bose to be installed there. ANI & Twitter/Amit Shah

## Delhi's first Netaji statue, where George V once stood

DIVYAA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

A GRAND statue of Subhas Chandra Bose will be installed under the grand canopy at India Gate, near which the Amar Jawan Jyoti flickered for 50 years until Friday afternoon. Until the installation of the actual statue is completed, a hologram of Bose will be projected at the site of the statue, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Friday.

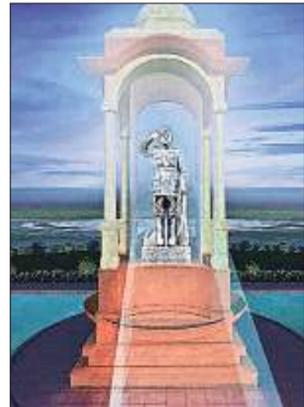
So, this Republic Day, the celebrations will be held at a different-looking Central Vista Avenue.

### The site & the statue

India Gate was built in the 1920s as a World War I memorial on Kingsway, now called Rajpath. Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, the main architect of Delhi, the gate evokes the architectural style of triumphal arches around the world. About 150 m east, at a junction of six roads, is the 73-foot canopy, inspired by a sixth-century pavilion from Mahabalipuram. The canopy was added in 1936 as a tribute to the recently deceased Emperor of India, King George V, and housed his 50-foot marble statue, erected by Charles Sargeant Jagger, in his coronation robes and the Imperial State Crown.

On the night of January 3, 1943, some Quit India movement activists scaled the statue, smashed its nose and draped it with a large black cloth inscribed 'Death to the Tyrant'. After Independence, there was widespread opposition to the statue's central location, but it stood at the site for another two decades, until it was moved to Coronation Park in 1968. Coronation Park was the venue of the Delhi Durbar in 1877 to mark the proclamation of Queen Victoria as the Empress of India, in 1903 to mark the accession of King Edward VII, and in 1911 when King George V became Emperor of India.

There have been deliberations during successive governments of installing a Mahatma Gandhi statue where King George V's statue stood, or one of Jawaharlal Nehru or even of Indira Gandhi post-1984. Historians, however, insisted it should remain empty as a reminder of the country's past. So, for more than five decades, the canopy remained empty, earning the name 'Empty Canopy'.



### Why Bose

Last week, the government announced that from this year, Republic Day celebrations will start on January 23 rather than the usual January 24, to mark Bose's 125th birth anniversary. When the PM inaugurates the hologram that day, a special programme will honour the winners of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Apada Prabandhan Award for contributions in disaster management. The government had earlier announced that Bose's birth anniversary would be celebrated as Parakram Divas. Museums dedicated to Bose have been set up at the Red Fort and Victoria Memorial in Kolkata. During its first term, the Modi government had also declassified several files related to Bose's life and times, through the National Archives of India. But there was a realisation that Bose is perhaps the only national leader who doesn't have a statue or memorial dedicated to him in the capital.

### The hologram

A hologram is a three-dimensional projection that can be seen without using any special equipment, and appears to move and shift realistically as the viewer walks around it. The dimensions of the hologram statue of Bose will be the same as the actual one being sculpted. There is no clarity yet on whether the hologram will beam all day or only on special occasions. Officials say it is likely to be beamed for the duration of the Republic Day celebrations until January 28.

# Strategic significance of bridge China is building on Pangong Tso

KRISHN KAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

THE ONGOING standoff in eastern Ladakh has led to construction of infrastructure on both sides of the India-China border. One of the latest constructions is a bridge being built by China on the Pangong Tso. The new bridge has been spotted in satellite images.

### Where is the bridge being built?

China is building the bridge, about 400 m long and 8 m wide, close to the friction points on the north bank of the Pangong Tso, and the Chushul sub-sector on the south bank. It will help China mobilise troops quicker, if needed.

The bridge is around 20 km east (35 km by road) of Finger 8 on the north bank. In India's perception, the Line of Actual Control lies at Finger 8. The site of the bridge is within India's claim line, although the area has been under Chinese control since 1958.

The site is east of an old ruin named Khurnak Fort. China, which calls the area

Rutong County, has a frontier defence company at Khurnak Fort, and a water squadron deployed farther east at Banmozhang.

Pangong Tso is a 135-km-long landlocked lake. More than two-thirds are under Chinese control. The bridge is near the halfway mark.

### Why is this area important?

The Fingers on the north bank have seen frequent clashes. Finger 4 was one of the first friction areas in the current standoff.

Second, the banks of the lake were among the most sensitive friction points in May 2020. Troops and tanks faced each other just a few hundred metres apart in some places, until the disengagement in February 2021.

At the end of August 2020, India outmanoeuvred China to capture the previously unoccupied heights of the Kailash Range on the south bank. Indian troops positioned themselves atop Magar Hill, Gurung Hill, Mukhpari, Rezag La, and Rechin La, dominating the Spangur Gap — which can be used for launching an offensive, as China did in 1962 — and also gaining a view of China's Moldo

Garrison. Subsequently, Indian troops positioning themselves above the Chinese in the Finger area on the north bank too.

### How does the bridge help China?

Its main objective appears to be quick mobilisation of PLA troops between the two banks at one of the lake's narrowest points. The Kailash range is around 35 km west of the bridge site. According to security establishment sources, when India carried out this operation, Chinese troops could not mobilise as quickly as they might have wanted; they had to go around difficult terrain on the north bank and double back on even tougher terrain on the southern bank to get to Chushul.

The bridge will enable Chinese troops to simply cross over, slashing travel time to the Kailash range from about 12 hours to about four hours.

Damien Symon, a geospatial intelligence expert with The Intel Lab, a collaboration of intelligence experts, tweeted on Tuesday that the "development of this bridge" appears to "strengthen the idea of permanency being

established by Beijing in the region, committing to its territorial claims with India by modifying the unforfeiting landscape in its favor".

Symon reported in November 2020 that after India took the Kailash heights, China began making a new road to Spangur lake. Now, "the construction of this bridge hence appears to be a lesson learnt by PLA planners looking to provide seamless connectivity & rapid mobility for elements responding in the future, to the frontline with India".

### What is India's response?

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on January 6 that the "government has been monitoring" the bridge construction activity "closely".

"This bridge is being constructed in areas that have been under the illegal occupation by China for around 60 years now." The government, he said, "has been taking all necessary steps to ensure that our security interests are fully protected" and as a part of these efforts the budget for development of border infrastructure has been significantly in-

creased and more roads and bridges have been completed than ever before.

Army Chief General M M Naravane said last week that like China, India too is upgrading and developing infrastructure along the northern border in a holistic manner including "roads, tunnels, all weather connectivity, strategic railway lines, additional bridges, storage facilities" for supplies. "Major efforts have also been undertaken to what all dual use infrastructure is there which can be made use of, which is available in the civil domain".

Additional troops have been inducted, and infrastructure and billeting facilities created for 25,000 additional troops who had gone into these areas.

"Because of all that that we have done, I think we are in a much better position than where we were a year and a half ago, and also much better prepared to meet any challenge that is thrown up in the future," he said.

In 2021, over 100 projects were completed by the Border Roads Organisation in the border areas, most of which were closer to the border with China. India is also improving

surveillance along the border, along with building new airstrips and landing areas.

### What is the status of the standoff?

While several friction points have been resolved, with both sides disengaging from Patrolling Point (PP) 14 in Galwan Valley, north and south banks of Pangong Tso and PP17A near Gogra Post, the recent meeting between senior military commanders last week was inconclusive in achieving a breakthrough for the remaining areas. The talks have been stuck in a stalemate since July.

As of now, there is a platoon-sized strength of soldiers from either side at PP15 in Hot Springs. China has been blocking Indian troops from accessing its five traditional patrolling points in Depsang Plains — PP10, PP11, PP11A, PP12 and PP13. In Demchok, some so-called civilians have pitched tents on the Indian side of the LAC, and have refused to vacate.

Each side has over 50,000 troops in the region, along with additional air defence assets, artillery, tanks and other weapons.

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit.

## ISRAEL

## A-G starts probe into misuse of Pegasus by cops

**Jerusalem:** Israel's attorney general has ordered an investigation into police surveillance tactics amid reports that law enforcement improperly used a disputed hacking tool. A report by the *Calcalist* financial daily describing misuse by police of the Pegasus spyware made by Israel's NSO Group has already spurred parliament to seek an explanation from police. In a letter to police commissioner, Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit said an initial examination into the matter did not turn up evidence of systemic misuse of surveillance technologies. Police commissioner Kobi Shabtai said on Thursday police were carrying out an internal investigation that so far had not uncovered any misuse. **REUTERS**

## PAKISTAN

## Cops identify three suspects behind blast

**Lahore:** After scouring CCTV footage, Pakistan police on Friday identified three suspects, who they believe had orchestrated the powerful bomb blast that ripped through a crowded market where Indian commodities are sold, killing three people and injuring 28 others. "Through CCTV footage, three suspects, one placing the bag seemingly full of explosives, and others coordinating with each other, were identified," police said on Friday. **PTI**

## UNITED STATES

## UNSC uses virtual reality for field trip

**United Nations:** In a first "virtual diplomacy" of its kind, the UNSC used virtual reality for a field trip to Colombia that aimed to give the 15-nation top UN organ an insight into the peace process in the South American country. "Today for the first time, the UNSC went on a virtual field trip," Norway, which is the President of the Council for January, said in a statement on Thursday. The Colombian peace process refers to the peace reconciliation between the Colombian government of President Juan Manuel Santos and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in 2016 to bring an end to the Colombian conflict. **PTI**

## WHO recommends reduced dose Pfizer vaccine for under 12s

REUTERS  
JANUARY 21

THE WORLD Health Organization on Friday recommended extending the use of a reduced dosage of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine to children aged 5 to 11 years old.

The recommendation comes after the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on immunisation held a meeting on Wednesday to evaluate the vaccine. It is currently recommended for use in people aged 12 years and above.

The recommended dosage for the younger population is 10 micrograms instead of 30 offered to those 12 years and older.

"This age group (5-11) is in the lowest priority use group for vaccination except, for children who have comorbidities," SAGE chairman Alejandro Cravioto said.

Pfizer/BioNTech shots have already been authorised for use

in the age group in several countries, including the US, Canada, Israel, and the European Union.

The WHO's vaccine director, Kate O'Brien, said no safety concerns were raised for application of Pfizer's vaccine in 5-11 years old in clinical trials. The panel also recommended that booster doses of Pfizer's vaccine should be administered 4 months to 6 months after the completion of the primary series, in high-priority groups like older adults and health workers.

Countries with moderate to high vaccination rates should prioritise available vaccine supply to first achieve high booster dose coverage in higher risk groups before offering vaccine doses to lower risk groups.

"Increase in booster dose coverage for high risk priority groups will usually yield greater reduction in severe disease and deaths than use of equivalent vaccine to increase primary vaccination coverage," Cravioto added.

## US, Russia hold talks to stop Ukraine war

Blinken says talks were 'substantive,' Lavrov calls them 'useful' and 'honest'

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
GENEVA, JANUARY 21

WITH TENS OF thousands of Russian troops massed near the Ukrainian border and President Biden warning that an invasion may be likely, the top US and Russian diplomats met on Friday as the United States continued a fervent diplomatic scramble to avert a potentially devastating new war in Europe.

The 90-minute meeting in Geneva, between Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russia's foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, came amid growing alarm over Russian threats to Ukraine and the West, and signs that the US and Europe lack a fully coordinated plan to deter Moscow. The Kremlin has been sending contradictory signals, leaving the door open to further diplomacy even as ominous Russian troop movements near Ukraine continue.

Speaking to reporters afterward, Blinken described the meeting as "frank and substan-



Secretary of State Antony Blinken greets Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov before their meeting on Friday. AP

...tive." He said diplomatic discussions would continue, but that "it is really up to Russia to describe which path it will pursue."

Lavrov, addressing the news media separately after the meeting, repeated Russia's denials that it had any plans to attack Ukraine and described the talks as "a useful, honest discussion."

