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## BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



**China hands over Arunachal teen: 'Hearing mother's voice, he began to cry'**

DEBRAJ DEB & KRISHN KAUSHIK  
AGARTALA, NEW DELHI,  
JANUARY 27

"IT SEEMS a 100-200 kg weight is off my chest," said Opang Taron, the father of the missing Arunachal Pradesh youth who was returned Thursday morning to the Indian Army by the Chinese authorities.

On Thursday, the family went to the Indian Army camp at  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## GOVT-APPOINTED DIRECTORS ON BOARD STEP DOWN

## Its handover complete, Air India returns to Tata home after 69 yrs

Tata Sons chairman meets PM, tells AI employees 'nation's eyes are on us'

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE TATA Group Thursday regained control of Air India, 69 years after the Mumbai-based conglomerate relinquished its stake in the airline to the Central government.

Ahead of the final handing-

over formalities at Airlines House in New Delhi, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran called upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a press release, Tata Sons said: "We philosophically agree  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

MORE REPORTS  
PAGE 17



Air India CMD Vikram Dev Dutt with Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran at the airline's office in New Delhi. Anil Sharma

**Open schools, all-India wave dip early Feb, says genomics institute head**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

MAKING A strong argument for the reopening of schools, at least in areas where the Covid curve has begun to go down, Dr Anurag Agrawal, director of Delhi-based Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, said on Thursday that the pandemic is now entering a stage where normal activities can resume with relatively small and not very difficult precautions.

Speaking at the Explained.Live event of *The Indian Express*, Agrawal said that keeping children away from



Risk to kids' mental health more than Covid threat, says Agrawal



school had potential adverse impacts on their physical and mental development that, in his opinion, was a bigger problem in  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**

**Delhi lifts weekend curfew, but schools shut**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

EASING RESTRICTIONS imposed earlier this month in view of rising Covid-19 cases, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Thursday decided to lift weekend curfew and odd-even rule for shops.

Schools and other educational institutions will, however, remain closed for offline classes. According to sources, a decision on reopening schools was deferred to the next DDMA meeting, scheduled for February 7.  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**As both Channi, Sidhu press case, Rahul says Cong will have CM face in Punjab**

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA & KANCHAN VASDEV  
JALANDHAR, CHANDIGARH,  
JANUARY 27

IN A turnaround from the Congress's repeated assertion of "collective leadership" ahead of the Punjab elections, senior



DECISION  
2022

consulting party workers, he said.  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**

leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday said the party will go with a chief minister face in the polls. A decision would be taken soon after



Rahul with Channi, Sidhu on Thursday. Rana Simranjeet Singh

**EXPLAINED**  
A unity bid

COMING CLOSE on the heels of AAP declaring Bhagwant Mann as its CM face, Rahul Gandhi's turnaround indicates the party understands the need to present a united front, amid speculation about Channi-Sidhu feud.

## DELHI DECLARATION: SUMMIT EVERY TWO YEARS

**PM summit with 5 Central Asian heads calls for joint group on Afghanistan, stronger ties**

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Thursday held a virtual summit with leaders of five Central Asian countries, the first such meeting at this level, calling for an inte-



PM at the virtual summit. PTI

grated approach to regional cooperation and flagging Afghanistan as a common concern.

"We all have the same concerns and objectives for regional security. We are all concerned about the developments in Afghanistan," Modi said. "In this  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**

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Judge, Supreme Court of India



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Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance



**MR. ARVIND PANAGARIYA**  
University of Columbia,  
USA



**MR. KUNIO MIKURIYA**  
Secretary General,  
World Customs Organisation



**MS. DEEPA KHANNA**  
MD, Asia Regional Office,  
The Rockefeller Foundation



## FROM PAGE ONE

## Air India

with the Prime Minister's vision for the aviation sector, of making it affordable and ensuring it contributes to boosting 'Ease of Living' for citizens."

The Tata Group, in a Twitter post, tagged Air India and said: "Your arrival was much awaited." It also posted a photo saying "Welcome back, Air India!"

And in an internal letter to Air India employees after the handing over, Chandrasekaran wrote: "My first flight was with Air India in December 1986, and I will never forget how special it felt to be onboard, or the exhilaration as

we soared into the sky... today is the beginning of a new chapter. The nation's eyes are on us, waiting to see what we achieve together. To build the airline our country needs, we need to look to the future."

The conclusion of the Air India deal also marks a major first step in the Centre's mega privatisation push. In October last year, the Tata Group had emerged as winning bidder for 100% of Air India (including the airline's 100% stake in budget airline Air India Express and 50% stake in ground handling firm AI-SATS), having placed a bid of Rs 18,000 crore. Of this amount, Tatas were to take over Rs 15,300

## THE WAY AHEAD

- Instituting senior management for airline a priority
- Finalising executive, non-executive board directors
- Expatriates also interviewed for AI chief executive post
- AI staff to be retained for a year; VRS offer thereafter
- Key AI employees being familiarised with Tata work culture
- Merger of Air India Express and AirAsia India expected

As of August 31, 2021, the airline had a total debt of Rs 60,000 crore. The remainder of the debt has been transferred to a special purpose vehicle AI Holdings Ltd, along with the non-core assets held by the airline to monetise and repay the debt.

Ahead of the share transfer, one of the final legs of the deal was finalising of Air India's balance sheet. The final balance sheet, with a cut-off date of January 20, was shared by the airline with the Tata Group Monday.

Prior to the formal transfer of shares, the Ministry of Finance had notified the Central government's approval to the plan to transfer the debt and assets to the special purpose vehicle, and the share purchase agreement signed between the government and the Tata Group.

At the signing ceremony, in addition to Chandrasekaran and other Tata Group officials, Disinvestment Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Air India's CMD Vikram Dev Dutt, Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal, and other Air India and government officials were present.

Following the conclusion of the deal, the government-appointed directors on the board of Air India stepped down for the Tata-appointed board to take over.

According to sources, for the time being, the four internal directors of Air India — finance, personnel, commercial and operations — have been retained by the Tata Group.

As per the bidding conditions, the Tata Group will have to retain all employees of Air India for one year from the close of the transaction and can offer a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) in the second year.

Air India has 12,085 employees — 8,084 permanent and 4,001 contractual. In addition, Air India Express has 1,434. In the next five years, about 5,000 permanent employees will be retiring. Further, the Tata Group cannot transfer the Air India brand or logo for five years, and thereafter can do so only to an Indian entity.

## Arunachal teen

Tuting, near their ancestral Zido village, with the authorities hoping to put them in touch with Miram over video-conference.



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crore worth of debt and Rs 2,700 crore was to be paid to the government in cash.

"The Air India strategic disinvestment transaction has been completed today with Government receiving a consideration of Rs 2,700 crore from the Strategic Partner (M/s Talace Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of M/s Tata Sons Pvt Ltd), retaining debt of Rs 15,300 crore in Air India and AIXL and transferring shares of Air India to the strategic partner," the Ministry of Finance said in a statement.

For the Rs 15,300-crore debt bundled with the airline, sources said a consortium of public sector lenders led by the State Bank of India has approved a proposal to grant term loans to Air India to help the Tata Group retire the high-cost debt.

## CORRECTION

ON 26.01.22, PAGE 17

THE LAST sentence of 'Going forward, with empathy' by Tanya Dubash should have read, "We will be celebrating our 75th Republic Day in a few years and what I wish to see most then is an innovation-driven, empathetic, and happy India" — and not "our 73rd Republic Day" as published. The error is regretted.

However, bad network conditions at Kibithu, where the handing over of Miram happened, meant they had to settle for a phone call. Hearing his mother's voice after more than a week in Chinese captivity, the 17-year-old broke down.

The entire family had been holding its breath waiting for Miram's return, the 49-year-old Opang told The Indian Express, adding that the authorities would monitor Miram's health and check his Covid status before handing him over.

Jony Yaying, Miram's friend who was with him when China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) reportedly spotted him, was called by the Army to Kibithu to officially identify Miram.

Miram was handed over to the Army by the PLA at the Wacha-Damail interaction point in the Kibithu sector around 10.30 am.

Soon after his return, Union minister and BJP leader Kiren Rijju tweeted, "The Chinese PLA has handed over the young boy from Arunachal Pradesh Shri Miram Taron to Indian Army. Due procedures are being followed including the medical examination." He added: "I thank our proud Indian Army for pursuing the case meticulously with PLA and safely securing our young boy back home."

Opang said: "I asked Miram how he is. He said he's fine. I tried



Miram Taron on return.

@KirenRijju

to encourage him and keep up his spirit, told him that the Army officials were there to take care of him and that he should not be afraid. But hearing his mother's voice, he started crying."

Miram's mother Kutjit had taken ill after his disappearance, developing blood pressure issues. The family said she smiled in days for the first time on Thursday.

Opang said he approached "everyone" he could to get Miram back, while consoling the family at home. "I can't explain how relieved I feel," he said, thanking the Army, Centre, Arunachal Pradesh government and officials.

Rijju had informed Wednesday that India had received confirmation from the PLA that Miram would be handed over, and that they would disclose the exact place and time. He had also clarified that the PLA had found him on the Chinese side, and that it was due to bad weather that his return had got

delayed.

Global Times, a newspaper affiliated to the Chinese government, quoted the PLA's Western Theatre Commander saying Thursday that "after providing humanitarian aid, Chinese border defense troops turned over" an Indian citizen. Miram had gone missing on January 18, and his case became known after BJP Arunachal MP Tapir Gao raised the matter, alleging that he had been abducted by the PLA from inside Indian territory.

On January 20, China had intimated finding a youth and requested for details to establish his identity. Rijju had assured that the government was taking all possible steps to ensure Miram's return, and urged everyone to be cautious in their statements. "The safety and safe return of our young Arunachal Pradesh youth is the priority," he tweeted.

## Delhi curfew

Night curfew, from 10 pm to 5 am, will also continue.

Restaurants, bars and cinema halls have been allowed to reopen with 50 per cent seating capacity. Banquet halls and wedding venues can function with 50 per cent capacity, with the number of guests capped at 200. Government offices have also been allowed to reopen with 50 per cent staff.

The decision to ease the restrictions, in view of the improv-

ing Covid-19 situation, was taken at a DDMA meeting attended by Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal among others.

While the daily case count peaked at 28,867 on January 13, with positivity rate of over 29 per cent, the capital has seen a steady and fast decline in cases after that. On Thursday, the daily case count dropped below the 5,000-mark after 24 days — 4,291 new cases were reported, at 9.56 per cent positivity rate.

A total of 637 deaths have been reported this month, the highest since the 740 deaths reported in June last year, when the Delta variant-driven wave was waning. At the peak of the Delta wave last year, 448 deaths were reported on a single day (May 3), and the monthly toll peaked at 8,090 deaths.

While the weekend curfew will be lifted from Saturday, the remaining restrictions will be lifted from Friday.

"After detailed discussions with experts on the prevalent Covid situation and trends, and their specific inputs thereon, it was decided to gradually ease restrictions and simultaneously enhance the enforcement of Covid appropriate/complaint behaviour with added stress on vaccination," said a statement released by the L-G's office.

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# TRAFFIC ADVISORY

## BEATING RETREAT & ILLUMINATION

### ON 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2022





#### Beating Retreat Ceremony will be held on 29.01.2022 at Vijay Chowk, as part of the Republic Day Celebration, 2022. Delhi Traffic Police has made elaborate arrangement for Beating Retreat Ceremony and Illumination of Rashtrapati Bhawan, North Block, South Block and Parliament House.



#### TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

The following traffic restrictions will be put in place on 29.01.2022 from 1400 hours to 2130 hours.

- Vijay Chowk will remain closed for general traffic.
- Traffic will not be allowed on the following stretches:-
  - Rafi Marg between R/A Sunehri Masjid and R/A Krishi Bhawan.
  - Raisina Road from R/A Krishi Bhawan towards Vijay Chowk.
  - Beyond R/A Dara Shikoh Road, R/A Krishna Menon Marg and R/A Sunehri Masjid towards Vijay Chowk.
  - Rajpath between Vijay Chowk and "C" hexagon.

General public/ motorist are advised to take alternate routes i.e Ring Road, Ridge Road, Aurobindo Marg, Madarsa 'T' Point, Safdarjung Road, Kamal Ataturk Marg, Rani Jhansi Road, Minto Road etc.

#### DIVERSIONS FOR BUSES

D.T.C and other city buses shall be diverted from their normal routes from 1400 hours to 2130 hours on 29.01.2022 to facilitate the vehicles of invitees and spectators and to avoid traffic congestion on roads round the venue of the ceremony and India Gate.

- Buses bound for Central Secretariat and Connaught Place coming from Shanti path- Vinay Marg- Sardar Patel Marg will take Panchsheel Marg- Simon Bolivar Marg- Vande Matram Marg- R/A Shankar Road- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Road.
- Buses bound for Central Secretariat will terminate at Udyan Marg and return via Kali Bari Marg- Mandir Marg- Shankar Road.
- Connaught Place bound buses will take Mandir Marg- Kali Bari Marg -G.P.O.- Baba Khadak Singh Marg and reach Connaught Place & return via Bhagat Singh Marg- Peshwa Road- Mandir Marg- Shankar Road and Vande Matram Marg.
- Buses coming from South Delhi on Tughlak Road and bound for Connaught Place/ Central Secretariat will be diverted from Aurobindo Chowk to Safdarjung Road- Kamal Ataturk Marg- Panchsheel Marg- Simon Bolivar Marg and follow the route as mentioned at Serial No. 1.
- Buses coming to Mandi House and Feroz Shah Road and proceeding to Connaught Place via Barakhmaba Road will

- terminate at Shivaji Stadium and return via Kasturba Gandhi Marg/ Barakhmaba Road.
- Connaught Place bound buses coming on Shahjahan Road will proceed to Shivaji Stadium via Aurobindo Chowk- Safdarjung Road- Kamal Ataturk Marg- Panchsheel Marg and beyond.
- Buses bound for Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort and ISBT Kashmere Gate coming from South side will take Ring Road from AIIMS towards Dhula Kuan and then Ridge Road, Rani Jhansi Road.
- Buses bound from Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort and ISBT Kashmere Gate coming from Ashram side will take Ashram Chowk- Ring Road towards Sarai Kale Khan and proceed further via Raj Ghat.
- Buses coming from Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort, Kashmere Gate and bound for South and South East will take Delhi Gate- Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg- Rajghat- Ring Road- Sarai Kale Khan- Ashram Chowk.
- Buses coming from Vikas Marg and bound for South will take Ring Road- Sarai Kale Khan- Ashram Chowk.
- Buses coming from Connaught Place via Kasturba Gandhi Marg towards India Gate will take Minto Road- DDU Marg- I.P.Flyover- Ring Road- Sarai Kale Khan.

#### METRO STATION

Entry/ Exit gates at Rail Bhawan & Udyog Bhawan/Central Secretariat Metro Station will remain closed from 02.00PM to 06.30 PM on 29.1.2022

#### PARKING

Parking will be available for those coming to see illumination at Vijay Chowk behind the water channels between Rafi Marg and "C" Hexagon (after 7PM)

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO GENERAL PUBLIC

In case of any unidentified object or suspicious persons being seen, information must be conveyed to the nearest policeman on duty. General public and motorists are advised to keep patience, observe traffic rules & road discipline and follow directions of traffic personnel

and remain updated through Traffic Police Facebook page, Twitter handle and Traffic Police Helpline. People are requested to plan their journey accordingly to avoid inconvenience.

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PERSONAL ENMITY MOTIVE, SAY POLICE

Woman abducted, raped and paraded on the street; 7 arrested

JIGNASA SINHA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

A 20-YEAR-OLD woman was on Wednesday abducted, allegedly gangraped by her neighbours, and paraded on the streets in Delhi's Shahdara district, with the accused chopping her hair and forcing her to wear a garland of slippers around her neck.

Police said they have arrested seven women and apprehended two boys from the accused family. Two other accused are on the run.

Police said the motive appears to be personal enmity. "We have been told that one of the family members of the accused, aged around 15 or 16 years, was stalking the woman and also proposed to her, which she rejected. On November 12 last year, he left home and allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a train. The family blamed the woman and wanted revenge," said an officer.

In one of the videos of the incident, a group of women can be seen thrashing the victim while parading her. Neighbours and locals are seen clapping, with no one coming forward to intervene. As the videos spread, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, East

CM Arvind Kejriwal requested the Union Home Minister and the L-G to direct police to take strict action

Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir, and Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal assured all help to the victim's family.

In her statement to police, the woman alleged she was at home with her two-year-old child on Wednesday when some of the accused allegedly barged into their home, abducted her and took her to their house in Shahdara.

She alleged that a group of men locked her inside the house and raped her while the women "instigated" the men and later thrashed her with sticks. They also blackened her face and paraded her with a garland of slippers around her neck.

The woman's sister told *The Indian Express* that on the day of the incident, she noticed she was being followed by members of the accused family.

"Around 11 am, I stepped out to meet my sister, who lives a few kilometres away. I felt I was

being followed but I ignored it. When I reached her house, a few men broke in and threatened to kill my sister and her baby. I rushed to save the child; they grabbed my phone and took my sister. I locked myself in the room for some time. When I got out, they had left. I went home and found my sister was being paraded on the streets. Everyone was cheering. I called the police," she alleged.

Police said they received a PCR call around 1 pm. DCP (Shahdara) R Sathiyasundaram said, "Our team rushed to the spot and found that a group of people were parading a woman on the streets and beating her up. We rescued the woman and took her to the police station, where her statement was recorded."

Police said a case under sections of illegal confinement, abduction, gangrape, and physical and sexual assault has been registered against 11 people.

Condemning the attack on the woman, Kejriwal said in a tweet: "How did the criminals get so much courage? I request the Union Home Minister and the L-G to direct police to take strict action and pay attention to the law and order situation. Delhiites won't tolerate such heinous crimes and criminals at any cost."

Facing threats since November, say kin

JIGNASA SINHA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

EVER SINCE the death of a teenager who lived in their locality last November, the 20-year-old woman's family alleged they have been subjected to harassment by his relatives.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, the woman's younger sister alleged: "In December, two women from their family entered the shop where I worked and beat me up in front of everyone. They told my employers that my sister was to blame for his death. I tried to tell them that my sister is married and wasn't interested in the boy, but they didn't listen. I had to quit my job..."

The family said the woman and her husband recently shifted to a rented room after the threats.

Nearly a week before Wednesday's incident, the accused allegedly harassed and assaulted the victim's aunt, who had come to meet the family, and demanded to know where she had shifted to. The family said

they lodged a complaint on the assault but no arrests were made.

The victim's family also alleged police inaction in the case. The girl's father said, "... these people (the accused) are powerful as they sell liquor; everyone supports them. They barge into our house at any time to assault us. We called police several times in the last two months, but no one helped."

On the allegations, a senior police officer said, "We never received a formal complaint from the family. Last week, they made a PCR call when the aunt was harassed. We went to the spot and spoke to both parties. The matter was resolved amicably. We are looking into that now."

The family also alleged that a police booth around 100 metres from the spot was locked on the day of the incident.

Police said officers were on patrol and security duty due to Republic Day celebrations, which might have affected deployment in the area. Police said they have provided security to the victim and her family and increased deployment in the area.

SC directs joint meet of Centre, Delhi on Tihar security

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE SUPREME COURT Thursday directed a joint meeting of a secretary-level official of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Director General (Prisons) of Tihar jail, and the chief secretary of Delhi to take concrete steps towards implementing the recommendations made in a report by Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana

for enhancing security at Tihar jail.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and MR Shah said the meeting should be held in a week and that a comprehensive affidavit indicating the manner in which implementation of the recommendations would be carried out, and the timelines stipulated and steps to be taken, be filed before it. "Once the commitment is made to the court, we will expect that it shall be observed scrupulously," the bench said adding

that the CP, Delhi, should also attend the meeting as an invitee.