Both envoys said the US would provide a written re-

## MEANWHILE

## ANDERSON, EMMY-WINNING COMEDIAN, DIES

Louie Anderson, whose more than four-decade career as a comedian and actor included his unlikely, Emmy-winning performance as mom to twin adult sons in the TV series "Baskets," died on Friday. He was 68. He won a 2016 Emmy for best supporting actor for his portrayal of Christine Baskets, mother to twins played by Zach Galifianakis. Anderson received three consecutive Emmy nods for his performance.



## West will stand up to 'dictatorship', warns Britain

**Sydney:** Britain warned Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday that its allies would stand together to fight for democracy against dictatorships that it said were more emboldened than at any time since the Cold War.

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and Britain's defence secretary, Ben Wallace, met their Australian counterparts in Sydney for the annual AUKMIN, where a deal for Australia to acquire nuclear submarines was discussed.

In a joint statement, the ministers expressed concern at Russia's military build-up on the border with Ukraine and "their absolute support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity". Truss added Putin should "desist and step back from Ukraine before he makes a massive strategic mistake." **REUTERS**

## UKRAINE: RUSSIA SENDING WEAPONS

**Kyiv:** Ukraine's military intelligence said on Friday that Russia was actively recruiting mercenaries and sending them for intensive training in separatist-controlled areas of eastern Ukraine. It said in a statement that fuel, several tanks, artillery and mortars had been secretly taken to the area from Russia. **REUTERS**

## 'STINGER' ANTI-AIRCRAFT TO BE SENT TO UKRAINE'

**Washington:** The United States has authorised the Baltic states to send Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Ukrainian forces to bolster defenses should Russia attack, according to two officials from Baltic countries who are familiar with the deal. Stinger missiles are unlikely to significantly alter the Russian calculus in any military action, according to experts. **NYT**

## CDC data: Boosters instrumental in protecting against Omicron

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
JANUARY 21

BOOSTER SHOTS of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines aren't just preventing infections with the contagious Omicron variant — they're also keeping infected Americans from ending up in the hospital, as per data published on Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The extra doses are 90 percent effective against hospitalisation with the variant, the agency reported. Booster shots also reduced the likelihood of a visit to an emergency department or urgent care clinic. The extra doses were most effective against infection and death among Americans aged 50 and older, the data showed.

Over all, the new data show that the vaccines were more protective against the Delta variant than against Omicron, which lab studies have found is partially able to sidestep the body's immune response.

It is generally accepted that booster shots keep people from becoming infected, at least for a while. Data from Israel and other countries have also suggested that boosters can help prevent severe illness and hospitalisation, especially in older adults.



A number of the most remote island nations in the world, including Kiribati, are now battling the spread of Omicron. NYT

## Omicron extends its reach to some of planet's most remote islands

AS THE highly transmissible Omicron variant spreads with a speed and infectiousness unmatched in the pandemic, it has found a foothold in a number of island nations.

One of the most drastic examples is Kiribati, a collection of atolls and reef islands scattered across an area of the Pacific Ocean about twice the size of Alaska. The first international flight to enter Kiribati in 10 months arrived last week from Fiji. 36 passengers tested positive for the virus. Now Tarawa, the capital, will go into lockdown on Monday.

The Solomon Islands also

reported its first community transmissions this week. The source was a boat that arrived illegally on the island of Ontong Java from Papua New Guinea carrying an infected passenger, the authorities said.

Palau has also recently reported a coronavirus outbreak after nearly two virus-free years. As of Friday, there were 183 active cases and more than 600 people in quarantine. And Samoa is considering canceling repatriation flights after a plane from Australia landed in the country carrying 10 passengers who tested positive. **NYT**

## US unveils changes to attract foreign STEM students

JOSH BOAK  
JANUARY 21

THE BIDEN administration on Friday announced policy changes to attract international students to specialise in science, technology, engineering and math — part of the broader effort to make the US economy more competitive.

The State Department will let eligible visiting students in those fields, known as STEM, complete up to 36 months of academic training, according to administration officials. There will also be a new initiative to connect these students with US businesses. The

officials insisted on anonymity to discuss the changes before their official announcement.

Homeland Security will add 22 new fields of study — including cloud computing, data visualisation and data science — to a programme that allows international graduates from US universities to spend up to three additional years training with domestic employers. The programme generated about 58,000 applications in fiscal 2020.

The programmes are designed to ensure the US is a magnet for talent from around the world, attracting scientists and researchers whose breakthroughs will enable the economy to grow. **AP**

## Biden-Kishida talks to touch on North Korea and China

AAMER MADHANI  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 21

PRESIDENT JOE Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will hold their first formal talks on Friday as the two leaders face fresh concerns about North Korea's nuclear programme and China's growing military assertiveness. The virtual meeting comes after North Korea earlier this week suggested it might resume nuclear and long-range missile testing that has been paused for more than three years.

Both the US and Japan are also concerned about China's increas-

## AUSTRALIA SEES 80 COVID DEATHS

**Canberra:** Australia on Friday reported its deadliest day of the pandemic with 80 Covid fatalities, as an outbreak of the Omicron variant continued to take a toll. But Dominic Perrotet, premier of the most populous state, New South Wales, said a slight decrease in hospitalisations gave him some hope. The previous record of 78 deaths was set on Tuesday. There have been just under 3,000 Covid deaths in Australia since the pandemic began. New South Wales reported a record 46 deaths. **AP**

## AUSTRIA APPROVES VACCINE MANDATE

**Vienna:** Austria's parliament voted Thursday to introduce a Covid-19 vaccine mandate for adults from Feb. 1, the first of its kind in Europe. Lawmakers voted 137 to 33 in favour of the mandate, which will apply to all residents of Austria aged 18 and over. Exemptions are made for pregnant women, people who for medical reasons can't be vaccinated, or who have recovered from a coronavirus infection in the past six months. Officials say the mandate is necessary because vaccination rates remain too low in the small Alpine country. **AP**

## Yemeni rebels say Saudi-led airstrike on prison killed 70

JON GAMBRELL & MAAD AL-ZIKRY  
SANAA, JANUARY 21

A SAUDI-LED airstrike targeting a prison run by Yemen's Houthi rebels killed at least 70 detainees and wounded dozens on Friday, a rebel minister said. The strike was part of a pounding aerial offensive that hours earlier saw another airstrike take the Arab world's poorest country off the internet.

The intense campaign comes after the Iran-backed Houthis claimed a drone and missile attack that struck inside the capital of the UAE earlier in the week.

Taha al-Motawakel, health minister in the Houthi government, which controls the coun-

## EXPLAINED What sparked the tension

THE SAUDI-LED coalition and the Houthis have been at war since 2015, when the Saudi-led coalition intervened in Yemen, seeking to push out the Houthis after the rebel group had seized Yemen's capital and toppled the internationally recognised government.

try's north, told AP in Sanaa that 70 detainees were killed at the prison but that he expects the number to rise since many of the wounded were seriously hurt.

## Taliban to hold meet in Norway next week

**Copenhagen:** A Taliban delegation will travel to Norway for talks with the Norwegian government, meeting with representatives of the Norwegian authorities and several allied countries but also with civil society activists and human rights defenders from Afghanistan.

The Norwegian Foreign Ministry said Friday that it has invited representatives of the Taliban to Oslo from Jan. 23 to January 25. The statement didn't say which other countries would take part in the meeting.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt said that "we are extremely concerned about the serious situation in Afghanistan." She said there is "a full-scale humanitarian catastrophe for millions of people" in the country. She stressed that the meeting was "not a legitimisation or recognition of the Taliban. But we must talk to those who in practice govern the country today." "We cannot let the political situation lead to an even worse humanitarian catastrophe," she said.

The Foreign Ministry said earlier this week, a Norwegian delegation visited Kabul for talks on the precarious humanitarian situation in the country. **AP**

## Meat Loaf, 'Bat Out of Hell' singer and actor, dies at 74

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
JANUARY 21

MEAT LOAF, the larger-than-life rocker whose 1977 debut album, "Bat Out of Hell," was one of the best-selling albums of all time, died on Thursday. He had given conflicting information about his age over the years, but was widely reported to have been 74.

His death was confirmed by his manager, Michael Greene. A statement on the musician's Facebook page said his wife was by his side and that his friends had been with him in his final 24 hours. A cause of death was not given.

Meat Loaf, who was born Marvin Lee Aday and took his stage name from a childhood nickname, had a career that few could match. In six decades, he sold over 100 million albums worldwide, the statement said, and appeared in several movies, including "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and "Fight Club."

Meat Loaf's death came just a year after that of Jim Steinman, the



Meat Loaf's 'Bat Out Of Hell' album is one of the all time bestsellers. AP File

songwriter who wrote "Bat Out of Hell," a record that brought operatic rock to audiences at a time when, in the face of disco and punk, it couldn't have been more unfashionable.

In addition to his music, Meat Loaf also appeared in dozens of television shows and movies. His first major role came in 1975 in "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," where he played Eddie.

In 2013, he told *The Guardian* that he was definitely retiring from music after another farewell tour. He wanted to "concentrate more on acting," he added, since "that's where I started and that's where I'll finish."

## DRESSED HEAD TO TOE IN PLASTIC, MODOU FALL'S GOAL IS TO RID THE CAPITAL OF THE SCOURGE OF PLASTIC BAGS

## This 'plastic man' has cape and a superhero's mission: Cleaning up Senegal

MADY CAMARA & RUTH MCLEAN  
DAKAR, JANUARY 21

AS THE marathon runners stretched and took their places on the starting line, one man stood out, dressed, as he was, in plastic from head to toe.

A multicoloured cape made entirely of plastic bags swept the sandy ground. A hat constructed out of plastic sunglasses was perched on his head.

But this man, Modou Fall, was not competing in the annual marathon held in Dakar, Senegal's capital, each November. He was participating

in a different kind of race: one to save the West African country from the scourge of plastic waste that clogged its waterways, marred its white beaches and constantly blew across its streets.

With the marathon drawing large crowds and a major media presence, he could not pass up the chance the race presented to promote his cause.

Waving the Senegalese flag and carrying a loudspeaker from which spilled songs cataloging the damage caused by plastic — "I like my country, I say no to plastic bags" — Fall swished in and around the runners in his long plastic cloak as the race began. Those at the race who

stopped him to ask for selfies fell into his well-laid and oft-used trap: He seized every opportunity to give them a gentle lecture about environmental issues.

After the last group of runners had left the starting area, Fall and his team of volunteers began to pick up the empty water bottles and plastic bags they had left behind.

For the foreign racers and tourists the marathon brought to Dakar, this might have been their first encounter with Fall, but for local residents, he's a familiar presence known as "Plastic Man."

His costume is modeled after the "Kankurang" — an imposing



Modou Fall offering paper bags as an alternative to plastic at a market on the outskirts of Dakar. Reuters

traditional figure deeply rooted in Senegalese culture who stalks sacred forests and wears a shroud

of woven grasses. The Kankurang is considered a protector against bad spirits, and in charge of teach-

ing communal values.

"I behave like the Kankurang," Fall said in a recent interview. "I am an educator, a defender and a protector of the environment."

While plastic waste poses a severe environmental problem around the globe, recent studies have found Senegal, despite its relatively small size, to be among the top countries polluting the world's oceans with plastic. This is in part because it struggles to manage its waste, like many poorer countries, and it has a large population living on the coast.

In an effort to reduce its share of pollution, the Senegalese government implemented a ban on some plastic products in 2020,

but the country has had a hard time enforcing it. Senegal, with a population of about 17 million, is projected to produce more than 700,000 metric tonnes of mismanaged plastic waste by 2025 if nothing is done, compared with about 337,000 metric tonnes in the United States.

Following much of the marathon route, Fall and his team of 10 young volunteers in green shirts and gloves fanned out for their cleanup operation.

They picked up water bottles outside Dakar's pioneering Museum of Black Civilizations, which showcases one of Africa's largest art collections. They collected hundreds of plastic bags

on the leafy campus of Cheikh Anta Diop University. They found plastic cups in the thrumming city centre, known as Plateau, home to the presidential palace and many embassies.