The direction for the joint meeting came after the court failed to get satisfactory answers to its query as to what changes had been made and who exercises control over Tihar jail.

Noting that the Centre and Delhi government were "passing the buck", the court underlined the need for "effective co-ordination and expeditious decision-making". The bench

was also surprised to find that the Delhi government counsel was not present at the hearing.

Conveying its displeasure, Justice Chandrachud said, "Each one is saying it is not our baby. What on earth is happening? Whether it is the Delhi government or Delhi Police or the central government, there is no difference. You have to implement it. The law is very, very clear."

Hearing a matter in which it had ordered shifting of real estate

firm Unitech Ltd's promoters Sanjay and Ajay Chandra, lodged in Tihar jail, to Arthur Road jail and Taloja Central jail following a report by the Enforcement Directorate which said the duo was having a free run in Tihar and was flouting the jail manual in connivance with officials, the court had last year asked Asthana to personally investigate the same and submit a report. Subsequently, Asthana submitted his report on September 29.

Speech by Sudarshan editor: Court seeks report from police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

A DELHI court has sought an action taken report (ATR) from police on a plea filed against Sudarshan TV editor-in-chief Suresh Chavhanke for allegedly delivering a communally divisive speech at an event in Southeast Delhi's Govindpuri.

Metropolitan Magistrate Jitendra Pratap Singh of the Saket court posted the matter for further hearing on March 15.

The application was filed by Dr S Q R Illiyas, president of the Welfare Party of India. It mentions an event organised by the Hindu Yuva Vahini at Govindpuri Metro station on December 19, 2021, in which Chavhanke was allegedly "seen administering an oath" to a group of people to "die for and kill" to make India a "Hindu Rashtra" or a "Hindu Nation".

Dr Illiyas's son, former JNU student Umar Khalid, is currently in judicial custody in a UAPA case in connection with the Delhi riots, in which a sessions court is hearing his bail application.

Dr Illiyas's application sought the registration of an FIR against Chavhanke for "giving speeches and making statements that are communal, divisive, incendiary and amount to hate speeches, with the knowledge that such incendiary remarks would have the propensity to stoke tensions inter se persons belonging to certain communities, and also would directly instigate violence".

Stating that Chavhanke's statement "is a clear threat to use force and violence against minorities in order to make India a Hindu Rashtra (Hindu Nation)", the application added that soon after the event, he was further seen popularising a hashtag, "Ek hi Sapna Hindu Rashtra" from his Twitter handle.

"That such tweets by the accused are a direct assault on the core values of the Constitution of this country, of secularism, equality and fraternity and intends to create enmity in the name of religion," the application stated.

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ON BEHALF OF ZILLA PARISHAD, SATARA, THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, SATARA CENTER HEREBY INVITES ARCHITECTS, REGISTERED WITH COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE, NEW DELHI TO PARTICIPATE IN A TWO STAGE IDEA COMPETITION OF PROTOTYPE DESIGN FOR VARIOUS RURAL BUILDINGS FOR PUBLIC SECTOR AT SATARA, MAHARASHTRA.

\* ACTIVE COA REGISTRATION IS COMPULSORY.


BOARD OF JURIES AR. MADHAV JOSHI AR. USHA RANGARAJAN AR. SACHIN AGSHIKAR	PRIZE MONEY (INR) TOTAL PRIZE MONEY - RS. 20.50 LAKHS IN 5 CATEGORIES, EACH CATEGORY HAVE 3 PRIZES- 1st, 2nd & 3rd PRIZE
---	--

LAST DATE OF REGISTRATION- 10/02/2022

FOR MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION LOG ON TO :  
[www.iaazpsataracompetition.com](http://www.iaazpsataracompetition.com)

CHAIRMAN  
IA, SATARA CENTER

Sad Demise



Roy Alex

Loving Husband, Father and Employer has left us for his heavenly abode, leaving us with lessons in Honesty, Dedication and Selflessness.

He will be dearly missed by his wife Sandra and sons Aaron and Adam and those whose lives he touched.

"In this Policy, the Investment Risk in the Investment portfolio is borne by the Policyholder"

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Freedom to choose:

- Saving Amount: You can invest a lumpsum as small as Rs.1 lakh or any bigger amount for larger life goals
- 4 Fund Options You can choose from 4 fund options as – Bond, Secured, Balanced and Growth
- Switch freely You can move your money between fund options freely four times in a year to maximize returns
- Withdraw when you need You can partially withdraw after 5<sup>th</sup> year onwards\*
- Life Cover Options Choose Life cover 1.25 times or 10 times of premium paid

Policy Benefits:

- Guaranteed Additions: Enjoy guaranteed additions in addition to unit fund value\*
- Policy Maturity: Unit Fund Value

Check your eligibility:

- Age at entry: Minimum Age: 90days Maximum Age: 35 Years / 70 Years [As per Life Cover Chosen]
- Maturity Age: Minimum Age: 18years Maximum Age: 50Years/85Years [As per Life Cover Chosen]
- Policy Term: 10- 25 years

Plan No: B49 UIN:512L317V01  
A Unit Linked, Non Participating, Single Premium, Individual Life Insurance Plan

\*Conditions apply. For details, contact your Agent/nearest LIC Branch

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# 4 THE CITY



VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS  
**539**

OMICRON CASES  
**549**

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: **2,028**  
OXYGEN SUPPORT **557**  
VENTILATOR SUPPORT **142**

DELHI: TOTAL CASES  
**18,15,288**

	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Jan 26	7,498	11,164	29	70,804
Jan 27	4,291	9,397	34	44,903
Total	33,175*	17,56,369	25,744	3,46,92,453

\*Total active cases in Delhi

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	15,420	13,446
ICU BEDS	4,451	3,718

	Jan 26	Jan 27
Cases	710	506
Deaths	2	2

	Jan 26	Jan 27
Cases	2,261	1,671
Deaths	1	3

## Centre defends L-G appointed SPPs in riots cases, farmers' agitation: 'Matters of national interest'

SOFIAHSAN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

JUSTIFYING THE appointment of Delhi Police-chosen and Lieutenant Governor-approved lawyers as special public prosecutors (SPPs) to conduct cases connected to the Northeast Delhi violence and farmers' agitation, the Centre Thursday told the Delhi High Court that the FIRs involve "matters of grave national concern" and that merely because the incidents took place in Delhi would not suffice to treat them as falling under the direct control of the Delhi government.

Stating that the Constitution confers the L-G the power to refer to the President any matter for decision in case of a difference of opinion with the council of ministers, the Centre and L-G in a jointly written reply to the Delhi government's petition against the special appointments said the Balakrishnan Committee, while recommend-

ing a legislative assembly for the union territory, stated that Delhi as the country's capital occupied a unique position and "therefore it is in the national interest that the Central government retains a comprehensive control over the affairs of the capital to secure a high degree of security".

Noting that the agitations against CAA and farm laws had "inception" in laws promulgated by the Parliament, the Centre said the L-G has to exercise his power for valid reasons when it "becomes necessary to safeguard national interest". The L-G has made sufficient efforts to resolve a difference of opinion with the council of ministers, it said.

"It is being reasserted that the appointment of SPPs has not been sought in routine matters, rather the same is required due to highly sensitive nature of the cases which are directly concerning the Union government," it said, adding that the unfortunate incidents of violence have "prompted a need for efficient, fair and just

prosecution" of the cases to "retain the faith in the country's law and order machinery".

Referring to the Northeast Delhi violence and anti-CAA protests in particular, the Centre said they involved a huge loss to life and property and "displayed an effort on part of miscreants".

"Any matter arising out of the incident warrants a direct involvement of the Union government as the incident sought to affect the unity and integrity of the country. The fact that such incidents affecting the unity and integrity of the country took place within the geographical jurisdiction of NCT of Delhi, which serves as a National Capital to the country, is evidence of the fact that the issues involved are national in character and thus, in the opinion of the respondent, was a case fit for reference to the President," the reply reads.

With regard to the farmers'

protests, the Centre said the issue "spans" the entire country and it has a direct interest "more particularly in view of the fact that these matters, apart from being highly sensitive, have attracted a lot of international attention".

Referring to Article 239AA (which lends domain and control of public order, police, and land in NCT of Delhi to the central government), the Centre said the law providing for special provisions with respect to Delhi has categorically excluded certain entries from the State list when it comes to the national capital.

"This is because these entries refer to matters of national importance within the capital of the country which necessarily requires Union control. Entry 1 relates to 'public order' and the [L-G] has time and again asserted that the two sets of cases relate to public order," said the Centre.

The term 'public order' expressly involves cognizance of offences, search, seizure and arrest, followed by registration of

FIRs, investigation, prosecution and trial, said the Centre. "The wide amplitude provided to the meaning of this term includes the appointment of special prosecutors for an efficient and just prosecution of the cases so registered," it stated further.

The Delhi government in the petition filed last year had said police-chosen SPPs will seriously jeopardise fair trial and the L-G's belief that they will act independently is merely wishful thinking.

It stated that it had rejected the Delhi Police's request to appoint its chosen advocates as SPPs in January and March 2021 on the ground that the 'prosecutor' must be independent of the 'investigator' in keeping with the prosecutor's role as an independent officer of the court and to fulfil the constitutional guarantee of a fair trial. The Cabinet agreed to appoint independent SPPs which was not agreeable to the L-G, it added. The L-G had then referred the issue to the President who approved the appointment of SPPs.

## PARENTS ON DDMA ORDER

# 'Why open everything except schools?'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

ADVOCATES FOR school reopening were disappointed by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority's decision to defer discussion on the matter, a day after Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia publicly stated his support for the same.

On Wednesday, Sisodia had met with a delegation of parents who had submitted a memorandum requesting that schools and anganwadi centres be the first to reopen as and when Delhi begins lifting its current set of Covid restrictions. After this meeting, he had said the government would recommend reopening of schools in Thursday's DDMA meeting.

"I agree with the parents' demands. We closed school when it was not safe for children, but excessive caution is now harming our children. A generation of children will be left behind if we do not open our schools now," he had tweeted.

However, at Thursday's meeting, it was decided that various establishments would be permitted to open with 50% capacity — restaurants, bars, cinema halls — from Friday but discussion on reopening schools was pushed to the next meeting.

Parents who had signed the petition to the government said they had been optimistic after Wednesday's meeting.

"Our expectation was that it would be a logical decision-making meeting, and that schools would be given central attention because they're so much more critical than restaurants, bars, cinema halls and malls. A lot of parents are feeling crushed because the Deputy CM had publicly come in support... I think what we want to know is what is the logic for opening everything except school when experts everywhere are saying that it's

## WHAT'S ALLOWED, WHAT'S NOT

- RESTRICTIONS LIFTED\***
- No weekend curfew
  - Odd-even for markets, malls lifted, can open from 10 am to 8 pm
  - Restaurants, bars permitted to operate at 50% capacity. Restaurants can open from 8 am to 10 pm; bars from 12 pm to 10 pm
  - Theatres can reopen at half capacity
  - Delhi govt offices can work with 50% staff
  - Max 200 guests allowed at weddings

\*From Jan 28



## RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE

- Night curfew (10 pm to 5 am)
- Schools to remain shut
- Gyms, swimming pools to remain closed

safe and necessary that kids go back to classrooms," said Simran Khara, one of the parents.

"The matter had been raised but there was a one-line response that it would be discussed in the next meeting. We were hoping that we could move towards reopening," said an education department official.

The Indian Express had reported that from March 1, 2020, to October 31, 2021, Delhi schools were shut for 85 weeks or approximately 19 months — fully closed for 65 weeks, partially for 20 weeks. The worst-hit are young students with city schools permitted to open for primary classes for just 18 days since the start of the pandemic.

## No call to reopen gyms

Along with schools, a decision is yet to be taken on reopening gyms in the capital. Said a senior government official: "Gyms are one of the most contagious places as people workout in proximity. Several gyms in the city are in congested clusters and operate

from small spaces... Covid protocol cannot be implemented here."

Stating that opening gyms even at 50% capacity is futile, he added, "Gyms could prove to be a super spreader for the virus. However, the matter will be taken up in the next meeting, on February 7, along with school reopening. Gyms will be reopened if cases continue to dip."

Gym associations and trainers said their livelihoods have been severely affected by the restrictions and they will protest until their demands are met.

"Delhi had about 12,000 gyms but hardly 3,000 are in business currently. Owing to closures due to lockdowns, several gyms are staring at severe losses. We are losing customers and it is becoming difficult to even look after our families. We will wait till Monday; if the government does not lift the ban, we will protest," Sunil Kumar Taank, president of the Indian Gym Welfare Association, said.

The DDMA had closed gyms on December 27 when cases started increasing.

## OMICRON IN 79% SAMPLES SEQUENCED IN JAN: DATA

# 438 'Covid deaths' in last 2 weeks, 70% admitted for other illnesses

GAYATHRI MANI  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

OF THE 438 Covid deaths reported between January 13 and 25 in Delhi, data shows that 318, or over 70%, were those who happened to test positive for the virus after being admitted to hospitals for another illness.

In 94 cases, Covid was the cause of death. Of these, 32 were vaccinated while 57 were unvaccinated, and the remaining five were ineligible for the vaccine.

Data also shows that deaths with Covid as the primary cause have increased in the past few days. There were 10 fatalities because of Covid on January 25.

Data also reveals that the omicron variant has taken over delta in Delhi in January. About 79% of the total samples sent for genome sequencing have detected the latest strain.

As per data, omicron samples increased sharply in January as compared to December. From January 1 to 23, of 2,503 samples analysed in labs, 1,978 (79%) had the omicron variant, 343 had delta

## CLOSER LOOK

**438** deaths between January 13 and 25

- Covid as primary cause of death: **94**
- Covid as incidental finding: **318**

## OF THE TOTAL 94 COVID DEATHS

- 32 were vaccinated
- 57 were unvaccinated

(13.70%), and remaining 7.27% had other strains of the virus.

Between December 25 and 31, a total of 853 samples were analysed and 50% of the samples were omicron, 34% were of delta strain and 16% were others.

Recently, a study by INSACOG also showed that omicron has reached the community transmission stage and has become the dominant variant in India.

"Omicron is already in community transmission, but now I

think it is on the descending verge of the current wave. This is based on the number of infections, which may or may not be the correct picture because they have reduced tests and are only testing a specific group who have symptoms. But the number of hospitalisations is not increasing, which means cases are gradually going down," said Dr Lalit Kant, Senior Advisor to Ashoka University and former head of epidemiology and communicable diseases, ICMR.

## Cases dip below 5k

Covid cases in the capital dropped below the 5,000-mark Thursday, after 24 days since January 4 when 4,099 cases were reported. Delhi reported 4,291 cases Thursday. Even with fewer tests conducted on Republic Day, as reported a day later in Thursday's bulletin, the positivity rate stood at 9.56% with just 44,903 tests conducted. The capital also recorded 34 deaths, taking January's total toll to 637, which is the highest since the 740 deaths reported in June when the delta-driven wave was waning.

## BRIEFLY

### Row over photos in govt offices

New Delhi: Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor has written a letter to the L-G and demanded his intervention to ensure that photographs of Mahatma Gandhi and Constitutional heads are placed in Delhi government offices along with those of Dr B R Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh. CM Arvind Kejriwal had announced that all offices will remove pictures of netas and the CM, and will only have photos of Dr B R Ambedkar and Shaheed Bhagat Singh. "I appreciate the decision to place photographs of Ambedkar ji and Bhagat Singh ji in government offices but fail to understand why only photographs of only these two leaders will be placed... I hope you will agree that it is morally & administratively correct to place photographs of Father of the Nation & Constitutional Heads in government offices," he wrote.

### Only 500 vaccine doses administered on R-Day

New Delhi: Vaccination numbers in Delhi remained low on Republic Day with only 538 doses being administered, as per data on the CoWIN portal. The capital on average has administered 72,864 doses each day over the last week. One of the reasons for slower vaccination is that many people are getting infected with Covid during the current surge. The second or the precautionary dose can be administered only three months after a person has tested positive for Covid, as per the Centre's guidelines. **ENS**



## REPUBLIC GLOW

A drone and laser show during the Beating Retreat rehearsal at Vijay Chowk, Thursday, Tashi Tobgyal

# 75 high-mast Tricolours installed across city to mark 75 yrs of Independence: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal Thursday unfurled a high-mast Tricolour at Timarpur and said such national flags were installed at 75 locations across the city to mark India's 75th year of Independence.

"It is a proud day for the entire nation. Today, at 75 locations in the national capital, 115-foot-tall Tricolours have been installed to celebrate 75 years of independence. Our aim is to install 500 such flags across the city. The target was to set up all 500 by January 26, but it was delayed due to air pollution and Covid-related restrictions. In the next few months, the 500 flags will be ready," he said.

Flags were unfurled Thursday at locations including the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium; the AIIMS roundabout; Dhaula Kuan Enclave-2; Pitampura; Outer Ring Road, Azadpur; Signature Bridge; Model Town Metro Station; Indira Gandhi Hospital, Dwarka; Nelson Mandela Marg; Raighat.

"Our aim is that whenever anybody leaves home and heads



The Tricolour at the AIIMS roundabout; (left) Kejriwal at the unfurling ceremony at Timarpur. Abhinav Saha

Five such Tricolours have already been installed at East Kidwai Nagar, Patparganj, Kalkaji, Shakur Basti and Dwarka. With the 75 flags that were unfurled Thursday, the city has 80 flags that have been set up by the Delhi government.

The project is part of the government's 'Deshbhakti' budget, which was announced last year, and is being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD). Last year, the govern-

ment had sanctioned the installation of these 500 flags at an estimated cost of Rs 104.37 crore.

"I have been told that Delhi is the only city in the world where so many national flags have been set up at a height of 115 feet. We are examining this. If this is the case, we can enter the Guinness Book of World Records... that Delhi is the only city where so many national flags have been set up at such a height," the CM said.

PWD Minister Satyendar Jain, who was at the unfurling ceremony with Kejriwal, said, "We identified 75 locations at key intersections, in schools, on main roads, to ensure every single resident of Delhi comes across these little monuments of pride in their neighbourhoods or while travelling even within a range of 2 km. The Tiranga is a constant reminder of unity in our diversity. It should and will be honoured." The flags have mostly been placed on PWD roads.

Jain said that priority was given to illuminate the flags with adequate lighting, considering the Flag Code of India, which lays down rules for the display of the national flag.



Shivani Dhawan; (right) Himanshu, Express

tients under home isolation and people in public places.

Shivani Dhawan (27), who is on monitoring duty at a contain-



ment zone in Shahdara's Shrestha Vihar, said, "People get angry when we tell them they have tested positive and we are to stay

outside their house to help them. Some people have been kind, giving me a chair to sit. But I mostly stand for 5-6 hours... we also go buy groceries and other essential items for those in quarantine."

While women volunteers on containment duty work the morning shift (6 am to 2 pm), men work from 2 pm to 10 pm.

Neeraj, who is on home isolation duty at a dispensary in Begumpur, said: "I start my shift at 9.30 am and will till 6 pm. First, we get a list of positive patients and call them to confirm their address and phone number. We keep a check on those under

home isolation for 14 days till they recover. The same day, our team also visits patients at home to give them medicines and oximeters."

Neeraj has visited more than 300 houses and interacted with hundreds of patients. Before this, he was deployed at a vaccination and testing centre. He has been on Covid duty since April 2021.

Himanshu, also on home isolation duty at Begumpur, added: "I accompany patients to hospitals and collect their details, which I provide to the district authority. The biggest challenge is that many don't cooperate and behave aggressively. There have

been cases of people giving us the wrong address and switching off their phones."

Manisha Saxena, principal secretary, health department, said civil defence volunteers have become an important pillar of the administration system: "They are performing brilliantly. I think they are the largest force deployed in district magistrate offices."

Before the Covid outbreak, a large number of volunteers were deployed as marshals in public buses to ensure safety of women. CDVs were also roped in during the government's 'red light on, gaadi off' anti-pollution campaign.



New Delhi





DRUGS CASE

SC asks Punjab not to take action against Majithia till January 31

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE SUPREME COURT on Thursday gave Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia protection from arrest in a drugs case till January 31, when it will hear his anticipatory bail plea, and directed the Punjab government not to take any action until then.

"Tell your state not to do anything. We will hear [the plea] on Monday (January 31)," Chief Justice of India N V Ramana told senior advocate P Chidambaram, appearing for the Punjab government.

A case under the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, was registered against Majithia in Mohali last December. The Akali Dal leader,

who will fight the coming Punjab Assembly election directly against Congress's Navjot Singh Sidhu from Amritsar East, has previously said the case was a conspiracy against him.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Majithia on Thursday, reiterated before the court that this was a case of "political vendetta".

The CJ then remarked in a lighter vein, "I do not know if this is election fever or election virus. Everyone is rushing to the courts now."

Earlier this week, the Punjab and Haryana High Court dismissed the Akali Dal leader's anticipatory bail plea. He was earlier granted interim bail anticipatory bail on the condition that he co-operate with the Punjab Police's investigation into the case.

SC grants 10-day protection from arrest to Nitesh Rane

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE SUPREME COURT on Wednesday granted protection from arrest for 10 days to BJP leader Nitesh Rane in connection with a case registered against him in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district last month.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, and comprising Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli, told Rane to surrender before the trial court and seek regular bail.

Appearing for Rane, who is the son of Union minister Narayan Rane, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi told the court that the case was "cooked up".

"A completely cooked up case on the eve of an election to the District Cooperative Bank. I am a sitting MLA. The complainant is a person belonging to the opposite party. The allegation is that the complainant was stabbed by a

paper cutter," Rohatgi said.

"Why don't you surrender and go in for regular bail?" Justice Ramana asked Rane's counsel. Turning to senior advocate A M Singhvi, who appeared for the state of Maharashtra, the Chief Justice asked, "What is all this? Political virus again?"

Singhvi said Rane should seek regular bail. He contended that Rane met the conspirators in a van and showed them the photo of the complainant. There have been recoveries, he said. There were also call records showing that the accused were in contact, Singhvi submitted.

The case against Rane is in connection with an alleged road rage incident on Dec 18 last year. The complainant, Santosh Parab who is a Shiv Sena functionary, has said a car without a number plate hit his motorbike. He alleged he was assaulted by the occupants of the car, and heard one of them tell another that they "should inform Gotya Sawant and Nitesh Rane".

MAHARASHTRA ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL HEARINGS OVER TRANSFER OF 187 POLICE OFFICERS

Differences between DGP, Mumbai CP, says tribunal

YOGESH NAIK & MOHAMED THAYER  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 27

THE DIFFERENCES between acting Maharashtra DGP Sanjay Pandey and Mumbai Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale have come to the fore during Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal (MAT) hearings concerning the 187 Mumbai Police officers who were transferred by

the DGP last December.

During one of the hearings in the case — V J Jadhav vs state — on January 20, the MAT had observed, "...there appears to be disharmony between the DGP and the commissioner, for which this is not the forum."

Further, in its latest hearing on January 24, MAT told Pandey to file an affidavit by January 31, explaining what "compelled him" to transfer the 187 Mumbai Police personnel on the basis of request,

without giving substitutes and why Nagrale was not consulted.

In Maharashtra, the Mumbai Police commissioner reports directly to the state government while the rest of the state reports to the DGP.

Some of the 187 officers who were transferred by the DGP but not relieved by Nagrale had approached the MAT. The MAT's observation came in response to pleas filed by these officers.

The officers had said they

were not relieved by the Mumbai Police Commissionerate though the DGP had transferred them on Dec 17, 2021. The order stated that record shows 269 policemen were transferred on request.

Taking objection to the ad hoc transfers of police officers in Mumbai city limits by Pandey, without giving substitutes, Nagrale had complained to the state home department on Dec 30, 2021.

The Mumbai Police took a stand that the policemen were

wanted for law and order duties and there was a shortage of personnel due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Those who were transferred and not relieved were also told that they will be relieved after their substitutes were provided or during the general transfers to be held in April.

When the minutes of the meeting of the Police Establishment Board, which decided on these transfers, were submitted to MAT, it was found that

Nagrale and the additional chief secretary (Home) had not signed on the order. The Mumbai Police maintained that the transfers were made without considering administrative difficulties and the decision of the PEB was arbitrary.

The MAT observed, "The grievances raised by the commissioner of police cannot be said unfounded in the view of the manner whereby 187 police personnel were transferred without taking care of substitutes..."

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Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

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28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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**LIVE BROADCAST :** 11:55 hrs onwards on Rajdhani Channel MW 450.5 mtrs ie 66khz • RM Rainbow 102.6 Mhz

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- Training of NCC Cadets despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19.
- Launch of NCC Training App Ver 2.0 to enhance online training of NCC Cadets.
- Induction of Simulators for Firing, Rowing and Flying Training.
- Conduct of 196 Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Camps attended by more than 23,000 NCC Cadets.
- Launch of NCC Alumni Association and Registration as its first member by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.
- One Lakh Cadet expansion of NCC in the Border & Coastal Areas of India.
- Cumulative employment of more than 1.6 Lakh Cadets and 24 Thousand staff Pan India, as 'COVID Warriors' to assist civil administration through Exercise Yogdan.
- Online participation of over 12 Lakh NCC Cadets & their family members on the International Day of Yoga.
- Adoption and spreading awareness of 825 Statues of National Heroes Nationwide.
- Participation of over 3 Lakh NCC Cadets in Puneet Sagar Abhiyan.
- Felicitation of 75 War Heroes of 1971 Indo Pak War at 75 Locations under Vijay Shrankhla Programme.
- All India GV Mavlinkar Shooting Championship - NCC Cadets won 04 Gold, 04 Silver and 02 Bronze medals.
- NCC Junior Girls team has won 27th Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament.

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## 6 DECISION 2022

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## UTTARAKHAND TUSSLE

## In Harish Rawat ups and downs, a divided Cong's bumpy hill ride

Cong infighting intensifies, senior leader's seat changed as rival objects; new problem in new constituency



Rawat, the party's face in the coming polls.

**AVANEESH MISHRA**  
DEHRADUN, JANUARY 27

THE CONGRESS in Uttarakhand released its third list of 10 candidates on Wednesday night, making five changes. The most striking was the decision shifting former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat, the party's campaign committee chief, to Lalkuwa from Ramnagar.

The senior Rawat is widely seen as the party's face in the February 14 polls.

Uttarakhand Congress media in-charge Rajiv Maharshi claimed the Ramnagar decision was a strategic one, based on assessment. "Harish Rawat has very good chances in Lalkuwa. He was comfortable from Ramnagar too but Lalkuwa is a better seat. Ranjit Rawat, who wanted Ramnagar seat has been given Salt, a seat he has already contested in the past," he said.

## Harish-Ranjit fight

On January 24, the Congress had released its second list of candidates, nominating Harish from the Ramnagar. The announcement had sparked a row, with state Congress working president Ranjit Rawat, Harish's friend-turned-foe, making his unhappiness public.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* Thursday, Ranjit said, "I will accept the challenge of a new seat, but damage has been done to me... There has been a clear conspiracy against me."

A senior party leader said there was a time when Ranjit was very close to Harish and was one of his "diehard loyalists". In 2014, when Harish was the CM, Ranjit was appointed his advisor. After the Congress's defeat in the 2017 Assembly polls, differences surfaced. Ranjit wanted a ticket for his son in the Salt by-election, which was denied.

Ranjit is a two-time MLA, from Ranikhet in undivided Uttar Pradesh, and Salt in 2002 and 2007. In 2017 he lost from the Ramnagar seat.

## Why the change

Ramnagar is considered to be one of the bellwether seats in Uttarakhand. In 2012, Congress candidate Amrita Rawat had won the election from here and the party formed the government. The BJP's Diwan Singh Bisht won the seat in the 2017 polls when the saffron party came to power.

But both Harish and the party could not overlook the possibility of Ranjit playing spoilsport in Ramnagar. They apparently felt that after making preparations in Ramnagar for a long time, a disgruntled Ranjit with his influence in the constituency could cause trouble for Harish's prospects.

## Challenges for Cong

With less than three weeks left for the polls, it is evident that the Congress is reeling under factional feuds in its Uttarakhand unit. While the party managed to defuse the Ramnagar crisis, it faced fresh discontent from Sandhya Dalakoti, who has been replaced with Harish as the party candidate in Lalkuwa. She took to Facebook to blame the Congress, Harish and former party candidate from the seat, Harish Chandra Durgapal, for denying her the ticket though she had been a "dedicated worker".

Addressing a gathering of women Thursday, Sandhya asked what had changed in the last two days that the Congress leadership had to jettison her. She said she will decide her future course of action.

Taking a swipe at the Congress, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said the Opposition party was unable to take a firm decision and was sending Harish from one place to another. "The Congress is making a joke of Harish Rawat," he said.

Meanwhile, the Congress on Thursday night named Dhan Singh Negi as its candidate from Tehri. With this, the party has declared all its 70 candidates for the polls.



## IN FULL SWING

Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a door-to-door campaign in Greater Noida on Thursday. During the event, Shah said the coming Assembly polls are not to decide an MLA, a minister or a CM, but to decide the future course of Uttar Pradesh for the next 20 years. *Gajendra Yadav*

**KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR**  
AMRITSAR, JANUARY 27

THIS ELECTION in Punjab, one of the most keenly watched battles will play out in Amritsar East, the constituency where sitting MLA Navjot Singh Sidhu of the Congress will take on Bikram Singh Majithia of the Shiromani Akali Dal.

On Wednesday, Akali president Sukhbir Badal had set the tone for the high-profile contest, saying, "Navjot Sidhu's arrogance will be his undoing. He has been harping on about his support among the masses. Now his support will be tested with 'Majha da sher' [Majithia] taking him on in his home constituency."

With almost a month to go for the February 20 elections, the odds are evenly stacked between the two candidates in what's largely an urban constituency

with a mix of voters from all regions and castes.

A young constituency, Amritsar East came into existence only in 2012. In the election held that year, Navjot Singh Sidhu's wife Navjot Kaur Sidhu was elected on a BJP ticket by a relatively narrow margin of around 7,000 votes. She defeated Congress rebel and Independent candidate Simarpreet Kaur Bhatia. Sidhu later got Bhatia and her family to join the BJP. But when he crossed over to the Congress, he took them along.

In 2017, Sidhu had a cakewalk, defeating Rajesh Honey of the BJP by a margin of over 40,000 votes.

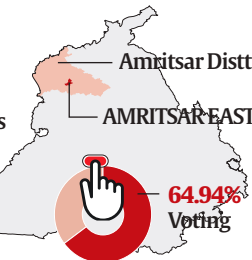
For the Akalis, the election will mark a debut of sorts. The party has never contested from Amritsar East, with the constituency always part of the BJP's share when the two parties were in alliance. Majithia and the Akalis have remained active in Amritsar

## FIGURES IN 2017

**Winner:**  
**Navjot Singh Sidhu** Congress  
60477 votes

**Runner-up:**  
**Rajesh Kumar Honey** BJP  
17668 votes

**Contestants: 15**



East only to oppose the Sidhu family on various occasions, even while he was in the BJP.

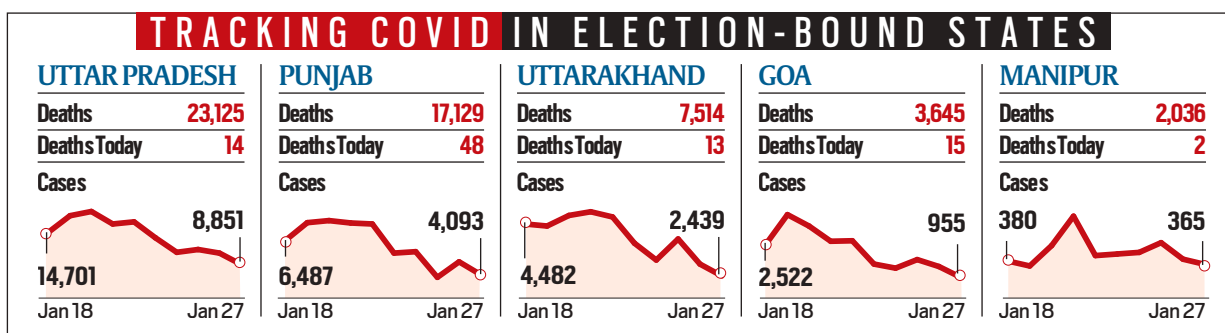
The Akalis have only three councillors in Amritsar East as



**In Amritsar East, battle of personalities.**

opposed to 15 of the Congress. So the Akalis will have to work almost from scratch to build the campaign for Majithia.

Yet, it's precisely what may



## Mother of 20-yr-old killed in police firing at CAA protesters says fighting for justice

**ASAD REHMAN**  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 27

"I AM fighting this election to get justice for my son, and many others like him who are oppressed by this government," says Akbari Khatoon, the Congress candidate from Bijnor. In late 2019, her 20-year-old son Mohd Suleiman was among the 22 people killed in violence during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Suleiman's family is the only one of the 22 which lodged an FIR against policemen, accusing them of murder.

A housewife and mother of seven, Khatoon says accepting the offer of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for a ticket is their second attempt to get justice. The Congress an-



Akbari Khatoon

nounced her nomination on Wednesday, and Khatoon filed her papers Thursday. Vadra had met the family after Suleiman's killing.

In his final year of graduation, Suleiman had been living in Noida at the time, preparing for his UPSC exams. He had come home to Nehtaur in Bijnor district as he had fever, when he got caught in the police action on the protests, says the family.

In the first such admission, the Bijnor police had confirmed that Suleiman died in firing by one of its own, Constable Mohit Kumar, calling it "self-defence". However, in July 2020, an SIT of

the Bijnor police had given a clean chit to six policemen, including the station house officer of Nehtaur Police Station, while accusing Suleiman of violence.

Suleiman's maternal uncle Afzal Ahmad Usmani, a lawyer, says the family has challenged the SIT conclusion in the local CJM court. "The arguments in the matter have happened twice, but no order has been passed," says Usmani, who is helping Khatoon in her election campaign.

It is the first election for Khatoon, who is married to a small-time farmer. She says Vadra convinced her to contest the election "for the sake of Suleiman and others like him killed in police action during the protests in 2019".

Appreciating the Congress general secretary's gesture of coming to their house and sharing their grief, Khatoon says: "We have been fighting for jus-

tice for more than two years. Police harassed us, but we did not back down. The Congress is giving a chance to the marginalised sections of society who have been harassed and oppressed by this government."

Khatoon, who lives in the Mangoo Charkhi area of Bijnor, adds: "We want to ensure that society is not divided based on religion and caste. The rest is in God's hands, but we will try to unite all marginalised sections of society."

A senior Congress leader says Bijnor has a sizeable Muslim population, giving extra weight to Khatoon's candidature. "The SP-RLD alliance has fielded a Jat, and so has the BJP, while the BSP has fielded Ruchi Veera (a Baniya). If we get the Muslim community's support, our candidate has a great chance of winning," says a party leader.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

## I HEREBY DECLARE



**AKASH SONI a.k.a. RADHIKA BAI\***  
Independent candidate from  
Agra Cantt

**TOTAL ASSETS**  
**₹95,891**

**MOVABLE ASSETS**  
**₹95,891**  
**IMMOVABLE ASSETS**  
**Nil**

**LOANS FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OR INDIVIDUALS:** **Nil**

**CRIMINAL CASES:** **NIL**

**PROFESSION:**  
**ENTERTAINMENT**

**EDUCATION:** **CLASS 7**

*\*She calls herself the first transgender candidate of Agra*

play to the party's strength — the Akalis are known for their election management. "Our only aim is to defeat Navjot Singh Sidhu," said a SAD leader, suggesting the party will keep all its options open while managing Majithia's campaign.

To begin with, instead of looking back at the 2017 Assembly results, when Sidhu had a walkover, the party would want to start from the 2019 parliamentary results, when Congress candidate and sitting Amritsar MP Gurjit Aujla won by a margin of only 10,785 votes over Union minister Hardeep Puri.

The party would also hope to exploit the factionalism within the Congress. It is an open secret that Sidhu does not enjoy good relations with at least three Congress MLAs whose constituencies are Amritsar East.

Also, with the Sidhu family representing the seat for 10 years, anti-incumbency could be a factor given that the seat, which already had basic amenities, hasn't seen any big change under Sidhu.

He had promised an overbridge over the Jaura railway crossing to solve long-standing traffic woes, but the bridge is yet to be completed. Another such overbridge at the Vallah crossing is also stuck with the files pending with Army and Forest departments, say sources.

Yet, for Sidhu, Majithia's candidature may just be what the doctor ordered. A Sidhu vs Majithia fight may shift the agenda away from some of the dissatisfactions against him here. Sidhu will hope to get the credit for the NDPS case against Majithia. Also, Sidhu may pitch himself as the local candidate as opposed to 'outsider' Majithia.

There are at least two other factors that might come into play: the BJP and the AAP. The BJP has brought in the low-profile Jagmohan Singh Raju, a former IAS officer, as its candidate. The AAP has fielded Jeevanjot Kaur, hoping she will get votes of those voting for a change from established parties.

## HASHTAG POLITICS



## • Mayawati's pakora jibe at BJP

In a couple of tweets criticising the BJP over protests by candidates of a Railway exam in Bihar and UP, BSP chief and former chief minister Mayawati said the saffron party should change its 'narrow vision of making the youth' sell pakoras. The protests, she said, are proof of the failure of the government.

11.7K LIKES, 3.4K RETWEETS IN 11 HOURS

## BALLOTIN

## Manipur Congress announces alliance with left-wing parties

**Imphal:** The Congress party in Manipur on Thursday announced a pre-poll alliance with five left wing political parties for the Assembly election scheduled to be held in two phases on February 27 and March 3. Manipur Congress president N Loken Singh, said the alliance with the CPI, CPI(M), the Revolutionary Socialist Party, the Janata Dal (secular), and the All India Forward Block (AIFB) was to topple the BJP rule in the state. "The country as well as the state are in a sorry state of affairs under the BJP rule. As such, like-minded parties felt the need to form an alliance to save the state from going backwards," he said.

**JIMMY LEIVON**

## Students praise PM, CM; probe on

**Siddharthnagar:** The district authorities on Thursday ordered a probe after school children were allegedly made to raise slogans hailing PM Narendra Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath by their principal and teachers on the Republic Day. A video of the event, held on Wednesday at a primary school in Sohratgarh Block of Siddharthnagar district, has gone viral. In the video, students after singing the national anthem are seen raising slogans in the name of freedom fighters as well as of Modi and Adityanath, violating the MCC.

**PTI**

## POLLS &amp; PROFESSIONS

## Among farmer party's candidates: Industrialists, doctors, accountants

**RAAKHI JAGGA**  
LUDHIANA, JANUARY 27

TARUN BAWA Jain is president of a dyeing association, Harkirat Singh Rana is a hosiery industrialist, Sukhmandeep Singh is a doctor, Ramandeep Singh is a physiotherapist and Kulbir Singh Matta is an arhtiya. What binds them all together is that they are candidates of the Samyukta Samaj Morcha (SSM), a political outfit formed by farmer unions to contest the upcoming elections in Punjab.