By mid-afternoon of the marathon day, Fall and his team were staggering under the weight of the plastic they had collected. A van drove up and they handed over hundreds of plastic bottles.

The team took a short break for lunch. But not Fall. He was still focused on his mission. There were five miles to go along the race route, and he set off, his plastic cape floating around him. **NYT**



**BHARATHIAR UNIVERSITY**  
COIMBATORE - 641046  
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**TENDER NOTICE**  
Ref.BU/RUSA2.0/R3/2021/539 Dt.22.01.2022

**Sealed Tenders are invited for the purchase of equipments:**  
1.NGS/MiSeq DNA sequencer 2.Electrochemical and photochemical workstation with all accessories 3. Material printer 4. GC-MS MS 5. FLS 1000 DD STM steady state Phosphorescence & Fluorescence lifetime spectrometer 6.Circular dichroism spectroscopy 7. Workstation 8. Lab Freeze Dryer 9. Moodle LMS 10. Water Purification Plant 11. DSSC fabrication and characterization system with accessories under RUSA2.0 BEICH & BCTRC project.

For further details please log on to our website [www.b-u.ac.in](http://www.b-u.ac.in) and [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)

DIPRI 480 /TENDER/2022 REGISTRAR /ic  
செய்தல் கட்டுரை எந்திரம் கட்டுப்பாடு. எந்திரம் புதிற்று எந்திரம் கட்டுப்பாடு.

**Government of Jharkhand**  
**Department of Mines & Geology**  
**Directorate of Geology**  
Engineers' Hostel No-2, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Dharwa, Ranchi-834004  
Email: [dir-geology@jharkhandmail.gov.in](mailto:dir-geology@jharkhandmail.gov.in)

**Cancellation**  
**Important Notice**  
**Electronic auction of Khutia Limestone & Dolomite Block, Garhwa District, Jharkhand**

In Consonance with Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (as amended), the notice for electronic auction published in different News Papers vide PR.No.-224845 (Mines and Geology) 20-21 of Khutia Limestone & Dolomite Block over an area of 84.37 Ha in Garhwa District, Jharkhand for grant of Mining Lease has been annulled.

Sd/-  
(Vijay Kumar Ojha)  
Director Geology

PR.NO.262096 Mines and Geology(21-22):D

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), Namely : Babinder Kumar S/o Sh. Samay Singh R/o H. No. F-133, Bear Holli Chowk, Mahipalpur, New Delhi has been Missing since 26.12.2021 from the area of PS Vasant Kunj North, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 118A dated 26.12.2021 has been lodged at PS Vasant Kunj North, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

**BABINDER KUMAR**  
Age : about 51 years, Height : 4'5",  
Complexion : Wheatish Face : Round, Hair : Black & White,  
Wearing : Green colour shirt and Blue colour Sweater and blue colour sports shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Vasant Kunj North, New Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO  
P.S. Vasant Kunj North, New Delhi  
South-West Distt., Delhi  
Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641  
Ph. No. 011-26892530, 26123835

DP/9886/SW/2022

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that one man Namely **Shikander S/o Vinod Kumar R/o N-116/366, JJ Camp Badli Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the jurisdiction of PS: Samaipur Badli, Delhi since 8.11.2021. In this regard, a case DD No. 40A, dated 16.11.2021 has been registered at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. The description of the missing / kidnapped man is as under.

**SHIKANDER**  
Age: 31 years, Height: 5'11",  
Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Build: Thin, Wearing: White Checkdar Colour shirt and Red Colour Payjama and black colour chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the kidnapped/missing man then please inform P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, providing clue about the person.

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- SHO  
Samaipur Badli, Delhi  
DP/1481/ON/2021 PH.011-27854799, 9136467654

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Asif Khan, S/o Safdar Khan, R/o H.No. 13, Gali No. 9, Amana Medical Store, 2nd Floor, Wazirabad, Delhi Age: 30 years, Height: 5'9", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round , Built: Thin, wearing Blue Jeans with Mehandi Colour Sweater and Shoes in Feet** has been missing from his house since 24.11.2021 from the area of P.S. Wazirabad, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 84A, dated 27.11.2021 has been logged at P.S. Wazirabad, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO  
P.S. Wazirabad, Delhi.  
DP/1812/N/2021 Ph.: 011-23810076, 23810073

**कार्यालय मुख्य वन संरक्षक एवं क्षेत्र संचालक, पंच टाइगर रिजर्व, सिवनी (म.प्र.)**

सिवनी, दिनांक 18/1/22

**संशोधित संक्षिप्त निविदा विज्ञापन**

पंच टाइगर रिजर्व, सिवनी (म.प्र.) के अंतर्गत 10 सीटर मोटर बोट (इंजन सहित) अनुमानित लागत 10.00 लाख रुपये की सामग्री क्रय हेतु निविदन फर्मों से ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति के अंतर्गत अनिवार्य निविदा [www.mptender.gov.in](http://www.mptender.gov.in) पर Key data and time अनुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है समस्त शर्तें एवं अन्य जानकारी स्टोर शाखा से कार्यालयीन समय में अथवा सर्वेपोटल [www.mptender.gov.in](http://www.mptender.gov.in) पर देखी जा सकती है।

क्र.	सामग्री का विवरण अनुमानित	अनुमानित मात्रा
1	10 सीटर FRP Boat with Canopy fitted with 40 HP TWO STROKE Tiller Model Petrol OBM Engine With All Accessories.	01 नमूना

टैप-उपरोक्त सामग्री की मात्रा किसी भी सीमा तक कम या अधिक हो सकती है।

Purchase of Tender Start Date & Time	20.01.2022 TIME 10.30 AM
निविदा क्रय की तिथि	
Purchase of Tender End Date & Time	25.01.2022 TIME 17.30 PM
निविदा क्रय की अंतिम तिथि	
Bid Submission closing Date & time	31.01.2022 TIME 17.30 PM
निविदा रर प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि	
Bid Opening Date	04.02.2022 TIME 17.00 PM
निविदा खोलने का दिनांक	

कोरोना से बचने की तीन बातें बहुत जरूरी,  
टीका लगवाना, मास्क पहनना और अपना नास नोक दूरी

हस्ता/-  
उप संचालक  
पंच टाइगर रिजर्व  
सिवनी (म.प्र.)

G-12720/21

**झारखण्ड सरकार**  
**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पूर्व, राँची**

**ई 0 प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना पूर्व में प्रकाशित PR.- 256494**  
T. Reference No. :- Different Tolas SVS-CLU - 18/2020-21(2<sup>nd</sup> Call) Date 20.01.2022

Sl.N o.	Name of Work	CLUSTER NAME	BLOCK	Estimated Cost (LAKH.)	Bid Security (LAKH)	Cost of BOQ (Rs.)
1.	Construction of Solar Based Mini Water Supply Scheme (SVS) in Different Block comprising of suitable R.C.C./Framed structure ESR Distribution line, Source (as required) and FHTC all complete job in the Different Block of District Ranchi under Drinking Water & Sanitation, Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.	3C	BUNDU	5,82,77,000	5,83,000	10,000.00
2.	Time of Completion	9 Months + 1 months (Trial and run)				
3.	Date of Tender Uploading on Website	28.01.2022/04.00 PM.				
4.	Document Download / Sale Start Date	28.01.2022/04.00 PM.				
5.	Pre Bid Meeting Date	01.02.2022/12.30 PM				
6.	Bid Submission Start Date	01.02.2022/04.00 PM.				
7.	Document Download / Sale End Date	07.02.2022/05.00 PM.				
8.	Bid Submission End Date	07.02.2022/05.00 PM.				
9.	Last date of Submission of Cost of BOQ and EMD (in Hard Copy)	08.02.2022/01.00 PM.				
10.	Date of Opening of Tender	09.02.2022/11.00 AM.				
11.	Name & Address of Office Inviting Tender	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.				
12.	Name & Address of Opening Officer	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.				
13.	Contact No. Of Procurement Office	0651-2480155				
14.	Helpline No. Of e-procurement cell	0651-2480345				

नोट-1. विशेष जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट - <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।  
कार्यपालक अभियंता  
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पूर्व, राँची

PR 262168(Drinking Water and Sanitation)21-22\*D

**DELHI JAL BOARD**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T)M-9**  
**SECTOR - IV, R.K. PURAM, NEW DELHI-110022**

Press N.I.T. No. 23(2021-22)/EE(T)M-9

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender	EMD (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Replacement of old damaged water line from Gali No. 1 to 39 at Rajapuri of Palam Constituency under EE(M)-37 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_215065_1)	Rs. 1,46,84,425/-	Rs. 2,93,700/-	20.01.2022 5:00 PM onward	01.02.2022 upto 3:00 PM
2.	Improvement of water supply by P/L 100 mm dia water line in C-Block Dabri Extension in Dwaraka assembly Constituency AC-33 under AEE(M)-33 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_215065_2)	Rs. 94,14,469/-	Rs. 1,88,300/-	20.01.2022 5:00 PM onward	01.02.2022 upto 3:00 PM
3.	Improvement of water supply by P/L 100 mm dia water line in B-Block Dabri Extension in Dwaraka assembly Constituency AC-33 under AEE(M)-33 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_215065_3)	Rs. 91,41,050/-	Rs. 1,82,900/-	20.01.2022 5:00 PM onward	01.02.2022 upto 3:00 PM
4.	Improvement of water supply by P/L 100 mm dia water line in A-Block Dabri Extension in Dwaraka assembly Constituency AC-33 under AEE(M)-33 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_215065_4)	Rs. 85,19,802/-	Rs. 1,70,400/-	20.01.2022 5:00 PM onward	01.02.2022 upto 3:00 PM
5.	Improvement of water supply by P/L 100 mm dia water line in D and E Block Dabri Extension in Dwaraka assembly Constituency AC-33 under AEE(M)-33 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_215065_5)	Rs. 62,31,490/-	Rs. 1,24,700/-	20.01.2022 5:00 PM onward	01.02.2022 upto 3:00 PM
6.	Improvement of water supply by P/L 100 mm dia water line in F and G Block Dabri Extension in Dwaraka assembly Constituency AC-33 under AEE(M)-33 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_215065_6)	Rs. 52,75,349/-	Rs. 1,05,500/-	20.01.2022 5:00 PM onward	01.02.2022 upto 3:00 PM
7.	Installation of Tube well construction of Tube well room and interconnection of Tube well by P/L 100mm dia D.I. water line from Najafgarh drain to Dhansa Village in Najafgarh Constituency under EE(M)-35 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_215065_7)	Rs. 48,44,326/-	Rs. 96,900/-	20.01.2022 5:00 PM onward	01.02.2022 upto 3:00 PM
8.	Installation of 02 Nos. Tube wells construction of Tube well rooms and interconnection of Tube well by P/L 150/100mm dia D.I. water line from near DJB STP to Dabar enclave Rawla mod in Najafgarh Constituency under EE(M)-35 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_215065_8)	Rs. 44,48,968/-	Rs. 89,000/-	20.01.2022 5:00 PM onward	01.02.2022 upto 3:00 PM

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on DJB Web Site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Sd/- (Satish Kumar)  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(T)M-9  
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Moradabad**

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Northern Railway, Moradabad invites sealed quotations from Registered Railway leaseholders (Registered in Moradabad Division) for the contract of temporary leasing of SLR/SLRD parcel space in the following trains originating from various stations over Moradabad Division for a period of 90 days, scheduled to be opened on 31.01.2022 as per Railway Board's Letter No. 2021/TC(FM)/10/11 dated 16.11.2021. The details are as under:

SN	Regular Train No.	Originating Station	Terminating Station	SLR capacity (in Ton)	Compartments (SLR Space) to be lease	Scale rate of Train	Frequency/No. of days of run in a week	Reserve price per Compartment (In Rs.) per trip	EMD (In Rupees) per Compartment
1	15006	DDN	GKP	3.9	F-I	P	TUE, THU-02	9,003.54	100000
2	19566	DDN	OKHA	4	F-I, F-II, R-I	P	Sun-01	16,836.40	100000
3	12091	DDN	KGM	4	F-I, F-II, R-I	P	TUE, WED, FRI, SAT, SUN-05	4,664.40	100000
4	14042	DDN	DLI	4	F-I	P	DAILY-07	4,578.00	100000
5	12328	DDN	HWH	4	F-I, F-II, R-I	R	WED, SAT-02	24,258.00	100000
6	12402	DDN	KOTA	3.9	F-I	P	DAILY-07	8,356.14	100000
7	12172	HW	LTT	3.9	F-I	R	TUE, FRI-02	25,354.68	100000
8	14718	HW	BKN	4	F-I, F-II, R-I	P	TUE, THUS, SAT-03	8,570.40	100000
9	13010	YNRK	HWH	4	F-I, F-II, R-I	R	DAILY-07	23,778.00	100000
10	19610	YNRK	UDZ	4	F-I, F-II, R-I	P	TUE, FRI, SUN-03	10,977.20	100000
11	14311	BE	BHUJ	4	F-I, F-II, R-I	R	TUE, THU, SAT-03	23,778.00	100000
12	14321	BE	BHUJ	4	F-I, F-II, R-I	R	MON, WED, FRI, SUN-04	22,324.80	100000
13	12370	DDN	HWH	4	F-I, F-II, R-I	R	MON, TUE, THUS, FRI, SUN	24,258.00	100000
14	14631	DDN	ASR	4	F-I, F-II, R-I	P	DAILY-07	6133.20	100000
15	14318	DDN	INDB	3.9	F-I	R	FRI, SAT	18750.03	100000
16	14310	DDN	UJN	3.9	F-I	R	TUE, WED	17676.36	100000
17	12056	DDN	NDSL	3.9	F-I	P	DAILY-07	4296.24	100000
18	14315	BE	NDSL	4	F-I, F-II, R-I	P	DAILY-07	3,937.60	100000
19	14320	BE	INDB	4	F-I, F-II, R-I	P	WED	11,422.00	100000
20	22660	YNRK	KCVL	3.9	F-I	R	MON	39,327.21	100000

Applicable due taxes will be extra. In addition to the offer price quoted by the H-1 Bidder, GST as applicable on date (presently @5%) and TDC @ 2% or as applicable over the Railway Freight has to be paid by the successful bidders. Date and time for submission of Quotation: from 11.00 hours to 15.00 hours on 31.01.2022 and to be opened immediately after 15.00 hours. For the information and obtaining Quotation forms, interested bidders main kindly contact to the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, DRM office, Moradabad from 24.01.2022 to 30.01.2022 on any working day between 10.00 hours to 18.00 hours and on 31.01.2022 up to 11.00 hours. The drafts submitted for Earnest Money deposit and Quotation Cost, both, should be in favour of 'Sr. Divisional Finance Manager, Northern Railway, Moradabad' and must be prepared from the bidders own bank account and in case any information is found false/otherwise, Railway Administration shall be at liberty to initiate any penal action, including termination as deemed fit at a later date. All interested bidders shall read and follow and abide by all the terms and conditions of the bid documents. It is pertinent to mention that NIT for the long term lease tender for a period of five years of the above-mentioned SLRs has already been published on 12.11.2021 and 08.12.2021. Relevant information and documents are also available and can be downloaded from the official website of Railways at [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) Date : 20.01.2022 143/2022

Serving Customers With A Smile

**ग्लोबल टेंडर नोटिस (www.etenders.gov.in)**

Director, CSIR - Central Leather Research Institute, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020, INDIA, (CLRI) invites encrypted bids on [www.etenders.gov.in](http://www.etenders.gov.in) from manufacturers, their authorized distributors for purchase of items listed below. The tender is open for local suppliers in terms of Make in India, Order No. P-45021/2/2017-PP (BE-II) of 16th September, 2020 and Non-local suppliers (those not meeting the local content, Foreign OEM, Foreign principals or their authorized Indian agents).

Sl. No.	Tender No. & Tender ID	Description of items	Qty	Single/ Double bid	Bid Security (EMD)	Pre-Bid Conference through MS Team
1.	28(14)/2021/Pur-T/173 & 2022_CSIR_102498_1	Supply, installation and commissioning of Biological High-Resolution Atomic Force Microscopy	1 No	Double Bid	As per Tender Document	11.00 AM
2.	28(15)/2021/Pur-T/179 & 2022_CSIR_102499_1	Supply, installation and commissioning of High-End Operating Microscope	1 No	Double Bid	As per Tender Document	3.00 PM

Tender Closing Date : 23rd February, 2022 at 3.00 PM.(IST)  
Tender Opening Date : 24th February, 2022 at 3.00 PM.(IST)

All interested bidders are requested to attend the pre-bid conference on 31st January, 2022 through MS Team (for link see in the tender document in CPP Portal). Modification if any in the Tender Document after the Pre-Bid Conference would be hosted on [www.etenders.gov.in](http://www.etenders.gov.in) only.

The E-Tender document can be downloaded from [www.etenders.gov.in](http://www.etenders.gov.in). Tenders should be submitted through e-procurement portal as above.

STORES & PURCHASE OFFICER  
(For & on behalf of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**

Department	Electrical (TRD)	Tender No.	T-11-TRD-MB-21-224
Name of Work	Replacement of Static Control Panel (including Relays) with Numerical Relay Panel (including Relays) at Rasuiya Traction Sub Station over Moradabad Division.		
Tender Closing Date & Time	03.02.2022, 15:00 Hrs.		
Advertised Value	₹95,53,498.20 (including GST)		
Earnest Money	₹1,91,100.00	Tender Document Cost	NIL
Validity of offer (Days)	45 days	Period of Completion	3 Months
Website particulars & Address of office	<a href="http://www.treps.gov.in">www.treps.gov.in</a> Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Northern Railway, Moradabad		
Tender Notice No.	Elect/TRD/MB/2021-22/TN-09	Dated :	20.01.2022 146/22

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

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**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE ACE(M)-2**  
2142 JANTA FLATS G.T.B. ENCLAVE DELHI-110093

Press NIT No 65 (2021-22)

Sl. No	Name of Work	Amount put to tender	Date of release of tender in E-Procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender E-Procurement solution
1	Replacement of old damaged 350 mm dia P.S.C water Main at New Seemapuri in NE-I (AC-63)	51,86,424.00	20.01.2022 2022_DJB_215116_1	03.02.2022 2:10 PM

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

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1033(2021-22)

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

Sd/-  
SukhPal Chauhan  
Ex. ENGINEER (T)-2

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (WW) THROUGH EE (E&M) HP II**  
**DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**HAIDER PUR WATER WORKS, DELHI- 110085**  
Tel No. 011-27552446-47, Email ID: [eeemhp2.djb@nic.in](mailto:eeemhp2.djb@nic.in)

SHORT PRESS NIT No-14(2021-22 Re-Invite)/EE(E&M)HP-II

NIT No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Exempted Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/Time receipt of Tender through e-procurement solution
9	Design, Engineering, Supply Construction, Testing, Commissioning to enhance capacity of existing clarifier at Haiderpur WTP PH-II by using latest modern technology.	Item Rate	Rs. 18,60,000/-	Tender ID 2022_DJB_215143_1 Publish Date 20-Jan-2022 06:00 PM onward	31-Jan-2022 up to 03:00 PM

NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on DJB website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1034(2021-22)

"STOP CORONA, WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

Sd/-  
(R.P. MEENA)  
Executive Engineer (E&M) HP-II

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
Tel. 01972-223965, 225735 Email- [hp-ham@nic.in](mailto:hp-ham@nic.in) FAX- 01972-222286  
Package No. HP-08-367 Dated:-20.01.2022

**INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)**

The Superintending Engineer, 8th Circle, HPPWD Hamirpur HP on behalf of Governor of H.P. re-invites in 3rd call the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Cost of bid form (In Rs.)	Deadline for submission of Bid.	Date of opening of Technical Bid
1	Balance work of Clo Sidhpur to Dharal km. 0.0 to 5/810 (SH- Clo balance work i.e. cleaning and grubbing, formation cutting, F/val, B/val, Shoulder metallizing and tarring, side drain, parapets and Logo boards & CD work and routine maintenance for 5 years) Package No. HP-08-367	4,02,69,039/-	24.01.2022 at 6:00 PM	8,06,000/-	5000.00	07.02.2022 at 10:00 AM	07.02.2022 at 11:30 AM

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the website [www.pmsgtenders.gov.in](http://www.pmsgtenders.gov.in)

Superintending Engineer,  
8th Circle, HPPWD, Hamirpur,  
Pin. 177001  
on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

6410/HP

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NATIONAL HIGHWAYS PROJECTS**  
**e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

1. The Superintending Engineer, National Highway Circle, HPPWD, Shahpur invites Bids on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh for construction of works detailed in the Table.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Approximate value of work (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of Document (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Rehabilitation of 262.50 meter span bridge over Swan River at Km. 13/450 on S03A in the State of Himachal Pradesh	Executive Engineer, NH Division, HP PWD, Hamirpur	4,29,46,838/-	8,59,000/-	12000/- each set	Nine Months

# 17 ECONOMY

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>RUPEE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹8,340	₹74.43	\$87.46	₹65,112

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of January 20

SENSEX: 59,037.18 ▼ 427.44 (-0.72%) NIFTY: 17,617.15 ▼ 139.85 (-0.79%) NIKKEI: 27,522.26 ▼ 250.67 HANG SENG: 24,965.55 ▲ 13.20 FTSE: 7,516.82 ▼ 68.19 DAX: 15,639.31 ▼ 273.02

International market data till 1900 IST

## FLOATS TENDERS TO PROCURE OVER 14 MT OF IMPORTED COAL

# To avoid coal shortage in summers, NTPC looks to build buffer stock

KARUNJIT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

AS POWER producers anticipate a potential shortage of domestic coal this summer, state-owned NTPC Ltd, one of India's largest thermal power producers, has floated tenders to procure 14.5 million tonnes of imported coal despite elevated international prices.

Thermal power producers have consistently raised the issue of uncertainty of delivery of coal and are unlikely to be able to build up stocks to normative levels by March, according to government officials. States had rushed to power exchanges in October, amid a shortage, paying three-four



NTPC Farakka, West Bengal. File

times the normal rates for power due to inadequate supply.

"We expect that there may be a shortfall (of domestic coal) and we need to keep a buffer stock of

### EXPLAINED Norm revision

POST COAL shortage in October, the Centre revised stocking norms upwards to require thermal plants to maintain higher stocks between February and June—prior to monsoon when coal stocks tend to fall.

coal," said an NTPC official. The official added issues around availability of domestic coal for the summer season had cropped up as early as March in 2021. The gov-

ernment, in October, permitted power generation companies that use domestic coal to import up to 10 per cent of their coal requirements amid the shortage. Indonesian coal is currently about \$160 per tonne, up from about \$75 per tonne in January 2021.

While the Power Ministry has asked the Railways to prioritise coal deliveries to thermal plants for building up inventory, they will still unlikely to be able to stock up to reach the targeted level of 58 million tonnes by March, according to government officials. Post the coal shortage in October, the Centre revised stocking norms upwards to require thermal plants to maintain higher stocks between February and June—prior to the

monsoon period when coal stocks tend to fall. Power producers note that timely availability of coal is still uncertain despite assurances from Coal India and the Coal Ministry. They have called for greater accountability for non-delivery of coal. "The key issue is the uncertainty that power producers face on the quantum and timing of coal availability and its transportation through rail. We have been asking for accountability in the supply of coal and its transportation through tripartite agreements between power producers, Coal India and the Indian Railways," said Ashok Khurana, Director General of the Association of Power Producers.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## With white paper, US Fed sets debate on own digital currency

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 21

CREATING AN official digital version of the US dollar could give Americans more, and speedier, payment options, but it would also present financial stability risks and privacy concerns, the US Federal Reserve said in a long-awaited discussion paper released Thursday.