Led by Balbir Singh Rajewal, president of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, Rajewal faction, one of the farm groups that was part of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM)

that led the protest against the farm laws, the SSM has decided to fight on all 117 seats.

So far, it has come out with a list of 110 names. While Rajewal is contesting from Samrala and the SSM has fielded other farm leaders such as Prem Singh Bhangu (Ghanaur constituency), Gumam Singh Bhikhi (Mansa), Harjinder Singh Tanda (Khadoor Sahib), Buta Singh Shadipur (Sanaur) and Ravneet Singh Brar (Mohali), also on the SSM candidate list are industrialists, advocates, doctors and others, many with little or no farming background.

Asked about professionals contesting on SSM tickets, Prem Singh Bhangu, screening committee member of the morcha and its candidate from Ghanaur con-

stituency of Patiala, said, "We all are part of this society and hence when we contest polls, tickets have to be given to people from all walks of lives. A passion to bring about change in society is what we looked for in our candidates."

*The Indian Express* spoke to some of the candidates.

## Tarun Bawa Jain, 49

President of Bahadurke Dyeing Association, Jain is the SSM candidate from Ludhiana West. Jain, however, is not new to politics: he used to be in the BJP and his wife Ruchi Jain was a BJP councillor in 2007, but they quit the party in September 2009. In August last year, Jain formed his own party, 'Bhartiya Aarthik Party', which he recently



Gurpreet, a former teacher; and Sukhmandeep, a doctor.

merged with the SSM. "I am doing door-to-door campaigns in the area. The campaign hasn't picked up much because of the weather, but will soon." He is up against Cabinet minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu of the Congress and Gurpreet Singh Gogi, who has switched from Congress to AAP.



## Harkirat Singh Rana, 59

Candidate from Atam Nagar constituency of Ludhiana, Rana is president of Hazuri Road Hosiery Association. "I am not a farmer but I have been to Singhu several times. Moreover, SSM was formed to give representation to people of all sections of society," he said. Rana is contesting against

sitting MLA Simarjeet Bains of the Lok Insaaf Party, and Congress leader Kamaljeet Singh Karwal.

## Sukhmandeep Singh, 25

An MBBS doctor from Tarn Taran, Singh says he gave up his plans of studying abroad when the farm agitation began. "After my MBBS from Ukraine, I was in India on a break before travelling to the US to do my Master's when I came across Dr Swaimaan Singh, a New Jersey-based doctor, rendering services at the Tikri border. I decided then that I would stay on and do something for Punjab." Sitting Congress MLA Dharambir Singh Agnihotri and AAP's Kashmir Singh Sohal are the other candidates fighting from Tarn Taran.

Ramandeep Singh, 31: SSM candidate from Jaitu in Faridkot district, Singh is a physiotherapist and runs a rehabilitation centre. He is also joint secretary of the Punjab Para Sports Association. He too had turned up for the farmer protests. "There are 48 villages in the constituency. We have a campaign team and we have visited the entire constituency once. I am getting a good response." He is up against SAD's Suba Singh Badal and AAP's Amolak Singh.

## Gurpreet Singh Kotli, 33

A post-graduate in physics who earlier worked as an adhoc teacher, Kotli, SSM's Gidderbaha candidate, is taking on Cabinet minister Amarinder Raja Warring and SAD heavyweight Dimpy

Dhillon. "I worked as an AAP volunteer with (former AAP MP) Dr Sadhu Singh during the 2014 election. But I left the party when Kejriwal apologised to Majithia. While the kisan aandolan gave me an insight into farming issues, I belong to a family of marginal farmers, so I understand these issues better than most people."

## Anil Kumar Gupta, 34

An accountant, Gupta is contesting from Ludhiana South. His family hails from Goralhpur. "My constituency is dominated by migrant voters. I know their problems because I myself go through them every day." He is up against sitting LIP MLA Balwinder Bains and former SAD minister Hira Singh Gabria.





**UTTARAKHAND QUESTION**

ASRAHUL Gandhi has declared that the Congress will announce its Chief Minister candidate for Punjab, the question is whether the party would do the same in Uttarakhand as well. Former Chief Minister Harish Rawat had been of the view that the party should project its CM candidates in election-bound states, shedding its old approach, as that would make the election state-centric. It goes without saying that he would like the party to project him as the CM face. So will the party do that or make Punjab an exception like it had last time? Or will the party wait for polling in Uttarakhand and Goa to get over as Punjab — since the polling has been deferred by the EC — now goes for polling six days later.

**BEYOND BOUNDARIES**

AFTER EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced on Twitter that he tested Covid positive and urged all those who have come in recent contact to take suitable precautions, he got messages from well-wishers across the country as well as abroad. Besides ministers and political leaders, he got “get-well-soon” messages from Maldives Foreign Minister and President of United Nations General Assembly Abdullah Shahid and Sri Lankan minister Namal Rajapaksa, who is Sri Lankan Prime Minister’s son.

**SYMBOLS MATTER**

UNION MINISTER Hardeep Puri wrote an emotional note on social media on Thursday, picking up symbols of Sikhism from the tableaux of Punjab and Uttarakhand and the marching contingent of the Sikh Light infantry regiment at the Republic Day parade. Puri said everyone felt the warmth of the Prime Minister’s admiration and reverence for the people of Punjab, through myriad tangible gestures. Amid chants of ‘Ek Onkar’ reverberating Rajpath, Uttarakhand’s tableau displayed the “pristine glory of Gurudwara Sri Hemkunt Sahib Ji”, Puri noted. Punjab’s tableau depicted contributions made by the state in freedom struggle — it paid homage to Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, and also showed Jung-e-Azadi Memorial recently set up in Kartarpur, Jalandhar, Puri said.

# Quitting Congress, says former Union minister Ibrahim

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, JANUARY 27

CONGRESS LEADER and former civil aviation minister in the United Front government at the Centre in the 1990s, CM Ibrahim Thursday announced that he would quit the party in Karnataka as he was undermined for leadership roles.

Ibrahim, a member of the Karnataka Legislative Council, had joined the Congress from Janata Dal (Secular) in 2008.

Ibrahim’s announcement comes a day after the AICC announced that former MP B K Hariprasad would be the leader of the Congress in the legislative council while a close aide of former CM Siddaramaiah would be the deputy leader.

Ibrahim is believed to have felt slighted for being overlooked for leadership roles in the council despite his seniority. He hinted that “the gift given by the AICC yesterday” was a reason for him to announce his exit.

# Rahul writes to Twitter CEO, points to fear over ‘curb in fair, free speech’

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

TWITTER IS perhaps unwittingly complicit in “curbing free and fair speech” in India, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wrote to the platform’s CEO, Parag Agrawal last month, it has emerged. Rahul claimed that his follower count on Twitter has not increased since his account was temporarily suspended in August 2021.

In his letter, dated December 27, 2021, Rahul said Twitter should not become a “pawn in the destruction of the idea of India” and argued that it has an “enormous responsibility to ensure that it does not actively help in the growth of authoritarianism in India”.

Asserting that the ideological battle between liberal democracy and authoritarianism across the world is being shaped on social media platforms, he wrote, “This places a huge responsibility on those



# Issues of kisan’s ganna, not Jinnah, should be raised: Rajnath in UP

Says Charan Singh his idol; Jats can never be annoyed with BJP

**PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA**  
GHAZIABAD, JANUARY 27

CONTINUING THE BJP’s efforts to reach out to farmers in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, senior party leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said the issues of “kisan’s ganna” or farmers’ sugarcane should be raised, and not Muhammad Ali Jinnah’s name, in the context of state politics.

Referring to Pakistan, which he said continued to indulge in terror activities, Singh said, “I do not know why Pakistan’s founder Jinnah’s name is often invoked during elections... in UP’s politics, Jinnah’s name should not be invoked. Instead, we should talk of kisan’s ganna (farmer’s sugarcane).”

He was speaking at a voter interaction in Modinagar, Ghaziabad district, as he joined the election campaign in Western Uttar Pradesh. He was accompanied by Modinagar MLA Dr Manju Shiwach.

The constituency has a sizeable population of Jats and

# SP releases 4th list; father-son battle likely

**Lucknow:** The Samajwadi Party (SP) on Thursday released its fourth list of 56 candidates for UP Assembly polls, naming four-time MLA Ramakant Yadav from Phoolpur Pawai seat in Azamgarh district, currently held by his son and BJP MLA Arun Kumar Yadav.

Though BJP has not declared its candidate for the seat, it is likely to retain Arun Kumar, raising the

# Hamid Ansari, 4 US lawmakers express concern over rights situation in India

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
WASHINGTON, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT Hamid Ansari and four US lawmakers have expressed concern over the human rights situation in India.

They were speaking at a virtual panel discussion organised by the Indian American Muslim Council on Wednesday.

“As the Indian government continues to target the practices of minority faiths, it creates an atmosphere where discrimination and violence can take root...,” said Democratic Senator Ed Markey. Congressmen Jim McGovern, Andy Levin and Jamie Raskin also spoke during the discussion.

Participating in the panel discussion from India, Ansari said: “In recent years, we have experienced the emergence of trends and practices that dispute the well-established principle of civil nationalism and interpose a new and imaginary practice of cultural nationalism.... It wants to distinguish citizens on the basis of their faith, give vent to intolerance, insinuate otherness, and promote disquiet and insecurity.”

Later on Thursday, the BJP’s Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, a Union minister, hit out at Ansari for his comments. He said that the “madness of Modi bashing is turning into conspiracy for India bashing, therefore such remarks are made...”

# Former woman judge seeks reinstatement, Madhya Pradesh HC opposes move in SC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE MADHYA Pradesh High Court on Thursday opposed the contentions of a former woman judicial officer that she was forced to put in her papers, as she was transferred after raising sexual harassment allegations against one of its judges.

Appearing for MP HC, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a Supreme Court bench that “if the petitioner’s argument that transfer was due to a particular judge is to be accepted, it will have to inevitably accepted that the Chief Justice (of HC) and other judges were so amenable



# Day after BJP extends hand, Jayant says: Not a coin that I’ll flip

**AMIT SHARMA**  
MEERUT, JANUARY 27

“MAIN KOI chavanni nahin hoon jo palat jaonga (I am not a 25 paise coin that I will flip),” Jayant Chaudhary said at Khatauli near Muzaffarnagar Thursday, a day after the BJP said its doors were open for the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) chief who is fighting the elections in alliance with the Samajwadi Party.

“Where were the BJP leaders when our farmers were mowed down under the tyres of a car being driven by a Union minister’s son in Lakhimpur Kheri (Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra’s son Ashish has denied he was driving the car)? Hundreds of our agitating farmers sacrificed themselves on the Singhu border in New Delhi during an agitation for repeal of the three farm laws, but no BJP leader could find time to meet them,” Chaudhary said, addressing a group of people while on his way to Muzaffarnagar, where he is to hold a joint press meeting with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday.

Soon after a meeting with Jat leaders attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah Wednesday, the BJP had said: “Jayant Chaudhary has chosen a wrong path... Possibilities are open even after the elections... We wanted him to come to us but he chose another house.”

The RLD is the foremost party of Jats in western UP and the BJP fears a backlash from the community over the farm laws.

Chaudhary asked people to be wary of what they read on WhatsApp and other social media, saying the BJP was spreading misinformation through these after realising that the public had stopped believing the electronic media due to its agendas. “You have to remain united because



# PHASE 4 NOMINATION FILING KICKS OFF

**Tight security outside a nomination filing centre in Lucknow on Thursday, the first day on which nominations can be filed for Phase 4 of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. Phase 4 includes constituencies in Lucknow, and voting will be held on February 23. Vishal Srivastav**

# China says latest round of talks with India on border issue ‘positive and constructive’

**K J M VARMA**  
BEIJING, JANUARY 27

CHINA ON Thursday described as “positive and constructive” the latest round of military-level talks with India and said Beijing will work closely with New Delhi to “properly handle” the border issue even as it refuted the US allegation of “intimidating” neighbours.

India and China held the 14th round of Corps Commander-level meeting on January 12 during which the two sides agreed to maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels to work out a “mutually acceptable resolution” of the remaining issues of the standoff at eastern Ladakh.

“The Chinese side believed this round of talks were positive and constructive, and China will work closely with the Indian side

to properly handle the border issue through negotiation and consultation,” said Senior Colonel Wu Qian, a spokesperson for China’s Ministry of National Defence said in response to a question.

Ahead of the talks, Indian officials expressed hope of resolving issues related to disengagement at Patrolling Point 15 (Hot Springs) in eastern Ladakh in the 14th round of talks. **PTI**



**Rashtriya Lok Dal chief Jayant Chaudhary**

BJP leaders and workers will not leave any stone unturned to drive a rift among you to serve their vested political interests. Remain watchful of rumours being spread by the saffron brigade,” the RLD leader said.

The alleged exodus of Hindus from Kairana town in west UP in the wake of the Muzaffarnagar riots of 2013 is being raised by the BJP in the current campaign. The riots had driven a wedge between the Jats and Muslims of the area, and the SP-RLD alliance is hoping to overcome that.

On Wednesday evening, Iqra Hasan, the sister of SP Kairana candidate Nahid Hasan, also appealed to people to not be swayed by the BJP’s claims. Hasan was arrested under the Gangsters’ Act a day after he submitted his nomination papers.

“They (the BJP) are spreading rumours that the Jats and Muslims of the region will not vote for a candidate not belonging to their caste or community. Communal forces are trying to keep us apart. But the SP-RLD alliance has fostered a message of mutual brotherhood... which has to be safeguarded come what may,” she said.

The government, administration, police and media are with the BJP, Hasan said, “*lekin hamare pass bhaichara hai* (but we have brotherhood). You have to remain united,” she said at her meetings.

# Days after CMs meet, fresh tension along Assam-Arunachal border

**TORA AGARWALA**  
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 27

JUST DAYS after the chief ministers of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh met to discuss a “permanent solution” over the decades-old boundary dispute between the two states, fresh tensions were reported along the interstate border on Wednesday night.

The flashpoint is the ongoing Likabali-Durpai PMGSY road project in Arunachal Pradesh’s Lower Siang district — Assam claims that some parts of the road, under construction since 2019, falls under its Dhemajai district.

On Wednesday evening, a culvert under construction close to Hime village in Lower Siang was burnt by “unidentified miscreants from the Assam side”, authorities said. Following that, there were unconfirmed reports

# Defence Ministry initiatives on Republic Day aimed at ‘larger participation’

**KRISHN KAUSHIK**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

More than 500 special spectators, dancers chosen through a country-wide competition, the use of giant scrolls painted by artists from different states, and reaching out to the next of kin of soldiers who gave their lives for the country were some of the special initiatives taken by the Defence Ministry for Republic Day, with the idea of getting more people involved.

“It is very important that we continue this trend even in subsequent years” to have “larger participation” from people to mark Republic Day, rather than keeping it confined to just officials, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar told The Indian Express.

He said a large number of events were organised to “engage with the country”. For example, he said cultural performers during the parade were chosen through a country-wide competition that took around two months, and started at the district level. The 480 dancers were, for the first time, selected through competition. **FULL REPORT ON** [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



# Maharashtra Cabinet okays wine sale from walk-in stores, supermarkets

**YOGESH NAIK AND SHUBHANGI KHAPRE**  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 27

THE MAHARASHTRA Cabinet on Thursday permitted the sale of wine in supermarkets and walk-in stores across the state. Currently, only registered wine stores are allowed to sell wine. Once notified, the new rules will allow sale of wine at walk-in stores or supermarkets with a minimum area of 100 sq metres. This decision, however, will not be applicable across districts covered under prohibition orders — Wardha and Gadchiroli.

A senior excise department official said the new policy has come as the present wine policy, which allows sale of wine only through exclusive liquor stores, has lapsed.

The state government said the new policy will benefit not just the industry but also grape farmers as they will get a better price for their produce.

With the new policy, the state is expecting its annual wine sales to rise from current 70 lakh litres to up to 1 crore litres. The state has more than 40 wineries and they account for nearly 60 per cent of the country’s wine production. The total turnover of the Maharashtra’s wine industry is around Rs 1,000 crore, a source said.

Meanwhile, the government’s decision to allow sale of wine at supermarkets and walk-in stores has invited sharp criticism from BJP. “The MVA government is determined to make Maharashtra a Madha Rashtira (liquor state),” Opposition leader Devendra Fadnis said on Thursday.

The former chief minister said, “The entire focus of the state government is to push liquor policy and mint money...”

# Days after CMs meet, fresh tension along Assam-Arunachal border

of “firing in the air” by the locals from the Arunachal Pradesh side on Wednesday night.

District officials from both Dhemajai in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh’s Lower Siang—the two districts share a border of about 150 kilometres—reached the spot on Thursday morning, and said the incident was “minor” and that the “situation was under control.”

As per reports, the tension began after an Assam Police team stopped the construction of the road at Hime.

“The Likabali-Durpai road touches the disputed territory at some points on the border. The day before yesterday, our team stopped one such construction. Since this is a disputed area, we have prevented construction on previous occasions too,” said Ranjan Bhuyan, Dhemajai district’s Superintendent of Police.

# Telangana CM Rao to chair key meet today on narcotics supply, trade

**SREENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 27

TELANGANA CHIEF Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao is concerned over the seizure of large quantities of narcotics in recent months, and has called a meeting with the police, excise department and other officials on Friday to discuss the situation in the state, officials said on Thursday.

Officials said Rao has expressed concern about the “serious drug use and supply problem” in the state, and ordered Director General of Police M Mahender Reddy to form a special Narcotic and Organised Crime Control Cell at a review meeting on Wednesday.

The special cell, which will be under the DGP, will have around 1,000 members drawn from various police departments, according to Reddy.

The decision comes close on the heels of authorities tracing huge quantities of ganja in Telangana in recent months. This includes seizures of about 4,000kg of ganja by Hyderabad City Police, Cyberabad Police and Rachakonda Police.





## 5G suit: HC reduces cost imposed on Juhi Chawla

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

DELHI HIGH Court on Thursday reduced costs imposed on actor Juhi Chawla and two other plaintiffs by a single-judge bench last year from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 2 lakh in a 5G-related suit and expunged the adverse observations against her in that verdict.

On June 4, 2021, Justice Jagdhan Ram Midha had termed the

suit “defective” and “not maintainable”, and said the plaint includes “unnecessary, scandalous, frivolous and vexatious averments”, liable to be struck down under the Code of Civil Procedure.

Allowing the appeal and setting aside that order, the division bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh said plaintiffs should not be made to share the blame or consequences for the manner in which the suit and applications were drafted.

### CASE ON ‘CONSPIRACY TO KILL’ COPS

## Dileep gets HC protection from arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 27

THE KERALA High Court Thursday granted Malayalam actor Dileep and four others protection from arrest till February 2 in the case over an alleged conspiracy to kill police officers, who had probed the 2017 abduction and sexual assault of a woman actor. Dileep is an accused in the abduction-sexual assault case.



Malayalam actor Dileep

The court also posted the anticipatory bail pleas for next Wednesday after the prosecution sought more time to analyse “digital evidences” the Crime Branch has gathered so far.

While considering the bail

pleas, the HC had allowed the Crime Branch to question the accused. The court had prevented their arrest till January 27 and had told the prosecution to furnish a report in a sealed cover. Accordingly, the prosecution submitted the report Thursday.

Earlier this month, the Crime Branch had registered a case against Dileep and five others, alleging that they had planned to kill the officers who had investigated the 2017 case of abduction and sexual assault of an actor.

## 2006 Kozhikode blasts: HC acquits LeT suspect Nazir

Appalled by the manner in which the confessions were recorded, says court

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 27

IN A setback to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), a division bench of Kerala High Court on Thursday acquitted suspected Laskkar-e-Toiba (LeT) operative Tadiyantevide Nazir and one of his relatives in the 2006 Kozhikode twin blasts case in which both had been sentenced to life imprisonment. The court also rejected an NIA appeal against the acquittal of other two accused in the case.