The paper made no policy recommendations and offered no clear signal on where the Fed stands on whether to launch a central bank digital currency (CBDC), a digital form of cash. The Fed said it would not proceed with creating one "without clear support from the executive branch and from Congress, ideally in the form of a specific authorizing law."

The paper sets the stage for collecting public feedback on the potential costs and benefits of a CBDC. "While a CBDC could provide a safe, digital payment option for households and businesses as the payments system continues to evolve, and may result in faster payment options between countries, there may also be downsides," Fed officials wrote.

The paper partially echoed the views of Fed Chair Jerome Powell, who has said such a project must have broad support and ideally be mandated by Congress.



It partially echoed views of Fed Chair Jerome Powell, who has said such a project must have broad support. Reuters file

### WEF sessions

Meanwhile, at a World Economic Forum (WEF) virtual session Friday, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, rebranded the Biden administration's agenda as "modern supply-side economics" that seeks more labor supply, better infrastructure, education and research to boost potential US growth and ease inflationary pressures.

Meanwhile, at another virtual panel at WEF, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said it was important for central bankers to be data-driven in responding to inflation and communicate clearly any tightening of monetary policy, but other policy makers as well, including through boosting vaccinations to end the pandemic.

## SC upholds Guj's ₹480-cr tax claim on ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel

INDUBHAN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

UPHOLDING THE Gujarat tax department's levy of Rs 480 crore purchase tax on ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (erstwhile Essar Steel), the Supreme Court on Friday held that the company was not entitled to any exemption from payment of the tax as it violated the 1992 incentive policy.

A Bench set aside the Gujarat High Court's May 2016 judgment that had upheld the Gujarat Value Added Tax Tribunal's order that held Essar Steel (ESL) was entitled to the exemption from payment of purchase tax. FE

## Vi Q3 net loss up at ₹7,231 cr

Mumbai: Vodafone Idea, also known as Vi, saw a net loss of Rs 7,230.9 crore in the December 2021 quarter, against a loss of Rs 4,532.1 crore a year ago. Revenue in Q3FY22 was Rs 9,717.3 crore, below Rs 10,894.1 crore a year ago, despite tariff interventions.

The telecom operator's total gross debt (excluding lease liabilities and including interest accrued but not due) as of December 31, 2021 stands at Rs 1,98,980 crore. ENS

## CORPORATE WATCH INVESTMENTS

# 'Indian startups raised \$24 bn; 42 unicorns last yr'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

INDIAN STARTUPS raised \$24.1 billion in total from various investors during the last year while as many as 42 new startups crossed the valuation of \$1 billion, making them unicorns, a report by industry body National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) showed.

The country has about 70 active startups which have crossed the valuation of \$1 billion or more, the report said. Globally, India remained at the number three spot, behind the US and China, which had 444 and 301 startups that had valuation of \$1 billion or more. These two countries added 260 and 146 unicorns in 2021, respectively. Over 2,250 startups were added in 2021, over 600 more than the previous year, it added. While 11 startups in 2021 took the initial public offering (IPO) route to

### Over 2,250 startups were added in 2021, said a Nasscom report

raise money from the markets, Nasscom expects at least 16 startups to take the IPO route to raise money in 2022.

Established startup hotspots such as Delhi and the National Capital Region, Bengaluru, Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad and Mumbai were home to nearly 71 per cent of the startups in 2021, while other smaller centres or emerging startup hubs such as Jaipur, Kochi, Kolkata, and Chandigarh accounted for 29 per cent. "The performance of the Indian startup ecosystem in 2021 has proved the resilience and dedication being put by multiple startups across segments," Nasscom president Debjani Ghosh said. Though the number of women in the startup system remained low, there were encouraging signs.

## 'EV financing by banks, NBFCs may be ₹40K cr'

Banks & NBFCs can see EV financing market size of ₹40,000 crore by 2025, a NITI Aayog & RMI India report said

'Banking on Electric Vehicles in India' by NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) India outlined importance of priority sector recognition for retail lending in electric mobility

ecosystem Retail finance for electric vehicles (EVs) has been slow to pick up

Source: NITI Aayog & RMI India/PTI



## RIL Q3 net profit up 38%; retail, digital see record revenues

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 21

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES Ltd (RIL) on Friday reported a 37.9 per cent jump in net profit (after exceptional items) for the quarter ended December 2021 at Rs 20,539 crore as against Rs 14,894 crore in the same period of last year. Gross revenue vaulted by 52.2 per cent to Rs 2,09,823 crore for the quarter from Rs 1,37,829 crore a year ago.

"I am happy to announce that Reliance has posted best-ever quarterly performance in 3QFY22 with strong contribution from all our businesses. Both our consumer businesses, Retail and Digital services have recorded highest ever revenues and EBITDA," said chairman and MD Mukesh Ambani.

RIL's digital arm Reliance Jio Platforms saw gross revenue of Rs 24,176 crore in Q3FY22, 13.8 per cent higher than Rs 22,858 crore a year ago. Net profit for Q3 was Rs 3,795 crore, higher by 8.9 per cent from Rs 3,486 crore a year ago. Gross subscriber addition was strong with total gross adds of 34.6 million in the December 2021 quarter, driven by both mobility and FTTH businesses.

Reliance Retail posted a gross revenue of Rs 57,714 crore for the December quarter, higher by 52.5 per cent from the year-ago period. Net profit was at Rs 2,259 crore, higher by 23.4 per cent. During the

### 'BEST QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE EVER'

■ CMD Mukesh Ambani said RIL saw "best-ever quarterly performance in 3QFY22"

■ Reliance Jio Platforms' Q3 net profit rose 8.9% to ₹3,795 crore

■ Reliance Retail's Q3 net profit rose 23.4% to ₹2,259 crore

quarter, the retail business added 837 stores taking the total count to 14,412 stores and 2.3 million square feet of warehousing space to bolster its service capabilities.

Ambani said the recovery in global oil and energy markets supported strong fuel margins and helped the oil-to-chemical (O2C) business deliver robust earnings. "We are making steady progress towards achieving our vision of net carbon zero by 2035," he said. "Revenue of O2C was driven by higher volumes and improved price realization on the back of 80 per cent year-on-year increase in crude oil prices," RIL said. The company's shares closed at Rs 2,478.10, down 0.03 per cent, on the BSE on Friday. Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Domestic flyers told to stick to 1 handbag

New Delhi: Domestic air passengers should be allowed to carry only one baggage in the cabin of the aircraft subject to certain exemptions, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has told the BCAS.

Citing issues of congestion at pre-embarkation security checkpoints at airports due to passengers carrying 2-3 hand baggage, the CISF has asked the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) to ensure that the

one bag rule is enforced by all stakeholders and airlines. The rule provides for certain exemptions, including lady's bags.

In a communication to BCAS Director-General Nasir Kamal on January 19, the CISF said carrying over 1 bag to screening points leads to increased clearance time. PTI

**Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy, Heavy Water Plant (Kota) e-Tender invitation notice no. - HWP/INST/ROIV-MOIV/MTA-22/101**

Online item rate tenders are invited through e-Tendering mode for "Servicing of air motor operated Limbore actuators of ROIVs and electric motor operated (Rotary Limbore) actuators of MOIVs at HWP (Kota) during MTA-2022" by General Manager, Heavy Water Plant (Kota), Post: Anushakti-323003, Via- Kota (Rajasthan) for and on behalf of the President of India, (not approved, eligible and experienced contractors). Estimated cost of work: Rs. 48,56,740/-

Tender document can be viewed/downloaded from 27.01.2022 (10:00 hrs) to 11.02.2022 (16:00 hrs). The last date for online submission of tender is 11.02.2022 (16:00 hrs). The technical bids will be opened on 16.02.2022 at 15:00 hrs.

The detailed NIT and Tender Documents are available on the website <https://eprocurement.gov.in/eprocurement> for free to view/download. The detailed NIT can be seen at website [www.hwp.gov.in](http://www.hwp.gov.in). For further information please contact Telephone no. 01475-242201/242214, fax - 01475-242203 on all working days. General Manager For & on behalf of President of India.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**

**State Roads Project, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar Shimla-171002**  
Fax: 0177-2620663; Tel: 0177-2620663/2627602, E-mail: pdsrp-hp@nic.in

**Request for Expression of Interest Proposal (EOI)**

Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)  
9066-IN  
Date: January 21, 2022

The Director (Projects)-cum-CE, H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla- 171002, Himachal Pradesh India invites Expression of Interest from National and International Consultants for the consultancy services as detailed in the table below:-

Sr. No.	Description of the consultancy Services	Date of availability of Expression of Interest (EOI) on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/ Time for submission of Proposals
1.	Consultancy Services for Replacement w/ up gradation of existing web based Road Management System (RMS) application with RAMS along with data collection and engineering services (RAMS) for HPRIDCL.	January 21, 2022	February 4, 2022

EOI & ToR will be available on the official web site of HPRIDCL under link <http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridcl/HPSRTP.html>.

**Note:-** Any further addendum/corrigendum to this Request for Expression of Interest proposal document shall be available to all interested firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by **February 4, 2022 at 15:00 hours (IST)**

**Director (Projects)-cum-CE, H.P. State Roads Project,**

### BRIEFLY

#### 'Data leakage'

New Delhi: Personal data of thousands of people was reportedly leaked from a government server — including name, mobile number, address and Covid test result — which can be found through online search. The leaked data has been put on sale on Raid Forums website. However, National Health Authority CEO RS Sharma denied any Covid-related data leak on "prima facie" basis. PTI

#### PTC independent dir Kacker resigns

New Delhi: PTC India has informed the exchanges one of its independent directors, Rakesh Kacker, has put in his papers, days after 3 independent directors of its subsidiary PFS resigned over alleged corporate governance issues.

He had served as an independent director on the board of PFS till December 31 and has now resigned from the board of PTC India with immediate effect. PTI

#### Twitter shakeup

Dallas: Twitter has said its head of security is no longer at the firm and its chief information security officer will depart in the coming weeks. It did not specify whether the departures were voluntary. The New York Times first reported Peiter Zatkó's departure and Rinki Sethi's upcoming departure as CISO. Zatkó and Sethi could not be immediately reached for comment. REUTERS

#### NPS exposure

New Delhi: PFRDA said it will talk to the Centre plan to raise equity exposure in NPS to up to 75 per cent for willing government employees.

#### 'FRL funding'

New Delhi: Independent directors of Future Retail Ltd asked Amazon to confirm by Saturday infusing of Rs 3,500 crore into the retailer to repay FRL's lenders by January 29, said sources. PTI

## FTAs are two-way traffic, get competitive: Goyal to industry

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

COMMERCE MINISTER Piyush Goyal on Friday told the industry that as free trade agreements (FTAs) are a two-way traffic, Indian consumers should not be forced to buy expensive domestic products in areas where other countries have a comparative advantage.

"FTAs are a two-way traffic. It cannot be one-sided access for Indian goods and services alone," Goyal said at a virtual session by Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry, adding the country is looking at reciprocal access, good market conditions, and equitable and fair play in goods and services in FTA negotiations.

India is currently in the process of negotiating FTAs with the UK, the UAE, Australia, Israel and the EU. He added industry should have a greater risk appetite and should look to invest more in labour-intensive sectors. "Our focus is wherever we have competitive or com-

#### 'TRIPS waiver plan useful'



New Delhi: Patent waiver proposal by India and South Africa at the World Trade Organization provides a useful way forward to confront some critical health-related aspects of the pandemic effectively, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said. PTI

parative advantage, we should look at market access and wherever the advantage is with some other country, we don't have to force the Indian consumer to buy expensive," he said, adding India had already given market access in existing FTAs such as those with Japan and Korea.

"In fact, when there will be more access with different markets, hopefully products will be available to us at more competitive prices on which we can do value addition particularly in labor-oriented areas and expand our business," he said.