In 2011, an NIA court had held Nazir and his sister-in-law's husband Shafas guilty of offences under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and sentenced them to life imprisonment. They were also sentenced to another five years in jail under IPC provisions. That apart, Nazir had been awarded with another life term under Explosive Substances Act.

Other two accused, whose acquittal was upheld on Thursday, are Abdul Haleem and Aboobacker Yusuf.

Once a close aide of Kerala-based People's Democratic Party chairman and Islamic cleric Abdul Nazer Mahdani, Nazir is a key figure in Kerala's terror cases. Although acquitted in the Kozhikode blasts case, he would remain in jail, serving a life sentence awarded in a case pertaining to recruitment of Kerala youths for terror training in Kashmir. Besides, he is an under-trial in the 2008 Bengaluru blast case. According to the NIA, the accused had conspired and executed the blasts – at two bus stands in Kozhikode on March 3,

2006 – to avenge bail denial to 130-odd people arrested in the 2003 Marad communal riots case. No death was reported in the blasts.

The NIA, which took over the probe from Kerala Police, mainly built up the case based on confessions of another suspect, who was made an approver. Observing that there is no reliable evidence that would incriminate the accused beyond reasonable doubt, the division bench of Justices K Vinod Chandran and Ziyad Rahman said, “We are appalled by the manner in which the confessions, purportedly under Section 27, were recorded with portions relating to the crime as such, offending Sections 25 and 26 of the Evidence Act. Confessions may have an element of truth in it but it fails to persuade the judges, in traveling the distance between ‘may be true’ and ‘must be true.’” The court said the approver's evidence fails miserably in the twin tests – “that of inherent reliability and credibility as also on the aspect of corroboration; the latter of which we find to be absent even in a single material particular”.

The court also pointed out that the District Magistrate's sanction for prosecution under the Explosive Substances Act was not obtained. It found that the case against the accused was not proved beyond reasonable doubt. “In their anxiety to wrap up the case; we say anxiety since we do not think the officers of the NIA would be ignorant of the law on the subject, they even recorded the confessions made by the accused, clearly inadmissible under Sections 25 & 26 of the Evidence Act.”

## Ahead of meet, EAC urged not to clear JSW's plant in Dhinkia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, JANUARY 27

SIX ENVIRONMENTALISTS on Thursday urged the Environmental Appraisal Committee (EAC) not to give clearance to the Jindal Steel Works's (JSW's) proposed steel plant in Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district before an independent assessment is carried out to study the project's health impact. An approval by the EAC is a must for the project to go ahead. The panel is expected to meet on Friday to discuss the steel plant.

They said that the proposed plant should not be given clearance based on the project's Environment Impact Assessment. “The EIA report prepared for the proposed JSW Utkal Steel Limited is nothing but to merely justify the project,” the letter said.


### BIHAR COURT

## Man sentenced to death for rape of 6-year-old girl

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA, JANUARY 27

THE ARARIA POCSO court on Thursday sentenced a 48-year-old man to death for rape of a six-year-old girl. The court also directed District Legal Services Authority to pay compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the victim.

A case was filed under provisions of IPC, SC/ST Act and POCSO Act against the man for sexually assaulting the minor in December last year. Public prosecutor Shyamal Yadav said: “The court took it as rarest of rare case and held that only death sentence to the convict could deter others from committing such crime.”



## DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, (GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI)  
5th FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI 110006

Visit us at <https://www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Citizens of Delhi are advised to initiate the following steps in different categories of air quality. The air quality and category in which it falls i.e. Good, Moderate, Poor, Very Poor, Severe and Severe + is available at [www.cpcb.nic.in](http://www.cpcb.nic.in).**

**(1) MODERATE TO POOR CATEGORY** Ambient PM2.5 values between 61-120 ug/m3 or ambient PM10 values between 101- 350 ug/m3

- a) Keep engines of your cars/bikes/scooters properly tuned.
- b) Maintain proper air pressure in tires of cars/bikes/scooters.
- c) Keep your PUC certificate up to date.
- d) When you are out for a drive, do not idle your vehicle , turn off the engine.
- e) Do not dispose of waste / garbage in the open spaces.
- f) Report air pollution activities through SAMEER App/Green Delhi App.

**(2) VERY POOR CATEGORY** Ambient PM2.5 values between 121-250 ug/m3 or ambient Pm10 values between 351-430ug/m3

- a) People to minimize the use of personal vehicles and use public transport.
- b) Be sure to replace air filters at recommended intervals in your automobiles regularly.
- c) Avoid dust-generating construction activities during the months of October to January, if possible.


**(3) SEVERE CATEGORY** Ambient PM2.5 values > 250 ug/m3 or ambient PM10 values >430 ug/m3

- a. Choose a cleaner commute - share a ride to work or use public transportation or walk or cycle.
- b. People whose positions allow them to work from home should work from home.
- c. Do not use coal and wood for heating purposes.
- d. Individual house owners may provide electric heaters (during winters) to security staff to avoid open burning.
- e. Combine errands and reduce trips. Walk to errand when possible.
- f. Do not burn garbage, plastics and other discarded items.

**(4) SEVERE + CATEGORY** When ambient PM2.5 values > 300 ug/m3 or ambient PM10 values >500 ug/m3

- a) Children, the elderly and those with respiratory, cardiovascular, cerebrovascular or other chronic diseases stay indoors as much as possible, and to avoid outdoor activities.

**Sd/-**  
**Member Secretary (DPCC)**



राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एरा  
पंचायती राज संस्थान  
**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ**  
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

### ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

**INVITES APPLICATION FOR CAREER IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT**

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**Two Years Residential Programme**  
**Eligibility** Bachelor's Degree with at least 50% Marks (45% for SC / ST / PWD)  
**Valid Scores** in any of the qualifying exams: CAT / MAT / XAT / ATMA / CMAT / GMAT  
Shortlisted candidates shall be called for Group Discussion and Personal Interviews for final selection.


**2. Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) 2022-23 Batch-20**

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**Eligibility** Bachelor's Degree with at least 50% Marks (45% for SC/ST/PWD)  
**Selection** (PGDRDM) Shortlisted candidates based on their graduation marks shall be called for group discussion and personal interview for final selection. **For more details visit : [www.nirdpr.org.in](http://www.nirdpr.org.in) or Email: [cpgs.nird@gov.in](mailto:cpgs.nird@gov.in) ; contact: 040-24008442**  
i) Last date: 10.04.2022  
ii) Commencement of Course: July 2022

Advt. No. 05/2022



P&H (CPGS&DE)




## भारत सरकार

### रेल मंत्रालय

केन्द्रीकृत रोजगार सूचना सं. 01 / 2019 (NTPC)  
एवं RRC-01/2019(Level-1)

## सूचना



जैसा कि अभ्यर्थियों को ज्ञात है कि दिनांक 26.01.2022 की सूचना के द्वारा NTPC (CEN - 01/2019) के द्वितीय चरण की CBT परीक्षा जो 15 फरवरी 2022 से प्रारम्भ होनी थी तथा Level-1 (CEN – RRC-01/2019) के प्रथम चरण की CBT परीक्षा जो दिनांक 23 फरवरी 2022 से प्रारम्भ होने वाली थी, इन दोनों परीक्षाओं को स्थगित किया गया है। साथ ही एक उच्चाधिकार समिति का गठन किया गया जो इन दोनों परीक्षाओं के संबंध में अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा उठाए गए मुद्दे और संशयों की जांच करके अपनी अनुशंसा देगी। अभ्यर्थी अपने सुझावों को **Email ID – [rrbcommittee@railnet.gov.in](mailto:rrbcommittee@railnet.gov.in)** पर भेज सकते हैं।

इस संदर्भ में जो उम्मीदवार रेल भर्ती बोर्ड, पटना के माध्यम से अपना सुझाव / संशय उच्चाधिकार समिति के समक्ष भेजना चाहते हैं वे **Email ID – [rrbpatna@nic.in](mailto:rrbpatna@nic.in)** पर अपना रौल नम्बर (NTPC)/Registration Number (Level-1, CEN – RRC-01/2019) एवं नाम देते हुए अपना सुझाव दिनांक 16.02.2022 तक उपरोक्त Email के माध्यम से भेज सकते हैं।

जो अभ्यर्थी रेल भर्ती बोर्ड, पटना में आकर अपना सुझाव देना चाहते हैं वे दिनांक 16.02.2022 तक 10.00 बजे से 18.00 (संध्या 06.00) बजे तक प्रत्येक दिन (शनिवार एवं रविवार को भी) रेल भर्ती बोर्ड, पटना कार्यालय में आकर अपना सुझाव दे सकते हैं अथवा अध्यक्ष / उप सचिव से मिलकर अपना सुझाव नोट करा सकते हैं या **वरीय मंडल कार्मिक अधिकारी / मंडल रेल प्रबंधक कार्यालय दानापुर या मुगलसराय (पंडित दीन दयाल उपाध्याय)** में अपना सुझाव दे सकते हैं। समय-सीमा के अन्दर अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा दिए गए सुझावों को उपरोक्त उच्चाधिकार समिति के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया जाएगा।

**अध्यक्ष**  
**रेल भर्ती बोर्ड, पटना**  
**दिनांक : 27.01.2022**



**Lucknow:** Congress's Shekhpur (Badaun) candidate Farah Naem on Thursday resigned after harassment and use of derogatory remarks allegedly by district Congress president Onkar Singh. Singh denied the allegations. "He said Muslim women should not be given tickets though the party needs votes from all communities... He tried all means to threaten me and foil my candidature... As long as people like Onkar Singh are in the party, I will not fight election," Naem told reporters. **ENS**

Bengaluru. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) chief commissioner Gaurav Gupta "Case trend over the past week across all the eight zones has been reviewed and it was noticed that, there is about 30 per cent reduction in day-on-day case numbers across all zones. On Thursday, the state reported 38,083 cases, of which 17,717 were in Bengaluru.

75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

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- Transaction Based Report (TBR) may be downloaded instead of TDS certificate for deductions made from non-PAN non-residents, and reported in Form No. 27Q.

ISSUE TDS CERTIFICATE

Form 16 (on salary) for F.Y. 2021-22 and Form 16A (on income other than salary) for the quarter ended 31st December, 2021 by **15<sup>th</sup> February, 2022**. (Delay in issue of TDS certificate shall result in penalty of **Rs.100/-** per certificate for each day of default)

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- Enter your TAN, deductee's PAN and CIN of payment challan correctly in the TDS statement, so that TDS certificate in Form 16/16A can be generated from TRACES (Non quoting - of correct details may lead to levy of penalty)

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FROM PAGE ONE

PM summit

context also, our mutual cooperation has become even more important for regional security and stability.”

Participating in the virtual summit with Modi were Kazakhstan’s Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Uzbekistan’s Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan’s Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow and Sadyr Japarov of the Kyrgyz Republic.

These five leaders were scheduled to attend the Republic Day celebrations but had to call it off given the Omicron surge.

They decided to hold the next summit in 2024, and the venue will be decided later.

The summit, where Modi pitched for a roadmap for the next 30 years, adopted the “Delhi declaration” that flagged a set of take-aways: a summit every two years; regular meetings between Foreign Ministers and Trade Ministers; a joint working group on Afghanistan; joint counter-terrorism exercises; a group to operationalise the use of Chabahar port by all five countries; a secretariat for India-Central Asia in Delhi; and bringing Indian hospitals and universities to the Central Asian countries.

The summit came two days after China hosted these leaders at its own meeting with Central Asian leaders on January 25. At that meeting, said to have been swiftly organised following India’s announcement on January 19, China’s President Xi Jinping offered \$500 million in assistance to the region and vowed to strengthen trade.

Modi underlined the three main objectives of India’s summit: to emphasise the centrality of the region to India’s vision of an “integrated and stable extended neighbourhood”; to establish a framework of regular interactions among various stakeholders” and a shared commitment to a “peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan.”

The Delhi declaration reaffirmed the importance of UNSC Resolution 2593 (2021) which unequivocally demands that Afghanistan territory not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing terrorist acts and called for concerted action against all terrorist groups, including those sanctioned by the UNSC.

Spelling out the broad “regional consensus” on Afghanistan, the statement underlined the need for a “representative and inclusive government,” providing immediate humanitarian aid “preserving the rights of women, children and other national ethnic groups and minorities.”

‘Open schools’

the current context has the risk of Covid infection.

“The risk to children’s mental health and development by not going to schools is far greater than their risk of having anything to do with Covid-19. In fact, I would ar-

gue if I were to simply calculate, the risk of a child from Covid-19 has always been not much greater than the risk of going to Leh. So, if you don’t worry too much about that (going to Leh), then there is no reason to worry too much about this,” Agrawal said in response to a question on whether it was safe to send children to school.

He said the situation that India is currently in — high rates of vaccination, high levels of immunity, and low risk of severe disease or deaths from Omicron — it is advisable for people to “get on with their lives” with some precautions. “Open the schools. That would be top on the list of my priorities,” he said.

Agrawal said the third wave had most likely peaked in several big cities, and was likely to plateau very soon at the national level as well. “In the metro cities, it is getting over in many places... My impression is that by early February, the true peak and decline would start for the whole of India,” Agrawal said during an hour-long conversation with Amitabh Sinha, Resident Editor (Pune), *The Indian Express*.

He warned that it would be wrong to consider the latest Omicron variant as a “natural vaccine”, because it was continuing to cause hospitalisations and deaths.

Punjab CM face

Gandhi added that both CM Charanjit Singh Channi and PCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu had told him that the question paramount in Punjab was ‘who would lead the Congress in the state’. Both are the top contenders for the post.

Gandhi’s comments came moments after Channi and Sidhu both made a case for themselves in speeches ahead of him, at an event in Jalandhar.

Gandhi’s remarks also followed hours after rumour mills were set abuzz by the absence of five prominent Congress MPs during his visit to the Golden Temple. The MPs who stayed away were Manish Tewari, Jasbir Singh Dimpa, Ranveet Bittu, Mohd Sadiq and Preneet Kaur.

Claiming the party firmly united, Gandhi said: “Both Sidhu and Channi told me that two people cannot lead, only one can lead, and assured that whoever leads, the other will put all his strength behind him...”

He added: “If the party, our workers and Punjab want this, we will take a decision on the CM face and the right person will lead the state... Media people call it the chief ministerial candidate.”

Channi said he would not sacrifice the party’s interests for any post. “I have come up from the streets to this position. I don’t need any post. You choose anyone, I will stand by that person. But announce one face,” he said. Sidhu, who was the first to speak, also said that the face who will “implement Punjab’s agenda” should be made clear.

FULL REPORTS ON  
www.indianexpress.com

PLEAS TO CRIMINALISE MARITAL RAPE

Social aspects will have to be considered: NGO to HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

MEN WELFARE Trust (MWT), one of the NGOs opposing the case seeking criminalisation of marital rape, on Thursday argued before Delhi High Court that foreign jurisdictions have preferred to call such an act “spousal sexual violence” to try and protect the institution of marriage so that there are “no deleterious consequences” or “psychological effects” of the word “rape” being used in the context of marriage.

“My clients are certainly not against recognising spousal sexual violence. They are saying it

merits a separate and slightly special treatment, which the legislature has already done. In addition, the special treatment has been accorded to it in other jurisdictions also,” advocate Sai Deepak, who represented MWT, told the division bench of Justices Rajiv Shakdher and C Hari Shankar.

MWT argued that the question involved is a social issue that is couched in legal language because it relates to a marital institution. “In the context of civil relationship and marital relationship, to say that this has no social impact or is not a social issue would be to truncate the entirety of the particular position. Social aspects would have to be considered,” Deepak submitted.

ATLAS varsity to offer job-oriented fresh courses

Mumbai: With an initial funding of Rs 150 crore from upGrad, ATLAS SkillTech University in Mumbai shared its growth path for coming years and said it aimed at offering employment-oriented new-age courses focusing on emerging trends. With critical and future-ready courses, such as design and creativity, digital content and gamification and media and communication, the institute is creating a curriculum that is a combination of academic excellence and experiential learning.

Ronnie Screwala, co-founder and chairperson of upGrad, said, “Our vision is to see ATLAS in the top five universities. We are committed to upskill our young minds for the careers of tomorrow.” ENS



**RAILWAY RECRUITMENT BOARD**  
Govt. of India (Ministry of Railways)  
Railway Colony, Near Railway Station, Chandigarh



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**NOTICE**  
Information Regarding Outreach Camp at RRB Office/Chandigarh  
CEN 01/2019 (NTPC) & CEN RRC 01/2019 (Level-1)

A high power committee has been formed to look into the concerns and doubts raised by candidates in regard to result of 1<sup>st</sup> stage Computer Based Test (CBT-1) of Centralized Employment Notification CEN 01/2019 of Non Technical Popular Categories (NTPC) issued by Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) on 14-15<sup>th</sup>, January 2022 and also Suggestions for the CEN RRC 01/2019 (Level-1) Exam. Concerned candidates can visit RRB/Chandigarh in person for interaction during office hours on any working days upto 16/02/2022 for their Concern/Suggestions/Doubts if any and if this is not possible then candidate can submit their Concern/Suggestions/Doubts to the following E-mail upto 16/02/2022  
rrbcommittee@gmailnet.gov.in Or rrbcdg@railnet.gov.in  
The candidates are advised to submit their Concern/Suggestions/Doubts in the following format:

Name of Candidate	CEN No.	Applied RRB	Roll No.	Registration No.	Score of CBT 1 (NTPC)	Concerns Raised
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Date: 27.01.2022Chairman, Railway Recruitment Board, Chandigarh



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73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day, 26 January 2022





PARAM VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL

- LT GEN ANANT PRASAD SINGH, AVSM, ARMY AIR DEFENCE (RETD)
- LT GEN PARAMJIT SINGH SANGHA, UYSM, AVSM, SM, INFANTRY (RETD)
- LT GEN YOGESH KUMAR JOSHI, UYSM, AVSM, Vrc, SM, INFANTRY
- LT GEN MANOJ PANDE, AVSM, VSM, ENGINEERS
- LT GEN MANMOHAN JEET SINGH KAHLOON, AVSM, ARMoured CORPS
- LT GEN JAI SINGH NAIN, AVSM, SM, INFANTRY
- LT GEN RAJEEV SIROHI, UYSM, AVSM, VSM, INFANTRY
- LT GEN RAKESH KUMAR ANAND, AVSM, SM, VSM, SIGNALS (RETD)
- LT GEN SURENDAR KUMAR PRASHAR, AVSM, VSM, INFANTRY (RETD)
- LT GEN KANWAL JEET SINGH DHILLON, UYSM, YSM, VSM, INFANTRY
- LT GEN SAVNEET SINGH, YSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY
- LT GEN SANJIV RAI, AVSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY
- LT GEN MANIK KUMAR DAS, SM\*\*, VSM, INFANTRY
- LT GEN SUKHDHEEP SANGWAN, AVSM, SM\*\*, INFANTRY (RETD)
- LT GEN JOY CHATTERJEE, VSM, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS (RETD)
- LT GEN MADHURI KANITKAR, AVSM, VSM, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS (RETD)
- LT GEN NANDA KISHORE SAHOO, VSM, ARMY DENTAL CORPS
- MAJ GEN SHAILJANAND JHA, VSM, ARMoured CORPS (RETD)
- SUB NEERAJ CHOPRA, VSM, INFANTRY

UTTAM YUDH SEVA MEDAL

- LT GEN DEVENDRA PRATAP PANDEY, AVSM, VSM, INFANTRY
- LT GEN RAVIN KHOSLA, AVSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY
- LT GEN JOHNSON P MATHEW, AVSM, VSM, INFANTRY
- LT GEN P GOPALAKRISHNA MENON, AVSM, INFANTRY