Goyal noted that Indian industry would also need market access in other countries for growth once domestic markets get saturated. India has, however, sought a review of existing FTAs including those with Japan, Korea and ASEAN as India's trade deficit with these countries has widened after the deals. Experts said Indian industry has not been able to take advantage of market access in these FTAs as it is not competitive enough to be able to increase exports to these nations. Goyal said India was also set to start FTA negotiations with Canada and the Gulf Cooperation Council. He said players had raised concerns about not being able to compete with Bangladesh, Vietnam and others that had zero tariff access to major markets.

### OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION, BHARATPUR

Phone : 05644-222731, e-mail : rj.acebha@nic.in  
Corrigendum No. 01, NIT Nos. 183-188/2021-22

The following corrigendum is hereby issued for the NIB No. 183-188/2021-22 of this office.

Activity	Existing provision	Amended provision
Date & time for downloading of bid document.	Up to 6.00 PM, 18.01.2022	Up to 6.00 PM, 01.02.2022
Date & time for online submission of bid document	Up to 6.00 PM, 18.01.2022	Up to 6.00 PM, 01.02.2022
Deposition of affidavits on Non Judicial Stamp Paper (Original)	Up to 10.30 AM, 19.01.2022	Up to 10.30 AM, 02.02.2022
Date & Time for Opening of Technical bid.	11.00 AM, 19.01.2022	11.00 AM, 02.02.2022

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as mentioned in original NIT.

UBN No. : Sd/-  
1. PHE2122WSOB10809 4. PHE2122WSOB10812  
2. PHE2122WSOB10810 5. PHE2122WSOB10813  
3. PHE2122WSOB10811 6. PHE2122WSOB10814  
Executive Engineer (NRW)  
PHED, Region Bharatpur  
DIPR/C/681/2022

### OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER, DR. S.N. MEDICAL COLLEGE & ASSOCIATED GROUP OF HOSPITALS, JODHPUR

Shastri Nagar, Residency Road, Jodhpur (Raj). 342001 ☎0291-2434374  
E-mail: principal.dsmc.jod@rajasthan.gov.in, prmedclg-jod-rj@nic.in  
No. F: 6() Store/SNMC/JU/2021-22/5027 Dated: 17.01.2022  
**NOTICE INVITING BID No.21/2021-22 (E-tender)**

Bids for various equipments, for use in Dr. S.N. Medical College and Attached Hospitals, Jodhpur are invited from interested bidders up to 5:00 P.M. dated 25.01.2022, bids for the item No. 5,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,17,19,20,21,22 are invited from interested bidders up to 5:00 P.M. dated 22.01.2022 and bids for the item No. 03 are invited from interested bidders up to 5:00 P.M. dated 04.02.2022 respectively. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> and also be seen at <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> of the state procurement portal and <https://education.rajasthan.gov.in/dsmcjdodhpur#> departmental website.

UBN Number:-

SMC2122GLOB00273,	SMC2122GLOB00274,	SMC2122GLOB00275
SMC2122GLOB00276,	SMC2122GLOB00277,	SMC2122GLOB00278
SMC2122GLOB00279,	SMC2122GLOB00280,	SMC2122GLOB00281
SMC2122GLOB00282,	SMC2122GLOB00283,	SMC2122GLOB00284
SMC2122GLOB00285,	SMC2122GLOB00286,	SMC2122GLOB00287
SMC2122GLOB00288,	SMC2122GLOB00289,	SMC2122GLOB00290
SMC2122GLOB00291,	SMC2122GLOB00292,	SMC2122GLOB00293
SMC2122GLOB00294,	SMC2122GLOB00295,	SMC2122GLOB00296
SMC2122GLOB00297,	SMC2122GLOB00298,	SMC2122GLOB00299
SMC2122GLOB00300,	SMC2122GLOB00301,	SMC2122GLOB00302

Sd/-  
(Dr. S.S.Rathore)  
Principal & Controller  
DIPR/C/731/2021

### V. O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT TRUST CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TUTICORIN - 628 004.

No. E(C) 56 / 13 / 2021 - EST/D.204 Dated: 21.01.2022

#### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SETTING UP OF ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES IN THE PROPOSED ELECTRONIC MANUFACTURING CLUSTERS AT VOC PORT

With a view to promote industrialization and growth of electronics manufacturing in the country; the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has notified Electronic Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme to provide support for creation of world-class infrastructure for attracting investments in Electronics Systems Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector and to make India an Electronics Manufacturing Hub. Under this (EMC 2.0) Scheme; Electronics Manufacturing Clusters would be established to create infrastructure with common facilities and amenities in EMC projects and upgrade the infrastructure in Industrial Estates / Parks / Areas as Common Facility Centre (CFC) for attracting investment in electronics manufacturing.

2. The Government of Tamil Nadu is also proposing various industrial development activities in and around the southern districts of Tamil Nadu around Tuticorin. V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust intend to develop a Electronic Manufacturing Cluster on Port Land under the above scheme. VOC Port Trust invites Expression of Interest from all the prospective investors, who are looking to expand their operations in Tamilnadu, and to set up their Electronic Manufacturing Unit in South Tamilnadu.

**For further information, please visit EOI at Port's website [www.vocport.gov.in](http://www.vocport.gov.in)**

Sd/-  
**CHIEF ENGINEER & ESTATE OFFICER**



# Eye for talent

Local coaches like Chaoba Devi behind Manipur being hotbed of women's football, with the state contributing 8 out of 23 players in the Asian Cup squad

MIHIR VASAVDA  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 21

CHAOBA DEVI was visiting her maternal grandparents in Angha, roughly 25km from Imphal, when she saw a puny girl playing with full energy with a bunch of other kids on a barren, uneven surface. There was something about her that immediately caught Chaoba's attention. "Her discipline... and skill, of course," she says.

Impulsively, Chaoba asked the girl, in her early teens, if she'd move to Imphal and join her community club, Kangchup Road Young Physical and Sports Association (KRYPASA FC). Almost as impulsively, the girl agreed and before they knew it, they were on a bus to Manipur's capital.

This was in 2008. In the decade that followed, that teenager, Loitongbam Ashalata Devi, went on to become one of the most influential players in India. In 2019, she was named as one of the three nominees for Asia's Player of the Year by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). And on Thursday, she was the captain in India's Asian Cup match against Iran in what was the team's first appearance in the tournament after 19 years.

It was one of those 'by chance' encounters that coaches and scouts hope for. For Chaoba, this was one of the rare occasions in her decades of coaching. The rest of the time, the former India captain and assistant coach travelled from village to village across Manipur, spending hours on dusty fields in the hope of spotting a player who could become a star. In a state overflowing with talent, that shouldn't be a tough task, one assumes.

Ashalata is one of the eight players from the north-eastern hotbed in India's Asian Cup squad, accounting for almost one-third of the side. Chaoba says five of those players - Sweetie Devi Ngangbam, Maibam Linthoingambi Devi, Nongmeithem Ratanbala Devi, Grace Dangmei and Ashalata - have been trained by her at some point in their formative years. It could have been nine had striker Bala Devi, arguably the best of the lot, not been ruled out by injury.

That Manipuri players dominate the squad is hardly surprising, given the deep-rooted football culture at a community level there. But a cursory glance at the team sheet gives some insight into the potential to grow the women's game. More than half of the squad, 13 out of the 23 players, come from Manipur and Tamil Nadu. Five are from the Delhi-Haryana belt, two from Odisha and there's one each from Punjab, West Bengal and Jharkhand.

Former India international Maymol Rocky, who has been associated with the junior and senior national teams in different roles over the last decade, says the scouting network is always on the lookout for players. "I can safely



More than half of the squad, 13 out of the 23 players, come from Manipur and Tamil Nadu, including skipper Ashalata Devi.

say that from the talent we've seen across the country in the last decade, 99 percent of the best players are in the team," Rocky, who was India's chief coach from 2017 to 2021, says. "The scouts keep an eye on all the matches at the national championships. And to be sure that no player is missed, we also do a state-wide exercise."

## Work at grassroots

The high number of players from Tamil Nadu, Rocky adds, is largely due to the work done by the state's first all-girls football side, Sethu. The Madurai-based club opened its doors to women only in 2016 but in a short period, it's been a runaway success at the national level, doing well in the women's league and, simultaneously, unearthing players.

But while Sethu has been around for only five years, it's the patient and relentless hard work by the coaches, and a structure that supports them, that's made Manipur a conveyor belt for women footballers for decades.

For Chaoba, the first Indian woman to acquire an AFC 'A' licence, the transition to coaching happened very early in her career. "When I started playing in 1985, there was no coach to guide me," she says. Like most women footballers, Chaoba, too, played with a boys' team early on. "The senior players in the team taught me how to dribble, how to juggle, how to run, how to kick... I wasn't taught anything formally. I didn't want the generations of women players after me to face the same problem. So, whatever I learnt, I used to teach the younger players in our local club."

At the turn of the century, soon after her playing career, Chaoba earned her coaching licence and immediately began traversing Manipur's hilly terrain in search of players.

## Australia pump 18 goals past Indonesia

Mumbai: Captain Sam Kerr struck five goals for the tournament's first hat-trick in Australia's 18-0 mauling of lowly Indonesia in their women's Asian Cup opening match here on Friday.

The Group B match between the highest and lowest ranked teams at Mumbai Football Arena turned out to be a completely lop-sided one with the 2010 champions scoring at will against an Indonesia side making their first appearance since 1989.

In another Group B match at DY Patil Stadium at Navi Mumbai, a goal-keeping howler by Thailand's W Boonsing in the 81st minute gave Philippines a 1-0 win.

Suffice to say, her visits didn't go waste. This one time, Chaoba was at a School Games Federation of India championship where she came across an "extremely skillful forward". That player, Ratanbala, is now one of India's mainstays and plays as a holding midfielder.

At times, players' families reach out to her, as it happened in the case of Dangmei, whose father - a pastor in a church in Bishnupur village, travelled roughly 30km to Imphal, saw how Chaoba trained kids at her academy and then requested her to enroll his football-mad child.

And then sometimes, one just stumbles upon players who'd go on to become one of the finest of their generation. Like Ashalata.

# Leaving trick shots in the past, Mithun looks ready for the future

SHIVANI NAIK  
JANUARY 21

BETWEEN HIS two meetings against Frenchman Arnaud Merkle - last Wednesday at Delhi's Super500 India Open and Saturday's Syed Modi Super300 semi-final, Mithun Manjunath has had a lot of time to look back on his career. And to simultaneously live in the moment, with incessant Instagramming. He's 23 and restless to get going.

Mithun reckons a "false positive" robbed him of an opportunity in Delhi while he was playing well, and as the only Indian left in men's singles, he gets a chance to showcase his abilities at Lucknow. "I tested negative the next day," he says, adding he spent the next few days quarantining in his Delhi hotel, "sleeping, stretching and on Instagram."

Patience is a virtue, Mithun learnt painfully. In Bangalore's colt badminton circles, Mithun was known as the kid with "the double action shots." That's fancy for deception - racquet face facing one way, shuttle sailing in another. "I had 2-3 double action shots at U10 level, because I had no strength or power. When I shifted academies (from Shivaprakash to Padukone), I completely stopped playing that game. I was getting no points on deception, so I started playing steady," he recalls.

"I didn't have even one All India title in my juniors. After the change, I've won 4," he states. The first seniors ranking one came at Chandigarh when he had fever, and his best at Delhi, beating academy-mate Chirag Sen.

Mithun played a nerve-cracker against Malaysian Joo Ven Soong in Round 2, rallying to win 16-21, 21-16, 23-21. "Just a game without mistakes. Rally, rally, till I almost went blank, because shuttles are real slow," he says. He trailed 15-19 in the decider, and then 19-20. "I decided 'Never Give Up'. At 20-20 I got in two forehand serves because he was rushing on my backhand ones. My father always says - try something different."

Against tall Russian Sergey Sirant on Friday, Mithun played it very steady, winning 11-21, 21-12, 21-18 - again trailing 9-14 in decider, before he amped up his aggression. Sirant has a wicked power hit. Mithun soaked it in, before countering him.

## Veg to non-veg

Mithun has countless memories of falling back in his childhood, after learning badminton watching his mother and father play on a makeshift road-turned-court. "I picked up very fast, but I had no strength and no energy. I was very thin," he recalls. "No non-veg, na?" he explains.

I had 2-3 double action shots at U10 level, because I had no strength or power. When I shifted academies (from Shivaprakash to Padukone), I completely stopped playing that game. I was getting no points on deception, so I started playing steady"

MITHUN MANJUNATH  
INDIAN BADMINTON PLAYER

Mithun's leap into meat-eating was one full-blown drama. "For starters, I used to keep looking back at my parents whenever I lost points and start crying," he remembers. Coaches were vexed, and urged him to increase protein uptake, and not train for a week, unable to handle his hysterics. "My parents also understood I needed non-veg but I was resistant. Though I knew just dosa everyday won't take me anywhere," he recalls.

"Two days I refused to eat completely; coaches asked me 'why are you playing?' because my game had no power," he remembers. He would take the plunge into a nice chunky biryani at Kochi. "Coach ordered 'andaa biryani'. I didn't know Hindi till 3-4 years ago, I argued that at best I'd eat 'egg biryani'. I still don't like egg," he says. But he was on his way. "First I started drinking paaya soup which I brought home in bottles. Then I really started liking mut-

ton leg and chicken kebabs," he adds. "My parents began ordering KFC for me," he says, adding, "now I don't like veg much."

Food travels apart, Mithun learnt the length game at PPBA. "I learnt patience for the first time. I used to lose points on deception in U15 and U17. Always only quarters and pre-quarters," he says.

With steadiness rolled in semis, finals and titles.

## The French hiss

On Saturday, playing his biggest semi against an opponent who beat him at Welsh Open, Mithun is attempting to not just win the rematch from Delhi, but solve a bigger puzzle.

The crowding of badminton draws with French players isn't surprising given Paris hosts 2024 Games. The French - two of the four semifinalists at Syed Modi - bring the muscle to the court, and a Gallic bustle. "They're very big built. And good at the parallel fast game," Mithun describes.

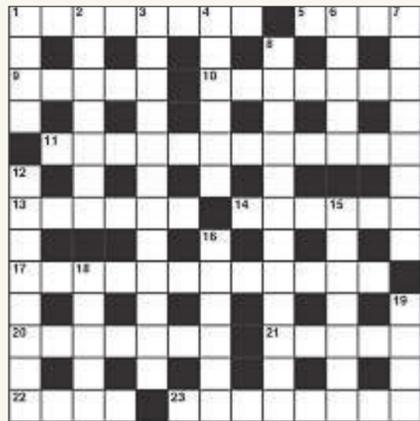
The box game is central to doubles play, and the whole crop of Frenchmen have been dragging the fast flurries from paired event into singles play.

Mithun will need to be disciplined in his length, and knows any short lift will be punished. Making Arnaud Merkle run will be the plan, but the Frenchman proved a handful for HS Prannoy and will test Mithun. Tactically, the unheralded Indian will be needed to be spot-on, for the French don't miss much.



At 23 years old, Mithun Manjunath started to let go of deceptive shots and has instead found success soaking up power shots and staying steady.

## CROSSWORD 4644



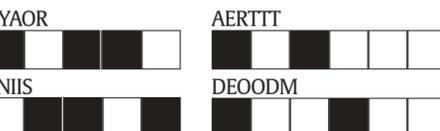
- ACROSS**
- Its aim is to produce winners of course (4,4)
  - Cutting reminder? (4)
  - Some vestige of sanctity (5)
  - Intriguing designs (7)
  - Not to be found in a minute (3,3,6)
  - Could be used to put out (6)
  - Change a car if the breakdown is incontinent (6)
  - One will get nothing but pleasure from this task (6,2,4)
  - Not reluctant to be leaving things behind (7)
  - Is in good time but nearly loses a point (5)
  - Rush animal from the rear (4)
  - Theatre employees - qualified in first aid? (8)
- DOWN**
- Kind holy man has a heart of gold (4)
  - Has a cheering effect knowing one need not climb stairs (7)
  - Confront the orchestra - or the critics (4,3,5)
  - Had a break from the desert (6)
  - It was meant to be decorative but came to nothing (5)
  - Used rail transport and left (8)
  - Encourage satiety and good spirits (12)
  - One after another (8)
  - Poetic opposite (7)
  - He makes a false impression (6)
  - Swelling from blowing bugle (5)
  - A vote in favour of those in favour (4)

Solutions Crossword 4643: Across: 1 Coast road, 8 Aroma, 9 Pep talk, 10 Putrid, 11 Lamina, 12 Demerara, 15 Islander, 18 Rattle, 20 Worlds, 21 Talents, 22 Irene, 23 Scientist. Down: 2 Opera, 3 Sits in, 4 Reloaded, 5 Danube, 6 Doormat, 7 Card table, 11 Lie in wait, 13 Marriage, 14 Gloried, 16 Nudges, 17 Attest, 19 Lotus.

## JUMBLD 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.

No matter how you are, you spend much of your day being an \_\_\_\_ - Scott Adams (5,5)



ANSWER: No matter how smart you are, you spend much of your day being an idiot. SOLUTION: OVVARY, NITEL, TITTER, DOOMED

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



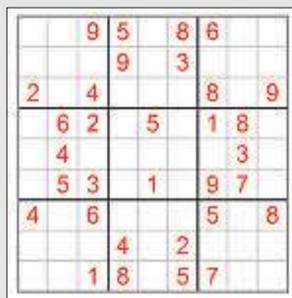
## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## SUDOKU 4722

Difficulty Level 2s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4721



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

It does look as if you'll be pressured to put in some overtime, perhaps because you have a lot of catching up to do. One other point though, try to choose those leisure activities which offer the greatest satisfaction, prestige and status. If you really want to excel, try something out of the ordinary.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

The individuals who will be best off over the current period, could be those on holiday, putting their feet up or generally resting, preferably somewhere a long way away. At the very least, you should go for all options which offer adventure and excitement. It could also be a moment to consider moral issues.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

There is a central focus in your chart today, money. On a superficial level this indicates interesting shopping trips, but when we look deeper, we see that the real question is how you order your various long-term priorities and how you use your resources to help others.

### CANCER (July 22 - July 23)

The only real way to enjoy yourself is to drop all prejudices, preconceptions and taboos. The moment you judge others according to preset standards, or complain if they don't come up to your expectations, you will fail to appreciate what is genuinely on offer.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

The way in which others have conducted their affairs does seem to have been rather selfish. However, if you look closely, you will see that, in many cases, their actions are dominated by insecurity, and thus require all the support and sympathy you can give them.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Various important planets are aligned with regions of your chart representing self-indulgence and hard work. This is a heady combination for those of you who genuinely wish to achieve something of lasting value, combining creative flair with real experience.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You may now be contemplating a domestic upheaval, one which is bound to see people coming and going. This really is a rather auspicious period just as long as you fulfil every single one of your promises. All you need to do is see that you retain at least some hold on the levers of change.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

This is a fantastic moment for short trips, preferably to places you have never been before. There is so much to be said for making the most of your innate, and often ignored, nomadic tendencies. If you can tackle domestic matters as early as possible, you'll avoid a crisis if pressures build up later on.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

You may be thinking long and hard about your next step. It might just be that certain questions are now out of perspective, and that you need to go back to first principles and start all over again. A major factor is still your changing notion of what you can and can't afford.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Your options are many and varied and herein lies the secret of your current indecision. It's almost as if you are being faced with an embarrassment of riches, where you may choose everything, or nothing. Perhaps a friend can help until your priorities are straightened out.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Your solar chart is in a rather curious state, and a veil seems to be drawn over much that it is difficult to face. Two forms of behaviour are positively indicated today. One sees you pursuing a charitable cause, the other finds you spending a little time in quiet meditation.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

This could be one of the most fascinating social periods, but of course everything depends on your willingness to get out and make the vital connections. Once you show the necessary interest, everything else will follow; don't let momentary doubts hold you back.

“It’s been very difficult to predict every single day and I was working with a doctor to try and find a solution...I mean, everybody around me, me included, had a lot of doubts. Not about the Australian Open, no, but about coming back on the Tour because the foot was bothering a lot of days.” — RAFAEL NADAL, ON RECOVERING FROM FOOT INJURY

## Why is India vs Pakistan a regular early-round tie in ICC events

TUSHAR BHADURI  
JANUARY 21

COME OCTOBER 23, the most predictable early-round fixture in ICC tournaments will be played in the T20 World Cup when India and Pakistan square off at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The two countries now play only in ICC events, with no bilateral series since 2013. But the world body is keen to cash in on the cricket-crazy subcontinent with a big windfall in terms of gate money and eyeballs on television guaranteed, as well as discussion points on social media.

### Why is an India-Pakistan match a fixture in ICC events?

It guarantees spectators at the ground, if allowed, mind-boggling television viewership, hype and talking points. The ICC has said that it would be unwise not to take advantage of the biggest rivalry in world cricket. There’s no guarantee that there will be an India-Pakistan match if the two teams are put in separate pools, so they are put on the same side of the draw. With almost no likelihood of a clash otherwise, there is heightened anticipation on both sides of the border.

### What were the viewership figures for the India-Pakistan game in the T20 World Cup?

According to Broadcast Audience Research Council India (BARC), the India-Pak game at the 2021 T20 World Cup had 167 million viewers on television alone in India. According to the ICC, the India-Pakistan game at the 2019 ODI World Cup had 273 million viewership worldwide and 50 million digital-only viewers.

**EXPLAINED** **E** When did India and Pakistan last play on Australian soil? The two neighbours clashed in a group fixture of the 2015 50-over World

Cup at Adelaide. The game was sold out within minutes. Before that, India and Pakistan were part of the 1999-2000 triangular one-day series Down Under, when Sachin Tendulkar’s team failed to make the best-of-three finals. India will have happy memories of the 1985 World Championship of Cricket, which they won under Sunil Gavaskar’s captaincy. They beat Pakistan twice in that tournament, once in their opening match and then in the final, both games incidentally played at the MCG.

### Why haven’t the two teams played bilateral series for almost a decade now?

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) requires the government’s nod to play bilaterally against Pakistan. The government cites Pakistan’s support to terrorism on Indian soil as the reason for denying permission. In fact, Pakistani players have not featured in the Indian Premier League (IPL) after 2008.

### What has been the effect of this freeze on the two boards?

The BCCI is not impacted much financially as any match India plays is guaranteed to be a money-spinner. Also, the IPL has significantly added to the BCCI’s coffers. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is not so lucky. It couldn’t hold home matches in the country for a long time — first due to the conflict in neighbouring Afghanistan, and then after the terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team in 2009. Now international cricket is returning to Pakistan, but no other series carries as much significance as one against India.

# Different format, same result

India lose 2nd ODI on the trot to concede 3-match series against Proteas following defeat in Test series

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
JANUARY 21

INDIA NEED to change their white-ball template. That’s the biggest lesson from their ODI series defeat against South Africa.

Except Rishabh Pant, and Shardul Thakur and Ravichandran Ashwin’s 48-run partnership at the death, the tourists played fearful cricket in the second ODI as well, losing the game by seven wickets and with that the three-match series.

What India lacked was Quinton de Kock’s boldness upfront, which proved to be the major difference. The left-hander grabbed the game by the lapels, targeting Bhuvneshwar Kumar at the outset on a used Boland Park pitch, where the older ball gripped and lost its pace off the deck. De Kock’s 78 runs off 66 balls, and a 132-run opening partnership with Janneman Malan, slammed the door shut on India. Malan made 91 in 108 deliveries, as the Proteas comfortably chased down 288 for victory, with 11 balls remaining.

De Kock had his share of luck, when Pant missed an easy stumping to Ashwin’s bowling to give the batsman a reprieve on 32. The next ball went for a six. De Kock’s knock put South Africa in the ascendancy.

He was ready to live by the sword. That’s the job of the batting enforcers in shorter formats, the occasional fallouts notwithstanding. Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow do it for England. David Warner and Aaron Finch do it for Australia. Martin Gupthill and Fakhar Zaman play that role for New Zealand and Pakistan respectively.