ATI VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL

- LT GEN RAJENDRA KUMAR BANSIWAL, INTELLIGENCE CORPS
- LT GEN RAJ KUMAR SHARMA, ARTILLERY
- LT GEN PREM PRASHAD MALHOTRA, VSM, ENGINEERS
- LT GEN BASANT KUMAR REPSWAL, VSM, ARMY SERVICE CORPS
- LT GEN AJAI KUMAR SINGH, YSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY
- LT GEN SURINDER SINGH MAHAL, VSM, ARMoured CORPS
- LT GEN M UNNIKISHNAN NAIR, SM, SIGNALS
- LT GEN MANOJ KUMAR MAGO, YSM, SM\*\*, MECHANISED INFANTRY
- LT GEN MV SUCHINDRA KUMAR, YSM\*\*, VSM, INFANTRY
- LT GEN KARANBIR SINGH BRAR, ARMoured CORPS
- LT GEN SUBRAMANIAN MOHAN, SM, VSM, AAD
- LT GEN DHIRAJ SETHI, ARMoured CORPS
- LT GEN REDDY VENKATESHA GA, SC, VSM, INFANTRY
- LT GEN DEVENDRA SHARMA, SM, ARMoured CORPS
- MAJ GEN ARVIND BHATIA, INFANTRY (RETD)
- MAJ GEN U SURESH KUMAR, YSM, VSM, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN NUDURUPATI DURGA PRASAD, VSM, MECHANISED INFANTRY (RETD)
- MAJ GEN HARIHARAN DHARMARAJAN, SM\*\*, VSM, ENGINEERS
- MAJ GEN ANIL KUMAR KASHIM, VSM, ARTILLERY
- MAJ GEN SANJEEV KUMAR SENGAR, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN VIVEK KASHYAP, VSM, ARMoured CORPS
- MAJ GEN RAJEEV PURI, VSM, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN GAJENDRA JOSHI, SM, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN VM BHUVANA KRISHNAN, SM, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN GULJEET SINGH JAMWAL, SM\*\*, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN RASHMI BALI, SM, VSM, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN MANISH MOHAN EERRY, SM, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN PRAVEEN KUMAR AIYR, VSM, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN HARJEET SINGH SAHI, VSM, SM, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN DHEERENDRA SINGH KUSHWAH, SM, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN ASHOK KUMAR JINDAL, YSM, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
- MAJ GEN R RAVIKUMAR, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
- BRIG ARVINDER SINGH, ENGINEERS

SHAURYA CHAKRA

- NR SUB SREEJITH M, SM, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS)
- HAV ANIL KUMAR TOMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)
- HAV KASHIRAY BAMANALLI, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)
- HAV PINKU KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)
- SEP MARUPROLU JASWANTH KUMAR REDDY, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS)
- RFN RAKESH SHARMA, ASSAM RIFLES

YUDH SEVA MEDAL

- MAJ GEN VIRESH PRATAP SINGH KAUSHIK, SM, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN VIRENDRA VATS, SM, VSM, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN VINOD TOM MATHEW, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN ROHIT SAWHNEY, INFANTRY
- BRIG KOLANKARA MOHAN NAIR, SM, INFANTRY
- BRIG HARDAMAN SINGH GILL, INFANTRY
- BRIG ROHIN BAWA, INFANTRY
- BRIG GURPAL SINGH, SM, INFANTRY
- COL SAKET BHARDWAJ, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- COL PRADEEP DUGGAL, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES

BAR TO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

- MAJ BHARAT SINGH JHALA, SM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ JAGTAR JOHAL, SM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- HAV NASEER AHMAD MIR, SM, TERRITORIAL ARMY
- SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)
- LT COL HEMANT KUMAR SHARMA, ARMY AVIATION
- LT COL NEERAJ FRENCH, INTELLIGENCE CORPS
- LT COL SAHIL SHARMA, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- LT COL VIJAY PRATAP SINGH, ARMY AVIATION
- LT COL VIKRANT SHARMA, ARMY AVIATION
- MAJ VIPIN KUMAR GAUR, INFANTRY
- MAJ JUSTIN JOSEPH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ AJAY DHANIK, ENGINEERS, ASSAM RIFLES
- MAJ HARVINDER SINGH, MECHANISED INFANTRY
- MAJ AZHAR MAJID, INFANTRY
- MAJ SAHIL KERNI, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ ADITYA KUMAR, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ RAVI RAJAN, INFANTRY
- MAJ RAHUL SHARMA, ARTILLERY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ HIMANSHU PAL, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ ANMOL CHOUDHARY, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ AMBESH CHARAN, MECHANISED, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ GURPREET SINGH SUDAN, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ YOGEN SHARMA, SIGNALS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ RANDEER SINGH WALDIA, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES

- MAJ HARVINDER SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ PRASHANT SHUKLA, ARMY SERVICE CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ RAHUL JEENDER, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ HARKIRATH SINGH, ARMoured CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- CAPT ARCHIT SHARMA, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- CAPT ROHIT P NAIR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- CAPT ATUL DHANKAR, SIGNALS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- CAPT ANIRUDH JOSHI, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- CAPT LAVANYA SHARMA, EME, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SUB DHARMENDER SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SUB JASBIR SINGH, INFANTRY
- NB SUB KHEKUTO I SUMI, INTELLIGENCE CORPS
- HAV MOHAMMED SALEEM AKHOON, TERRITORIAL ARMY (POSTHUMOUS)
- HAV SUKHA RAM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- NK HARIOM, INFANTRY
- NK AJAY KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- NK KRISHAN KUMAR PAYALA, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- NK AJIT SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- NK RAKESH KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- NK MUKESH SINGH, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- NK RASHAL SINGH, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- NK MANOHER LAL, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- NK GAURAV YADAV, ARTILLERY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- NK NISHANT SHARMA, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)
- NK JAGJEET SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- NK SURJIT SINGH, INFANTRY
- NK DESHAMUKH NILESH MALHARRAV, INFANTRY
- NK SANDEEP SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- L/NK VIKASH KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- L/NK VARUN CHOUDHARY, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- L/NK REETESH SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- L/NK NEKEE RAM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- L/NK PYARE LAL, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP NADIM IQBAL SHAH, TERRITORIAL ARMY
- SEP RAMDEV GURJAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP JASWINDER SINGH, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP LALIT RANA, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
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- GNR KAUSENDER SINGH, ARTILLERY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP GORLA SURENDRA, ARMoured CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP HARPREET SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP MANISH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP AMARDEEP SINGH, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS)
- GDR RAVI KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- GDR VISHNU, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP DUNDAGE ANNASABHE NINGAPPA, INFANTRY
- SEP DHARA SINGH GURJAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP ABHISHEK SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP KAMAL SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP SONU KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP PUSHPENDRA SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP MANDEEP KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP MAHIPAL, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP KRISHAN, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP SACHIAN, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP RAVI KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP LAXMAN, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)
- SEP JITENDRA YADAV, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP CHANDAN SINGH KANWAL, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP AMARBIR SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- GNR NIDHEESH EN, ARTILLERY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES

SENA MEDAL (DISTINGUISHED)

- MAJ GEN SANDEEP SINGH, VSM, ARMoured CORPS
- MAJ GEN SANJAY PURI, VSM, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN VIJAY SINGH, VSM, ARMoured CORPS
- MAJ GEN ALOK JOSHI, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN SUNEET MALIK, SIGNALS
- MAJ GEN MANJEET SINGH, SIGNALS
- MAJ GEN AJEY SETHI, VSM, ARTILLERY
- MAJ GEN SANDEEP JAIN, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN VIJAY BHASKARAN NAIR, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN SUKRITI SINGH DAHIA, VSM, ENGINEERS
- MAJ GEN VIPUL SHINGHAL, ARMoured CORPS
- MAJ GEN PUNIT MEHTA, ARTILLERY
- MAJ GEN RAJIV GADIHOKE, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN SUDHIR KUMAR SHARMA, VSM, ARTILLERY
- MAJ GEN SANJIV SHARMA, SIGNALS
- MAJ GEN SANJAY HOODA, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN HARJIT PAL SINGH HANSI, MECHANISED INFANTRY
- BRIG AKASHDEEP BHANOT, ARMoured CORPS
- BRIG R PREM RAJ, VSM, MECHANISED INFANTRY
- BRIG SANDEEP S SHARDA, VSM, INFANTRY
- BRIG KRISHNAN MAHESH, INFANTRY
- BRIG MAHIPAL SINGH RATHORE, VSM, INFANTRY
- BRIG VIVEK SINGH THAKUR, INFANTRY
- BRIG SANJEEV DHAR, INFANTRY
- BRIG VIJAY MAHADEVAN, INFANTRY
- BRIG NANGARE PARAG KESHAVRAO, INFANTRY
- BRIG VIJAYKUMAR R JAGTAP, INFANTRY
- BRIG HARBINDER SINGH BRAR, VSM, INFANTRY
- BRIG VIJAY CHAHAR, INFANTRY
- BRIG SANDEEP THAREJA, VSM, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
- COL KAUSTUBH ULHAS KEKRE, INFANTRY
- COL NITIN THAPA, INFANTRY
- COL RANVEER SINGH JAMWAL, YSM\*\*, INFANTRY
- COL AMIT KUMAR DAS, INFANTRY
- COL NEERAJ MISHRA, INFANTRY
- COL ANADI SINGH, INFANTRY
- COL MOHIT PARASHAR, INFANTRY
- COL JAGDEEP SINGH, INFANTRY
- COL VIKAS MARWAH, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
- MAJ AJAY KUMAR SINGH, INFANTRY

BAR TO VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL

- BRIG AJAI SINGH NEGI, VSM, INFANTRY
- BRIG KIRANINDER SINGH BRAR, VSM, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
- COL AVNEESH SINGH, INFANTRY
- VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL
- MAJ GEN KULBHUSHAN HANUMANT GAWAS, SIGNALS
- MAJ GEN ATULMALAI PET VAIDYANATHAN RAMESH, EME
- MAJ GEN NAVNEET SINGH SARNA, SM, ARTILLERY
- MAJ GEN HARSH CHHIBBER, ARMY SERVICE CORPS
- MAJ GEN DINESH HOODA, INFANTRY
- MAJ GEN DAMODAR VASANTH MAHESH, ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
- BRIG AJAY BASANTKUMAR SIBAL, ENGINEERS (RETD)
- BRIG YOGESH CHAUDHARY, ARTILLERY
- BRIG BIMAL MONGA, ARTILLERY
- BRIG CHARNJIT SINGH MANN, ARMoured CORPS

- BRIG MRK RAJESH PANICKER, INFANTRY
- BRIG YOGESH KUMAR AHUJA, ENGINEERS
- BRIG SUDHISH KUMAR JAINI, ARTILLERY
- BRIG MANINDER SINGH, ARTILLERY
- BRIG NAVIN VARMA, ARMY AIR DEFENCE
- BRIG CHODISETTI SIVA SURYA PRAKASH, ENGINEERS
- BRIG RAJEEV NAGYAL, SM, INFANTRY
- BRIG ABHIJIT MITRA, SM, INFANTRY
- BRIG AMIT NAUTIYAL, SM, INFANTRY
- BRIG HARSH VARDHAN SINGH, MECHANISED INFANTRY
- BRIG KS GEORGE, JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
- BRIG KANWARJIT SINGH, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
- BRIG ATUL SETHI, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
- BRIG VISHAL, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
- BRIG J MUTHUKRISHNAN, SM, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
- BRIG BK VARGHESE, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
- BRIG MOHINDER PANWAR, ARMY DENTAL CORPS
- COL PK SEETARAM, ENGINEERS
- COL KUNDEEP MAGOTRA, ARMY SERVICE CORPS
- COL SANJEEV SAHARAN, ENGINEERS
- COL RAJESH BISHT, INFANTRY
- COL SANGRAM SINGH KATOCH, ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS
- COL RAKESH YADAV, MECHANISED INFANTRY
- COL NITIN SEHGAL, ARMY SERVICE CORPS
- COL NISHANT SHARMA, MECHANISED INFANTRY
- COL DEEPAK SISODIA, EME
- COL KIRAN NARAYAN KULKARNI, INTELLIGENCE CORPS
- COL SUMEET ABROL, SM, INFANTRY
- COL ROHIT YADAV, INFANTRY
- COL K SALIL KUMAR, INFANTRY
- COL AJAY LONDHE, SM, INFANTRY
- COL ANAND MANWAL, INFANTRY
- COL VIKRAMJIT SINGH KAHLOON, ARMoured CORPS
- COL MANDEEP SINGH DHILLON, INFANTRY
- COL VIVEK PASUPATHY, INFANTRY
- COL VIKAS KUMARIA, EME
- COL MANISH SEHGAL, INFANTRY
- COL SAMINDER SINGH, MECHANISED INFANTRY
- COL ABHIMANYU SHEKHAWAT, ARMoured CORPS
- COL MANISH KUMAR, ENGINEERS
- COL AMIT KHANNA, ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS
- COL SURENDER KUMAR, INFANTRY
- COL PANKAJ RAWAT, INFANTRY
- COL SANJEEV SINGH PAWAIYA, INFANTRY
- COL PARTHASARATHY PATRI, INFANTRY
- COL RAMACHANDRAN SRIKANT, SM, INFANTRY
- COL DEEPAK JOSHI, ARTILLERY
- COL TARUNENDRA PRATAP SINGH, INFANTRY
- COL KAMLESH KUMAR SINGH, INFANTRY
- COL KAUSTUBH DHAGAT, INFANTRY
- COL ABHISHEK CHAUHAN, INFANTRY
- COL DIGAMBER SINGH NEGI, INFANTRY
- COL KARAN SAGAR, SM, INFANTRY
- COL JAGPREET SINGH MIDHA, INFANTRY
- COL MANISH KUMAR, INFANTRY
- COL VIKASH KUMAR, INFANTRY
- COL SURESH PANDALANGHAT, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
- COL DRONACHARYA ROUTH, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
- LT COL ANEEL SAROTRA, INFANTRY
- LT COL JADHAV MAHESH VAISHNU, ARMoured CORPS
- LT COL VISHAL SHARMA, ARMY AIR DEFENCE
- LT COL MADAN CHAUDHARY, GENERAL SERVICE
- LT COL MEHROTRA SHIKHA SUSHIL KUMAR, INTELLIGENCE CORPS

MAJ VIKAS MALIK, APTC


MENTION-IN-DESPATCHES

- COL DHARMENDRA YADAV, SM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- COL SAMEER BALWANT GUJAR, SM, INFANTRY
- COL SOMEN PARIDA, ARTILLERY
- COL BHEEMAJAH PS, SM\*\*, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- COL RAJENDRA KUMAR, INFANTRY
- LT COL RAHUL JAIN, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- MAJ ROHIT KUMAR UPRETI, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- CAPT ARIHARA SUDHAN, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- CAPT HARI OM KUMAR, SM, INFANTRY
- SUB RAJENDRA SINGH, GRENADIERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- HAV DEEPA SINGH GURJAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- L/HF VEERENDRA KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- L/DVR NAVEEN BHAKSAHB BHAKSARAO, ARMoured CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- NK JASWANT SINGH, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- NK JITENDRA SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- GNR KARAN SINGH PANWAR, ARTILLERY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP AJAY KUMAR, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- SEP ZAHMINGSANGA, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES
- COL ROHIT MUKHERJEE, MECHANISED INFANTRY
- COL VINOD KUMAR ADHIKARI, INFANTRY
- COL NITIN MITTAL, INFANTRY
- COL RAJEEV KATOCH, INFANTRY
- COL ARUPAM CHAKRABORTY, INFANTRY
- COL KUNAL RATHIE, INFANTRY
- COL JATIN GULERI, INFANTRY
- COL IQBAL SINGH, INFANTRY
- COL RAHUL MITTAL, INFANTRY
- COL AJAYPAL SINGH, INFANTRY
- COL GAURAV SETHI, INFANTRY
- CAPT AMRIT KARKI, INFANTRY
- HAV SUDHEESH KUMAR S, ENGINEERS (POSTHUMOUS)
- NK RAMARAO VANJARAPU, ENGINEERS (POSTHUMOUS)
- COL KUMAR ADARSH, INFANTRY, ASSAM RIFLES
- MAJ VAIBHAV JINDAL, ARMY AVIATION
- SUB RM SHANKER, ENGINEERS (POSTHUMOUS)
- MAJ ANKIT THAKUR, ARTILLERY, ASSAM RIFLES
- MAJ SIDHARTH SINGH, ARMoured, ASSAM RIFLES
- HAV SHIJU VARGHESE, ASSAM RIFLES
- L/NK MUSHTAQ AHMED MANGRAL, ASSAM RIFLES
- COL AMIT BISHT, SM, INFANTRY
- COL SAKET RAWAT, MECHANISED INFANTRY
- COL NITESH KUMAR, INFANTRY
- LT COL RANBIR CHOUDHURY, INFANTRY
- MAJ DIGVIJAY THAKUR, INFANTRY



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# 13 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Dash of region, pinch of saffron

What lies behind louder acrimony between Shiv Sena and BJP in Maharashtra: Sena's blend of Hindutva and regional pride is making BJP jittery



GIRISH KUBER

A NEW WAR of words between the BJP and the Shiv Sena, partners who once had the longest surviving alliance, has brought an important dimension to the fore in an already heated political field: To halt the BJP's nationalism agenda, religion coupled with regionalism could come in handy for various regional outfits.

This is the fact that comes out of the recent confrontation between the Shiv Sena and the BJP, triggered by Maharashtra chief minister and Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray's statement dubbing the BJP's Hindutva as "phoney". Of late, his party's consistent effort has been to paint the BJP as "anti-Maharashtra". The BJP retaliated in equally strong words with former chief minister Devendra Fadnis questioning the Sena's commitment to the Hindu cause, besides questioning its loyalty to the state's welfare. Having spent two decades together under the saffron flag, one wonders why the two former partners are becoming increasingly bitter about each other. The answer has little to do with the Sena thwarting the BJP's plan to retain power in the state after the 2019 state assembly election. Neither does it have anything to do with the Sena's growing ambition and the BJP's refusal to accept this reality.

The answer lies in the BJP's recent realisation that if allowed to succeed, the Maharashtra model could become a template for other states and regional parties to follow. In order to counter the BJP's nationalism, the Sena is trying to portray it as "anti-Maharashtra". To underline this, the party is using every possible trick, from talking about the BJP's non-Marathi Mumbai head, Mangal Prabhat Lodha, to painting the BJP's anti-government agitation in the state on various issues as its bias against Maharashtra. This is the Sena's deliberate attempt to invoke regional pride to take on the BJP's national pride.

A year after the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance made a surprising deal to deprive the BJP of power in Maharashtra, the Delhi and West Bengal assembly elections witnessed similar tactics being used by the Aam Aadmi Party and the Trinamool Congress, respectively. In Delhi, the AAP's Arvind Kejriwal resorted to singing the Hanuman Chalisa and Mamata chanted the Chandi Path to showcase their Hindu credentials. In both elections, the blend of religion and regionalism neutralised the BJP. In Tamil Nadu, the DMK used a similar tactic to foil the BJP's plan to make headway in the southern state by piggybacking on the AIADMK.

Compared to these two, however, the wound inflicted by the Sena is much bigger and deeper and more difficult, if not impossible, to heal. In losing the Sena, the BJP lost not only an ally as well as power in the state of Maharashtra, but it has, perhaps inadvertently, also created a space for another player to stake a claim on what was so far the BJP's singular hold on the Hindutva pie. The dawning of this truth has made the BJP edgier and its frustration can be seen ahead of the five crucial state assembly polls. It is a challenge that is larger than merely winning or losing one state.

The question is: Could this phenomenon be compared with the Congress that slowly ceded its space to other secular parties? This began post-Emergency, with the rise of the Janata Party which was, incidentally, led by for-



B K CHATURVEDI

THERE ARE recent reports in the media about serious concerns of several state governments on Government of India's proposed move to amend the IAS service rules to meet the shortage of officers at various levels at the Centre. Under the current dispensation, officers opt for central deputation from the states voluntarily. The Centre then makes a selection from among these officers for posts which are vacant or are likely to be vacant in the near future. While doing so, it considers the suitability of the officer based on his/her past experience. Once the selection is finalised, orders are issued, requesting the state government to relieve the officer concerned. Each state has a certain quota beyond which its officers are not accepted by the Centre.

In the last decade, there has been a gradual decline in the number of officers who opt for central deputation. While in the 1960s, there were a number of IAS officers, including at under secretary level, it is increasingly getting difficult for the central government to get officers even at the joint secretary level.

Generally, of the total cadre strength of the states, about 25-30 per cent used to be on central deputation. Currently, less than 10 per cent are working in various central ministries. According to certain reports, in states



C R Sasikumar

mer Congressman Jayaprakash Narayan. The assassination of Indira Gandhi and, later, of Rajiv Gandhi, expedited the process that resulted in the rise of Congress offshoots in various states, the most recent being the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party in Maharashtra. Each of them in reality holds a sphere of influence limited to one state. But all of them put together were big enough to shrink the Congress's space at the national level. It took the Congress a few years to realise that its secular space is slowly slipping away.

Ditto with the BJP — it took defeats in a few state assembly elections for the party to register something similar. It all began in Maharashtra, where the Sena didn't give up the Hindutva plank and still joined hands with the Congress and the NCP. The BJP didn't take the Sena seriously initially and looked at its alliance as a desperate attempt by power-hungry parties to come together. It also thought that the new experiment would be short-lived and would fall apart under the weight of its own contradictions. But it hasn't. The BJP expected the Congress and the NCP to object to the Sena's pro-Hindu past. But that was not to happen. Both parties from the secular camp adjusted to this new reality and accommodated the Sena, ignoring its communal history.

The first alarm bell rang in the BJP's camp after Thackeray visited Ayodhya upon completing 100 days of his three-party government in 2021. While the BJP was yet to come to terms with this reality, Thackeray categorically stated, "Hindutva is not the BJP. We are all equally proud Hindus." At Ayodhya, Thackeray

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announced a donation of Rs 1 crore from the Sena trust for the construction of the Ram temple. Incidentally this was his third visit, the first two being in 2018 and 2019 when he was with the BJP. Now, the Sena's stand has created a situation where, for the first time in Maharashtra, what was hitherto seen as the BJP's right over the Hindutva vote bank is possibly being challenged.

This is precisely the reason why the acrimony between the two is getting louder. And unlike other parties which dabble in "soft Hindutva", the Sena's version is as masculine as the BJP believes its Hindutva is. Unlike the Congress, the Sena never wasted time in articulating the difference between Hinduism and Hindutva. It brazenly showcased its role in bringing down the Babri mosque. After all it was the Sena that gave India its first *Hindu hriday samrat* in its founder, the late Bal Thackeray.

The irony is that it was the BJP that accommodated the Shiv Sena in the Hindutva fold after it lost its Marathi plank in the 1990s, thanks to the 10-year-long mill workers' strike which drove the Marathi *manoo*s out of Mumbai in large numbers. The Sena's role in that strike was always in question. Rejuvenated by the BJP's Hindutva politics, it's the same Sena that is now bringing back its time-tested regionalism with a dash of religion to make the cocktail even more volatile and, in the bargain, defeat the BJP's unblended use of religion.

The writer is editor, Loksatta

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The services and plight of the country's largely non-Muslim sanitary workers have remained unseen and unheard for far too long." —DAWN

## Misreading jurisdiction

Writ remedies are constitutional safeguards for the citizenry. In Alapan Bandyopadhyay case, Supreme Court has narrowed their scope



SHREENATH A KHEMKA

HENRY FORD HAD once famously quipped that a customer could have a car of any colour they wanted, as long as the colour was black. It seems for former West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay this statement rings true today.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court set aside the Calcutta High Court ruling which had quashed the Central Administrative Tribunal's (CAT) decision in the former bureaucrat's case. The tribunal had transferred Bandyopadhyay's application from its Kolkata Bench to its Delhi Bench. Bandyopadhyay was charge-sheeted by the Centre for not attending a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in May last year. He had approached CAT's Kolkata Bench against the chargesheet and the case was admitted for hearing. The Centre then petitioned the CAT's chairperson at New Delhi to transfer the matter out of Kolkata, which was swiftly allowed. Aggrieved by this order, Bandyopadhyay filed a writ petition in the Kolkata High Court. A division bench of the court ruled in the former chief secretary's favour. However, the Supreme Court has now allowed the Centre's appeal and ruled that the Calcutta High Court lacked the jurisdiction to entertain Bandyopadhyay's writ petition.

The apex court drew on its 1997 judgment in *L Chandra Kumar* by selectively referencing a quotation in the verdict: "All decisions of these tribunals will, however, be subject to scrutiny before a Division Bench of the high court within whose jurisdiction the concerned tribunal falls". Since it was the CAT chairperson's order that was under challenge, and because the chairperson was assigned to the tribunal's Principal Bench at Delhi, the Supreme Court concluded that the matter was under the jurisdiction of the Delhi High Court, and not the Calcutta High Court.

Article 226 of the Constitution confers upon high courts the power to issue writs against an authority. In 1950, Article 226 limited the jurisdiction of a high court to issue writs only unto authorities resident within its territory. It was soon realised that territorially restricting the writ jurisdiction forced all cases against the central government before the Punjab and Haryana High Court — it was only in 1966 that the Delhi High Court was established.

Thereafter in 1963, Clause 1-A was inserted under Article 226 to allow for extra-territorial jurisdiction so that a high court could issue writs to authorities resident outside its territory if the cause of action

arose within its territory. Later, in 1977, Clause 1-A was renumbered as Clause 2. Thus the "jurisdiction" of a High Court fell cumulatively under Articles 226 (1) and 226 (2).

The CAT was set up under Article 323A of the Constitution by the Administrative Tribunals Act 1985 to adjudicate disputes between the central government and its employees. Section 28 excluded the jurisdiction of all courts, except the Supreme Court. It was here that *L Chandra Kumar* ruled that the writ jurisdiction of the high courts under Article 226 pertained to the basic structure of the Constitution and could not be short-circuited by way of a statute or constitutional amendment. Given that the high courts' cumulative jurisdiction under Article 226 had been preserved, it was constitutionally impermissible to restrict the jurisdiction to only Article 226 (1), and jettison Article 226 (2). This was precisely the undoing in Bandyopadhyay, wherein the Supreme Court misread "jurisdiction" in *L Chandra Kumar* as "territory".

The Supreme Court held that because the CAT chairperson was resident in New Delhi, he was not amenable to the Calcutta High Court's jurisdiction. While such a conclusion sufficed the inquiry under Article 226 (1), the same was an incomplete exercise. The Supreme Court did not realise that "jurisdiction" could not be equated to "territory" in light of Article 226 (2), which specifically provisioned for extra-territorial jurisdiction. The court was wrong in making no inquiry to locate the jurisdiction under Article 226 (2). In fact, not a single line in any case from *L Chandra Kumar* to *Roger Mathew* (2019) has adverted to washing away the extra-territorial jurisdiction under Article 226 (2), whilst selectively preserving the jurisdiction under Article 226 (1).

The judgment in Bandyopadhyay is also problematic because it created disparate writ remedies against tribunals under Articles 323A and 323B, and other tribunals and authorities. It must be kept in mind that not all tribunals, including consumer tribunals and company tribunals, have been provisioned for under Articles 323A and 323B. While for other tribunals and authorities, a litigant could locate writ remedies both under Articles 226 (1) and 226, for tribunals under Articles 323A and 323B, a litigant would be foreclosed from locating a writ remedy under Article 226 (2) consequent to Bandyopadhyay. Such compartmentalisation of a high court's writ jurisdiction contravenes the constitutional design.

Writ remedies are constitutional safeguards for the citizenry. Despite legislative and judicial efforts to expand and preserve these remedies, it seems that the Supreme Court in Bandyopadhyay has eaten into them. Unfortunately, the law has regressed to the 1950s era, and in such a regression the Constitution may have met Ford.

The writer is an advocate at the Punjab and Haryana High Court

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### UNSAVOURY

I AM DISTRESSED at the unseemly controversy over the well-deserved Padma award to my good friend Ghulam Nabi Azad. These national awards should not become a subject of inter-party controversy, far less intra-party controversy. I have known Ghulam Nabi for half a century since he started his political career as an active participant in my second election campaign for Lok Sabha from the Udhampur constituency to which he belongs. Since then I have seen him rise through sheer dint of hard work, dedication and administrative ability to becoming a Cabinet minister with P V Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh. As a leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, he played a positive and constructive role in our parliamentary system. Earlier, he had become the first chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir from the Jammu region, and his short stint is remembered positively in both the regions. If one of our colleagues is honoured, he should be greeted with warm appreciation not snide remarks.

Karan Singh, Delhi

### DO THE HOMEWORK

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The growing gap' (IE, January 25). The observation that the first wave of Covid and the lockdown led to stringent curbs on economic activity in urban areas, which resulted in job losses and loss of income for casual labour, petty traders and household workers is correct. The lockdown was clamped blindly. Had homework been done and appropriate meas-

ures adopted to avoid the catastrophe, the results would have been different.

L R Gupta, Lucknow

### COVID IRONY

THIS REFERS TO the article 'Plan, prepare, prevent' (IE, January 27). The author points out how the medical community must come together to plan an effective strategy to cope with any future crisis. People in all spheres must come together in this endeavour. The legal fraternity needs to prepare rules for better disaster management such that the right to medical assistance of the citizens is upheld. The engineers can use artificial intelligence and develop tools for effective mitigation and timely management of cases. Teachers must motivate students to help fellow beings. It's ironic that the coronavirus taught us to come together while maintaining physical distance.

Aerika Singh, Chandigarh

### CONGRESS'S WOES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Exodus and opening'. RPN Singh may not bring too much to the table for the BJP. But his departure sends a strong message to the Congress, especially the Gandhi family. Only a few days back, RPN Singh was made one of the election campaigners for UP. The list of all those who left Congress in the last few years is long. Priyanka Gandhi has admitted that they did not try to stop anyone. This reflects the sad state of affairs in the grand old party.

Bal Govind, Noida



## 14 THE WORLD

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi. Reuters

## SWITZERLAND

## UN urged to probe role of Raisi in 1988 killings

*Geneva:* Prominent former UN judges and investigators have called on UN human rights boss Michelle Bachelet to investigate the 1988 "massacre" of political prisoners in Iran, including the alleged role of its current president, Ebrahim Raisi, at that time. The open letter released on Thursday, seen by Reuters, was signed by some 460 people, including a former president of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Sang-Hyun Song, and Stephen Rapp, a former US ambassador for global criminal justice. Raisi, who took office in August, is under US sanctions over a past that includes what the US and activists say was his involvement as one of four judges who oversaw the 1988 killings. His office in Tehran had no comment on Thursday. **REUTERS**

## NORTH KOREA

## Two suspected missiles fired, 6th launch this year

*Seoul:* North Korea on Thursday fired two suspected ballistic missiles into the sea in its sixth round of weapons launches this month, South Korea's military said. Experts say North Korea's testing activity underscores an intent to pressure the Biden administration over long-stalled negotiations aimed at exchanging a release of crippling US-led sanctions. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the weapons, which were likely short-range, were launched five minutes apart from the eastern coastal town of Hamhung and flew 190km on an apogee of 20 km before landing at sea. **AP**

## JAPAN

## Fukushima radiation: Cancer patients file case

*Tokyo:* Six people who were children living in Fukushima at the time of the 2011 nuclear disaster and have since developed thyroid cancer filed a lawsuit Thursday demanding a utility pay compensation for their illnesses, which they say were triggered by massive radiation. The plaintiffs, now aged 17 to 27 years, are demanding a total of 616 million yen (\$5.4 million) from the Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, which runs the Fukushima nuclear plant. **AP**

## WHO staff complaint, email allege racism &amp; abuse in Asia

MARIA CHENG  
JANUARY 27

STAFFERS HAVE accused the top director of the World Health Organization in the Western Pacific of racist, unethical and abusive behaviour that has undermined the UN health agency's efforts to curb the coronavirus pandemic.

The allegations were laid out in an internal complaint filed in October and in an email last week sent by unidentified staff to WHO's senior leadership and its executive board and obtained by the AP. Two of the authors said over 30 current and former WHO officials were involved in writing the email.

The internal complaint and email describe a "toxic atmosphere" with "a culture of systemic bullying and public ridiculing" at WHO's Western Pacific headquarters in Manila, led by Dr. Takeshi Kasai, director of a vast region that includes China and Japan. The AP also has obtained recorded snippets of meetings where Kasai is heard making derogatory comments about staff based on nationality.

In an email to the AP, Kasai denied allegations of racism and unethical behaviour. "I ask a lot of myself, and our staff," he said. "This has particularly been the case during the Covid-19 response. But it should not result in people feeling disrespected."

However, an internal WHO message seen by the AP shows that in a meeting last week, Kasai ordered all his senior directors to "reject" the accusations in the email and to "totally support" him. **AP**



Arunkumar Nair, hailing from Kerala, was shifted to a general room in the hospital less than a month ago. VPS

## Indian frontline worker in UAE beats death, recovers

*Dubai:* A 38-year-old Indian frontline warrior in the UAE was on Thursday discharged from hospital after he made a miraculous recovery from Covid-19 that seriously damaged his lungs and left him in an unconscious state for six months.

Arunkumar M Nair, an OT technician who fought the pandemic on the frontlines, breathed with the support of an artificial lung during his half-year-long battle against Covid.

In honour of his service to the nation and his fighting spirit, VPS Healthcare, a multinational healthcare group, presented him with a financial aid of Rs 50 lakh.

His Emirati colleagues handed over him the financial assistance at a function organised at Burjeel Hospital in Abu Dhabi on Thursday to celebrate his miraculous recovery, according to the hospital statement.

The healthcare group will offer a job to his wife and will take up the expenses of the education of his child. Nair, hailing from Kerala, was shifted to a general room in the hospital less than a month ago.

"I do not remember anything. I know I had barely escaped from the jaws of death. It is the strength of the prayers of my family, friends, and hundreds of others that I am alive today," Nair said. **PTI**

## MODERNA BEGINS STUDY OF BOOSTER

MODERNA HAS begun a study of a booster shot designed specifically to fend off the Omicron variant, the company said on Wednesday. Moderna also announced the results of a small laboratory study suggesting that the protection its authorised booster shot provides against Omicron infections is likely to fade over the course of six months. Stéphane Bancel, Moderna's chief executive, said in a statement that the company was "reassured" by the persistence of Omicron-neutralising antibodies six months after the booster shot. **NYT**

## ENGLAND LIFTS COVID RESTRICTIONS

*London:* Most coronavirus restrictions, including mandatory face masks, were lifted in England on Thursday, after Britain's government said its vaccine booster rollout successfully reduced serious illness and Covid hospitalisations. From Thursday, face coverings are no longer required by law anywhere in England, and a legal requirement for Covid passes for entry into nightclubs and other large venues has been scrapped. The government last week dropped its advice for people to work from home as well as guidance for face coverings in classrooms. **AP**

## MEANWHILE

## JOHNSON HAS NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED BY COPS'

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has not been interviewed by the police about their investigation into alleged parties in his Downing Street residence during Covid lockdowns, his spokesman said on Thursday. Johnson's office has not yet received civil servant Sue Gray's report into the possible lockdown breaches, he added.



## Russia says US response doesn't offer much hope

Adds clear US was not willing to address its main security concerns

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
JANUARY 27

THE KREMLIN warned on Thursday that there was "not much cause for optimism" that the West would satisfy Russia's demands in the showdown over Ukraine, but said that President Vladimir V. Putin would take his time to study the written responses that the US and NATO submitted a day earlier before deciding how to proceed.

"All these papers are with the president," Putin's spokesman, Dmitri S. Peskov, told reporters. "There will of course be some time needed to analyse them — we won't rush to any conclusions."

Peskov did not discuss the content of the responses, which the US has requested be kept confidential. But he said based on public remarks about them by Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and Jens Stoltenberg, the secretary general of NATO, there was little likelihood that the West would offer concessions on Russia's central demands.

Russia's foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, sounded a similarly negative note, saying while the US response included initiatives that could serve as "the beginning of a serious conversation," there was no sign of progress on Russia's priority of rolling back the NATO presence in Eastern Europe. He said consultations among Russian government officials would be followed by a briefing to Putin, who "will decide on our next steps."

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on



The Russian Army during drills on Wednesday at Kuzminsky range in the southern Rostov region of Russia. Reuters

## FRANCE'S MACRON SEEKS DIALOGUE WITH RUSSIA

*Paris:* French President Emmanuel Macron continues to push for dialogue with Russia despite signs pointing to a potential war. Macron is preparing to talk on Friday with Vladimir Putin, which has two goals — "to continue dialogue" and to "push Russia to clarify its position and the aim of (military) maneuvering." **AP**

## Suspect in missile factory shooting held

*Kramatorsk:* A national guard soldier in Ukraine opened fire on Thursday at a missile and rocket factory in the eastern part of the country, killing five people, police said.

The gunman fled the scene, leading to a sprawling manhunt that lasted for hours before a suspect was taken into custody, according to the police. The police identified the man as Artemiy Ryabchuk but released few other details about him.

Even as the investigation proceeded, the episode was caught in the murkiness of a broader geopolitical struggle between the West and Russia, in which the Kremlin is trying to reduce the Western presence in a region that it considers within its sphere of influence. **NYT**

## CENSUS: 29 MN TOTAL POPULATION

## At 0.93%, Nepal logs lowest population growth in 8 decades

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE  
KATHMANDU, JANUARY 27

ACCORDING TO the preliminary figures of the last census released by the bureau of statistics, Nepal's total population stood at 29,192,480 registering a 0.93 per cent growth — lowest in the past eight decades.

The average population growth rate in the last census, in 2011, was 1.35 percent. Nepal's population was 26,494,504 during the 2011 census. Officials said the low birth rate and out-migration could have contributed to the low growth rate in the population.

Interestingly, the government of Nepal has also added 750 people from the disputed Kalapani, Lipulek and Limpiadhura to the list. "The figure

was calculated on the basis of the informal census," a source said. The decision to include the figure this time — first time in sixty years — comes after the government decided to include those areas in its official map.

The latest trend indicates that the Tarai area comprising 22 districts along the border with India has registered a significant internal migration, around 53.6 per cent, followed by 40.2 per cent in the hills and only 6.09 per cent in the mountain region.

The population of women numbered 14,901,169 while that of males was 14,291,311, the data shows, according to a PTI report. Nepal has been conducting the national census since 1911 every 10 years, it added.



## WORLD REMEMBERS HOLOCAUST

The world remembered Nazi atrocities and commemorated the 77th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp on Thursday. The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in November 2005 establishing the annual commemoration, and chose January 27 — the day that Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by Soviet troops in 1945. In all, about 6 million European Jews and millions of other people were killed by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Holocaust. Some 1.5 million were children. **AP**

## India-born priest becomes bishop in church of England

ADITI KHANNA  
LONDON, JANUARY 27

AN INDIA-BORN vicar, who grew up in a leprosy hospital in Bengaluru where his mother was a nurse, has been consecrated as Bishop in the Church of England with a staff, or crozier, made of Indian rosewood.