Shikhar Dhawan is the designated enforcer in the Indian team at the top. But seldom does he score run-a-ball in the first Powerplay. On Friday, he got out for 29 off 38 deliveries. India’s start was slow compared to their opponents; 57 for no loss after 10 overs against South Africa’s 66 for no loss after 10. On a sluggish pitch, the hard new ball presented the best chance to score quickly.

India badly missed Rohit Sharma in this tour, both in Tests and the ODIs. Rohit, too, takes a little bit of time before opening up in white-ball cricket. But his range allows him that leeway. Rahul, usually a free-flowing batsman down the order in 50-over cricket, became cagey, as he promoted himself to open the innings. Playing the role of an anchor, he scored 55 all right, but never did he look to be dominating the bowling. His 115-run third wicket partnership with Pant was important for India’s recovery after they lost Dhawan and Kohli in quick succession, the latter to a five-ball duck. But curbing his natural stroke-play didn’t augur well for his team in both ODIs.

This Indian batting line-up has also devel-



Janneman Malan hit eight boundaries and one six in his 108-ball 91 in the second ODI against India.

AP

oped a habit of falling prey to soft dismissals or slogging after putting himself under pressure. It cost India the T20 World Cup. It hindered them in the ODIs here. Rahul scored at a sub-70 strike rate. Dhawan’s was a little better, 76-plus. Shreyas Iyer and Venkatesh Iyer’s strike rates were 78 and 66 respectively. It was 1990s cricket. Only Pant, Shardul and Ashwin scored their runs at 100-plus strike rates.

Pant was the lone specialist batsman to thrive on his boldness. After laying into Keshav Maharaj, he slog-swept Tabraiz Shamsi for a four followed by another boundary next ball, through a conventional sweep. When the chinaman bowler removed the slip fielder and put an extra man on the leg side, Pant used the depth of the crease and late-cut Shamsi for a four.

He reached his half-century in 43 balls, got to his ODI career-best 85, but holed out at long-on to the bowling of Shamsi. It put paid to India’s hopes of posting a 300-plus total, par score in modern-day ODIs. Then again, Pant was the only batsman who forced the South African bowlers to think differently.

His contribution to the 115-run partner-

ship was 83 off 65 balls, while Rahul made 31 off 46. South Africa had a gilt-edged opportunity to nip the association in the bud, when both batsmen were stranded at one end, but Maharaj failed to collect Temba Bavuma’s throw. India were 70/2 then. Later, Rahul got a reprieve on 46, Aiden Markram dropping a fairly regulation catch at point off Andile Phehlukwayo’s bowling.

India’s non-use of Suryakumar Yadav in the two ODIs was a result of conservative thinking. The team management did the right thing by sticking to Venkatesh Iyer, but a player like Yadav is an asset in the shorter formats. It’s for the think-tank to decide who among the specialist batsmen should make way for him. Yadav’s 360-degree batting provides the x-factor and keeps the bowlers on their toes. He is innovative enough not to slog his way out of trouble.

When India bowled, the biggest question was why haven’t the selectors moved on from Bhuvneshwar Kumar yet. The medium pacer opened the bowling with Jasprit Bumrah and de Kock gleefully collected two fours and a six in his first over. Kumar looked pedestrian. In

eight overs, he conceded 67 runs without ever looking effective. Meanwhile, de Kock wasn’t afraid to take the attack to Bumrah either.

As for tactics, removing Shardul right after he broke the opening partnership was questionable as also the fact that Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal bowled only four overs in tandem, two at the top and two after the game was lost. At the same time, yet again, the Indian spinners were outbowled by their South African counterparts.

The Saffers had some jitters after losing two quick wickets, a Bumrah delivery ricocheting off Malan’s gloves and hitting the stumps and Bavuma offering a return catch to Chahal. But a rapid opening partnership meant that the hosts were never under any asking-rate pressure. They sauntered to the highest ODI run-chase at this venue, attesting that India’s short-form bowling needed a major shake-up.

**BRIEF SCORES: South Africa 288 for 3 (Malan 91, de Kock 78) beat India 287 for 6 (Pant 85, Rahul 55, Shamsi 2-57) by seven wickets**

## Match fixing does not amount to cheating: Karnataka HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, JANUARY 21

INSTANCES OF match fixing unearthed by the Bengaluru crime branch police in 2019 during an investigation of corruption involving cricket players and team managements in the Karnataka Premier League T20 tournament does not amount to cheating the Karnataka high court has ruled while quashing a charge sheet against three players and a team official in the KPL.

A single judge of the Karnataka high court Justice Sreenivas Harish Kumar has ordered the quashing of a charge sheet filed against the former Karnataka cricket captain **C M Gautam**, two players Abrar Kazi and Amit Mavi, and the owner of the Belagavi Panthers team Asfak Ali Thara.

The high court has ruled that “match fixing may indicate dishonesty, indiscipline and mental corruption of a player and for

this purpose the BCCI is the authority to initiate disciplinary action. If the bye-laws of the BCCI provide for initiation of disciplinary action against a player, such an action is permitted but registration of an FIR on the ground that a crime punishable under section 420 IPC has been committed, is not permitted,” the high court has ruled.

“Even if the entire charge sheet agreements are taken to be true on their face value, they do not constitute an offence,” the court observed.

The three players and the team official were arrested in 2019 over charges of fixing matches in the 2018 and 2019 editions of the Karnataka Premier League — a state-level version of the IPL that is organized by the Karnataka State Cricket Association. The crime branch police had alleged after investigations that some KPL matches were fixed by players and team officials with connivance of a board official.

The police investigations in the match

fixing case against Gautam and the others began in 2019 after Bengaluru crime branch officials obtained information of match fixing during the probe of a separate match fixing case and registered an FIR with the Cubbon Park police.

The police investigation was challenged by the three players and team officials on the grounds that an FIR could not have been registered on the basis of a confession statement given in another case and on the grounds that a crime under section 420 of the IPC (of cheating) does not arise in the fixing cases.

The Karnataka high court has upheld the argument of the accused players and the team official of match fixing not amounting to cheating as defined under section 420 of the Indian Penal Code. The court has also ruled that betting on cricket

matches does not amount to gaming as defined by the Karnataka Police Act to curb illegal gambling in the state.

“For invoking offence under section 420 IPC, the essential ingredients to be present are deception, dishonest inducement of a person to deliver any property or to alter or destroy the whole or any part of a valuable security,” the high court pointed out. “It is true that if a player indulges in match fixing, a general feeling will arise that he has cheated the lovers of the game. But, this general feeling does not give rise to an offence,” the judge has stated.

The counsel for the crime branch police argued during the case that the case amounted to cheating since “people buy tickets to watch a match” and they expect fair play and that matching fixing robs the game of fair play which results in the cheat-

ing of the ticket buyers among the public.

The high court also stated that cricket being a sport cannot be brought under the ambit of gaming as defined by the Karnataka Police Act to curb betting or gambling. “If section 2(7) of Karnataka Police Act is seen, its explanation very clearly says that game of chance does not include any athletic game or sport. Cricket is a sport and therefore even if betting takes place, it cannot be brought within the ambit of definition of ‘gaming’ found in Karnataka Police Act,” the high court has stated.

In one instance of alleged spot fixing in the KPL unearthed by the crime branch police, the Belagavi Panthers owner Asfak Ali Thara is alleged to have offered the Bellary Tuskers captain C M Gautam an amount of Rs 7.5 lakh to get a bowler to give more than 10 runs in an over during the 12th game of the KPL 2019 which was played on August 22 between the Tuskers and the Bengaluru Blasters.

## AUSTRALIAN OPEN

# ‘I’m not God! Can’t win every match’: Osaka proud despite early exit

REUTERS  
MELBOURNE, JANUARY 21

NAOMI OSAKA was at peace with herself after yet another failed attempt at defending a Grand Slam title at the Australian Open and the former world number one was especially proud of the way she has managed to mould her mindset to deal with tough losses.

The former world number one crashed out from Melbourne Park after a third round loss in the deciding set tiebreaker to American Amanda Anisimova — the same stage the four-times major winner exited the U.S. Open four months back.

Following the Flushing Meadows defeat, a tearful Osaka told a news conference that she was taking a break from the sport, raising more concern about her mental health struggles that forced her to miss parts of the tennis season. The soft spoken and self-confessed introvert declared at the start of the 2022 season that she was looking to have more fun on court and enjoy playing the sport.

“I would definitely say I’m proud of myself for this,” the Japanese player told re-



Amanda Anisimova beat defending champion Naomi Osaka 4-6 6-3 7-6 (10-5)

Reuters

porters on Friday. “Though to me it didn’t feel like a short amount of time. It felt like ages ago. “This for me is the biggest step. Even though I lost. I was really focused throughout the entire match, and I didn’t have a dip. So that’s really good. Hopefully as the season continues, I’ll be able to keep this up, and get even better at it.”

It was the fourth time that Osaka had failed to defend a Grand Slam title but on Friday she

held two matchpoints against the American — something that also made her proud. Osaka felt her defeat by 60th-ranked Anisimova showed the depth of women’s tennis.

“I fought for every point. I can’t be sad about that,” Osaka said, adding that she was yet to decide on her schedule before the WTA 1000 event in Indian Wells in March.

“I’m not God! I can’t win every match. The last match that I played in New York I think I had a completely different attitude.

“Of course I lost, but I’m happy with how it went. I just want to go into this year knowing that I’ll play the whole year and I’ll just have the greatest attitude ever.”

### Nadal staves off Khachanov

Sixth seed Rafa Nadal dropped his first set at this year’s Australian Open but still powered through to the fourth round with a 6-3 6-2 3-6 6-1 defeat of Karen Khachanov on Friday. The Spaniard, seeking to claim a record 21st Grand Slam title in the absence of great rivals Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, was sensational as he took a two-set lead. But Khachanov, seeded 28th, threw caution to the wind in the third set, stalling

Nadal’s charge with some ferocious hitting. Olympic runner-up Khachanov had lost all seven previous meetings with 2009 Australian Open champion Nadal but briefly looked capable of mounting a comeback.

Nadal seized back control with a break of serve at the start of the fourth, however, and with the clock having ticked past midnight on Rod Laver Arena he finished it off in a hurry. Nadal, who has reached the last-16 in Melbourne for the 15th time in 17 appearances, will face another Russian, 18th seed Aslan Karatsev, or Frenchman Adrian Panarin next.

“I played a great player tonight and happy that this was my best match since coming back,” the 35-year-old Nadal, who missed the second half of 2021 with a foot injury, said on court. “I’ve been going through some tough times in the last year but night’s like tonight mean everything.”

With Federer still injured and nine-time Australian Open champion Djokovic deported after a visa row, Nadal has a chance to edge ahead of that duo with whom he shares the record for most men’s Grand Slam titles.

## TRAM LINES

### One Serb’s loss is another’s gain

Novak Djokovic’s absence from the Australian Open has created opportunities for a fellow Serb, Miomir Kecmanovic. Having avoided what would have been a formidable first-round round assignment against the nine-time champion, the 22-year-old Kecmanovic has put together three straight wins to reach the fourth round of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time. The Belgrade native’s confidence soared after beating Salvatore Caruso, then Tommy Paul and Lorenzo Sonego to earn a shot at No. 17-seeded Gael Monfils.

### It’s ‘all positive’ for frustrated Paire

Benoit Paire has given an emotional snapshot of life on the tennis tour during the COVID-19 pandemic. “It’s not been easy since the beginning of the year,” Paire said after his RD 2 win. “This year starts by testing positive. I isolate seven days. I played a big match today, one of my best in a very long time. So, for me it’s all positive.” It’s not the first time. Paire vented his frustrations last month after testing positive for the coronavirus. “Hey my name is Benoit Paire, and for the 250th time I tested positive for Covid!!” he posted on Insta in December.

**46** 20-year-old American Amanda Anisimova, who reached a career-high ranking of 21 in 2019, threaded 46 winners in the match, while Osaka could manage only 21.