The Right Reverend Malayil Lukose Varghese Muthalaly,



Saju became one of the youngest bishops

known as Saju, aged 42 became one of the youngest Bishops when he was consecrated during a Eucharist service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London by the Archbishop of Canterbury on Tuesday.

"I have been preparing for this service very much aware of what a great privilege it is that people around the world are praying for this moment. There is a very strong sense of the wider church affirming this calling," said Rt. Rev. Saju.

Two of his four children, Zipp and Abraham, joined him for prayers during the service this week. While he has started work towards his new role, he will be

formally installed and known as Bishop of Loughborough only after a Welcome Service with guests and representatives of the diocese at Brockington Church of England Academy in Enderby, Leicestershire, on February 5.

"I absolutely loved the service. There were so many people there cheering you on from here in Leicestershire and from Dubai, from India and other parts of the world," Rev. Saju told BBC. **PTI**

## B'desh, Myanmar resume talks over verification of Rohingya refugees

ANISUR RAHMAN  
DHAKA, JANUARY 27

BANGLADESH AND Myanmar on Thursday resumed talks on repatriation of displaced Rohingya refugees back to their homeland, nearly a year after the dialogue was suspended following a military takeover of the neighbouring country.

The first-ever meeting of the newly formed technical level ad-hoc task force for verification of the displaced people from Rakhine was held on Thursday virtually between Bangladesh and Myanmar, a foreign office statement said.

It said "both sides expressed readiness to continue working closely to address reasons causing delay in the verification of the past residency of the displaced people from Myanmar's Rakhine state."

According to the statement, Bangladesh's Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Shah Rizwan Hayat and Myanmar's Deputy Director General of Immigration and Population ministry Ye Tun Oo led their respective sides in the talks.

The Myanmar delegation detailed the technical difficulties and information gaps on the issue but assured cooperation to complete pending verification, it said. **PTI**

## HIPPCHEN MISSED HIS CHANCE TO ORBIT EARTH BECAUSE HE EXCEEDED THE WEIGHT LIMIT

## Outweighed: Meet the man who won trip to space and gave it to friend

MARCIA DUNN  
CAPE CANAVERAL, JANUARY 27

HE TOLD his family and a few friends. He dropped hints to a couple of colleagues. So hardly anyone knew that the airline pilot could have — should have — been on board when SpaceX launched its first tourists into orbit last year.

Meet Kyle Hippchen, the real winner of a first-of-its-kind sweepstakes, who gave his seat to his college roommate.

Though Hippchen's secret is finally out, that doesn't make it any easier knowing he missed his chance to orbit Earth because he exceeded the weight limit. He still hasn't watched the Netflix series

on the three-day flight purchased by a tech entrepreneur for himself and three guests last September.

"It hurts too much," he said. "I'm insanely disappointed. But it is what it is."

Hippchen, 43, a Florida-based captain for Delta's regional carrier Endeavor Air, recently shared his story with The Associated Press during his first visit to NASA's Kennedy Space Center since his lost rocket ride.

He opened up about his out-of-the-blue, dream-come-true windfall, the letdown when he realized he topped SpaceX's weight restrictions of 250 pounds (113 kilograms) and his offer to the one person he knew would treasure the flight as



Kyle Hippchen poses for a photo at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Cape Canaveral. AP

much as himself. Four months later, he figures probably fewer than 50 people know he was the actual winner.

"It was their show, and I didn't

want to be distracting too much from what they were doing," said Hippchen, who watched the launch from a VIP balcony.

His seat went to Chris

Sembroski, 42, a data engineer in Everett, Washington. The pair roomed together starting in the late 1990s while attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Neither could resist when Shift4 Payments founder and CEO Jared Isaacman raffled off a seat on the flight he purchased from SpaceX's Elon Musk. The beneficiary was St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Hippchen snapped up \$600 worth of entries. Sembroski, about to start a new job at Lockheed Martin, shelled out \$50. With 72,000 entries in the random drawing last February, neither figured he'd win and didn't bother telling the other.

By early March, Hippchen

started receiving vague emails seeking details about himself. That's when he read the contest's small print: The winner had to be under 6-foot-6 and 250 pounds (2 meters and 113 kilograms). Hippchen was 5-foot-10 and 330 pounds (1.8 meters and 150 kilograms).

With a September launch planned, the timeline was tight. Still new at flying people, SpaceX needed to start measuring its first private passengers for their custom-fitted flight suits and capsule seats. As an aerospace engineer and pilot, Hippchen knew the weight limit was a safety issue involving the seats, and could not be exceeded.

"I was trying to figure how I could drop 80 pounds in six

months, which, I mean, it's possible, but it's not the most healthy thing in the world to do," Hippchen said.

In gratitude, Sembroski offered to take personal items into space for Hippchen. Before climbing into SpaceX's Dragon capsule, Sembroski followed tradition and used the phone atop the launch tower to make his one allotted call. He called Hippchen and thanked him one more time. "I'm forever grateful," Sembroski said.

And while Hippchen didn't get to see Earth from orbit, he did get to experience about 10 minutes of weightlessness. During Sembroski's flight, he joined friends and family of the crew on a special zero-gravity plane "It was a blast." **AP**





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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 26

696  
DAYS SINCE  
PANDEMIC  
BEGAN

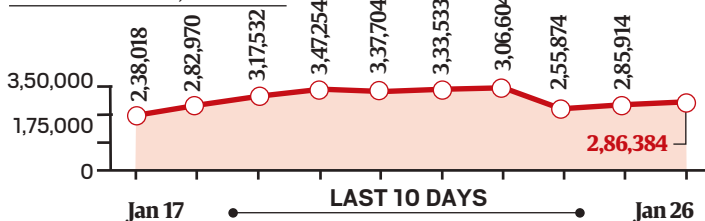
New cases  
**2,86,384**

Active cases  
**22,02,472**

Deaths  
**573**

Weekly CFR: **0.33%** | Overall CFR: **1.35%** | Total deaths: **4,91,700**

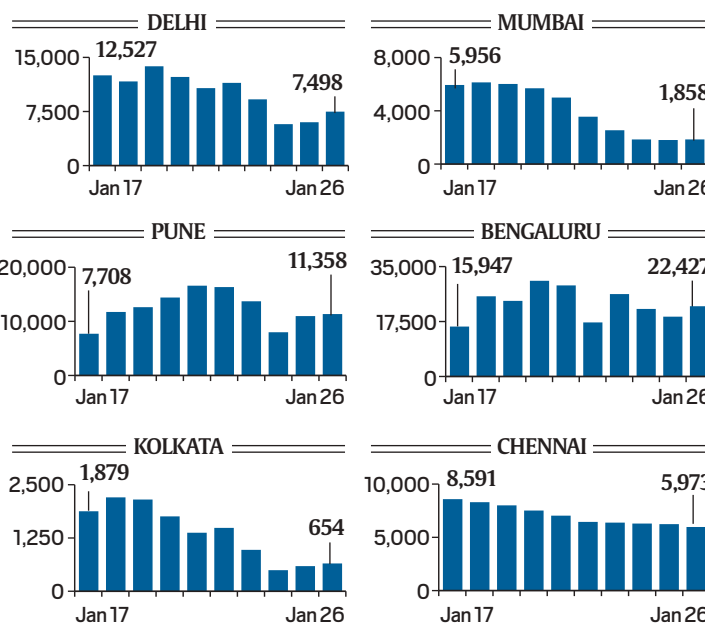
### NEW CASES, DAILY



### SURGE IN THE STATES

State	ON JANUARY 26			Weekly positivity
	New Cases	Active Cases	Deaths	
Kerala	49,771	3,01,269	140	45.38%
Karnataka	48,905	3,57,939	39	22.25%
Maharashtra	35,756	2,98,733	89	20.92%
Tamil Nadu	29,976	213,692	47	19.57%
Gujarat	14,781	1,28,192	21	14.59%

### CASES IN THE CITIES, LAST 10 DAYS



### TOTAL TESTS

72,21,66,248

TESTS ON JAN 26  
**15,94,070**

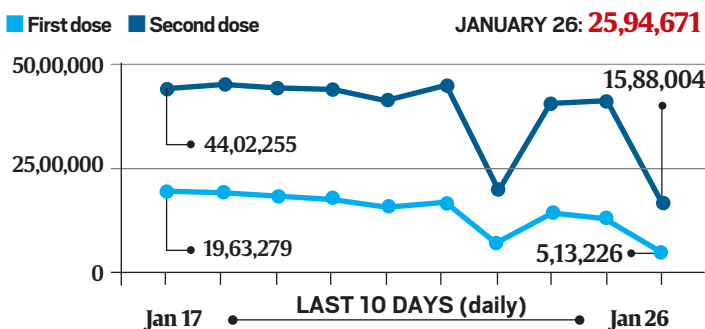
WEEKLY POSITIVITY  
**16.81%**

OVERALL POSITIVITY  
**5.59%**

### INDIA TOTAL DOSES

163,84,39,207

(Adults 1st dose: **88,97,77,368**; adults second dose: **69,52,30,499**;  
15-18 age group first dose: **4,37,27,771**; precautionary doses: **97,03,569**)



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# Fed move and Indian markets

The US Federal Reserve has signalled a possible hike in interest rates soon, leading to a nervous reaction in Indian markets. How will the expected hike impact markets and the economy, and what should investors do?



GEORGE MATHIEW & SANDEEP SINGH

ON WEDNESDAY, the US Federal Reserve announced the final round of its asset purchases. It will thus conclude its balance sheet expansion in March, much ahead of its initial plan. The Fed will subsequently start to increase interest rates in the economy beginning March. Both these measures are aimed at taming inflation, currently at a four-decade high of around 7%.

Asian markets have reacted nervously to the decision, with premier indices in Japan and Hong Kong falling 3.15% and 2% respectively on Thursday, and the benchmark Sensex and Nifty at BSE and NSE too falling by up to 2.4% before recovering to close the day with a fall of 1%. Over the last seven trading sessions, the Sensex has lost over 4,000 points or 6.57%.

### What has the Fed announced?

The Fed announced the final round of asset purchases in February, with balance sheet expansion concluding by early March, with indications that interest rates would soon be hiked given the backdrop. Fed Chair Jerome Powell noted that the Fed would have to be nimble in assessing the appropriate path for future policy. He was asked about the potential for a 50 bps rate hike and did not dismiss the idea outright, saying those kinds of decisions have not been addressed yet. He underscored that this period is nothing like the end of the last expansion as inflation is much higher.

"He is implying that they will need to move faster than back then. Since the Fed started with a one-year lag and then shifted to quarterly lag, this may or may not mean hikes at every meeting become likely later in the cycle," said a Bank of America Global Research report. "... The bottom line is that the risks are skewed to more than 4 hikes this year, as we have been flagging," the report said.

According to IFA Global Research, the

### BUMPS ON THE ROAD AHEAD

**FED DECISION:** The end of asset purchase programme by early March, followed by a hike in interest rates, will result in FPI outflow and thereby cause market volatility

**CRUDE PRICES:** As Brent crude hit \$90 per barrel on Thursday, there are concerns over its impact on inflation, current account and fiscal deficit.

**GEOPOLITICAL FACTORS:** Growing tensions between the West and Russia over possible conflict with Ukraine is unnerving the markets and causing a spike in crude.



Fed Chair  
Jerome  
Powell.  
Reuters/File

**BUDGET:** Markets are concerned that the government could go for a populist Budget next week, ahead of elections in 5 states including UP.

CIO, ICICI Prudential AMC.

### How will the Fed action impact the economy?

The Fed tightening is likely to impact the cost of financing in emerging market economies and, sooner or later, the interest rate cycle will turn across countries, said an analyst. Taking into account the combination of rising prices and strong employment, analysts have projected the Fed's benchmark overnight interest rate would need to rise from its current near-zero level to 0.90% by the end of 2022. That would kick off a hiking cycle that would see the policy rate climb to 1.6% in 2023 and 2.1% in 2024. The run-up to the first Fed meeting has already seen a sharp correction in equity prices and rise in treasury yields in the US. Indian stocks and yields are now following the US trend.

When interest rates rise in the US, the gap between those and rates in countries such as India reduces, giving less incentive for foreign investors to pump money into overseas markets. This means foreign capital outflows can happen not only from equity but also from debt. In January so far, foreign investors have pulled out a net of Rs 22,722 crore from equity markets anticipating a hike in US fed rates.

Another impact will be on the rupee, whose value against the dollar will come under pressure due to capital outflows. The rise in rates also means higher cost of funds, and fund mobilisation in overseas markets will be costly. For India, the upward pressure on interest rates comes at a time when the

Covid-hit economy is on a comeback trail in an uneven manner. There's also a significant gap in both private consumption and investment, relative to pre-pandemic levels in 2019-20.

The increase in cost of funds may not only increase the cost of capital expenditure for India Inc and increase the cost of developing infrastructure for the government, but will also strain the profit margins of companies.

### What other factors could impact Indian markets?

These include the growing geopolitical tension between Russia and Ukraine, and a spike in crude oil prices to levels of \$89 per barrel.

With Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman set to present the Budget next week, markets would be keenly watching the government's reform agenda, fiscal roadmap and demand and growth push in the economy. Experts say that if the government goes for a populist Budget ahead of elections in five states including the key Uttar Pradesh, it could have a negative impact on the markets.

### What should investors do?

Although the markets are expected to remain volatile in the near term, investors should not panic if they see a 1,000-1,500 point fall in Sensex. But it is also important to avoid mid- and small-cap companies while picking their investments as these could be more vulnerable to a rise in interest rates and input costs among other factors.

While equity-overweight investors would be wise not to aggressively invest in equities and should redeploy some of the funds in hybrid schemes, experts say investors who are underweight in equities can utilise dips in the market to increase their equity portfolio.

"The optimal investment approach in such a scenario is to stay focused on asset allocation and opt for a combination of active management and multi-asset strategies. In case you are considering equity-related investment, invest with a long-term view and opt for business-cycle-based funds as India's business cycle remains robust. Another option is to consider scheme categories which have the flexibility to invest across market capitalisation and themes and use features like Booster STP," Naren said.

## THIS WORD MEANS: BA.2

# Amid spike, spotlight on Omicron sub-variant

AMITABH SINHA  
PUNE, JANUARY 27

IN THE last couple of weeks, there has been a noticeable increase in the detection of infections with the BA.2 sub-variant of Omicron from several countries, leading to worries about the possibility of another surge in cases. Last week, the UK Health Security Agency flagged this sub-variant and designated it as a 'Variant Under Investigation'. And, in its latest weekly bulletin, the World Health Organization (WHO) noted that a number of countries had reported an increase in the BA.2 sub-variant in the last seven days.

The sub-variant has been present in substantial numbers in India as well, but India is not among the countries where the recent increase has been noticed.

### Not a new sub-variant

BA.2 is one of the several sub-variants of the Omicron that have spread rapidly

across the world since November. The Omicron name was given to the B.1.1.529 lineage after it was designated as a Variant of Concern. Later, it was found that this lineage had small variations of its own, and the three most common were named B.1.1.529.1, B.1.1.529.2, and B.1.1.529.3. For ease of reference, these sub-lineages were later re-classified as BA.1, BA.2 and BA.3.

The Omicron sub-variant that has been most common in circulation so far is BA.1. It is still the most predominant, although the proportion of BA.2 infections is on the rise. According to the WHO, 98.8% of all Omicron genetic sequences submitted in global databases until January 25 were of the BA.1 sub-variant. BA.2 retains most of the characteristics of BA.1 but has some additional mutations that can give it a distinctive characteristic.

"... the BA.2 descendent lineage, which differs from BA.1 in some of the mutations, including in the spike protein, is increasing in many countries. Investigations into the characteristics of BA.2, including immune es-

cape properties and virulence, should be prioritised independently (and comparatively) to BA.1," the WHO has said.

So far, studies have not showed any distinct advantage of BA.2 over BA.1, particularly in the nature of disease that they cause, but the recent rise in BA.2 cases is likely to put a more intense spotlight on this sub-variant.

### Rise mainly in Europe

The increase in the proportion of BA.2 cases has been noticed mainly in Europe, most prominently in Denmark, where over 8,300 sequences of the sub-variant have been identified so far. In fact, in Denmark, BA.2 now comprises almost half of all Omicron cases. The UK has found 607 samples, and India 711 until now. Other countries where BA.2 has been found in abundance are the US, Norway, Sweden and Singapore.

According to outbreakinfo, which tracks the prevalence of the different SARS-CoV-2 lineages, BA.2 has so far been discovered in 49 countries.

### No evidence that more harmful

BA.2 sub-variant is known to be more transmissible than BA.1, which could possibly explain its surge in recent days. But as of now, researchers have not noticed any difference in the nature of disease that it causes.

Although these are sister lineages, the difference between BA.1 and BA.2 is greater than the difference between the original Wuhan variant and the Alpha variant, according to Statens Serum Institut, Denmark's main institution on infectious diseases.

"Such differences can lead to different properties, for instance concerning infectiousness, vaccine efficiency or severity. So far, there is no information as to whether BA.1 and BA.2 have different properties..." the institute said in a note last week.

"Initial analysis shows no differences in hospitalisations for BA.2 compared to BA.1. Analyses regarding infectiousness and vaccine efficiency etc. are ongoing..." It is expected that vaccines also have an effect against severe illness upon BA.2 infection," the note said.

# Conditional market authorisation for Covid vaccines: what changes?

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE DRUG regulator on Thursday granted Serum Institute of India's Covishield and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin Covid-19 vaccines "conditional market authorisation" for the country's adult population.

### What does conditional market authorisation mean?

Since January last year, the two vaccines have been available under "Emergency Use Authorisation" (EUA), under which 140.89 crore doses of Covishield and 22.95 crore doses of Covaxin have been administered so far.

Not every vaccine is granted EUA before it receives full approval. The EUA route, referred to in India as restricted use in emergency situations, is invoked in public health emergencies like the pandemic — provided the regulator, based on initial data from phase 3 of clinical trials, determines that the potential benefits of the

vaccine, when used to prevent Covid-19, outweigh its potential risks.

For a year, Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech have been submitting rolling data related to product efficacy and safety in batches, as they have become available.

However, since the two vaccines now meet the high standards of safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality that the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 requires of a new vaccine, they have been upgraded to "conditional market authorisation".

This, however, is still not full market authorisation, sources in the government said.

### Do international regulators also grant conditional market authorisation?

The European Medicines Agency (EMA), the European Union agency tasked with the evaluation and supervision of medicinal products, grants conditional marketing authorisation if four key criteria are met:

The benefit-risk balance of the vaccine

is positive; it is likely that the applicant will be able to provide comprehensive data post-authorisation; the vaccine fulfils an unmet medical need; and the benefit of the immediate availability of the vaccine to patients is greater than the risk inherent in non-availability of additional data.

Such an approval is valid for one year, and can be renewed annually, the EMA says.

### How does India's conditional market authorisation differ from full market authorisation?

The Union Health Ministry said on Thursday that conditional market authorisation is a new category of authorisation that has emerged during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The approval pathways through this route are fast-tracked with certain conditions to enhance the access to certain pharmaceuticals for meeting the emerging needs of drugs or vaccines," the ministry said.

The conditional market authorisation for Covishield and Covaxin will be similar to the conditional market authorisation

that, say, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted to Pfizer's mRNA Covid-19 vaccine, or the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in the United Kingdom has granted to AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine.

### What will change for ordinary recipients of the two vaccines with the grant of conditional market authorisation?

Not much. A drug or vaccine that has received full or general market authorisation would be available in pharmacies or chemist shops for purchase — either as an over-the-counter product, or against a doctor's prescription.

However, Covishield and Covaxin will still not be available in regular pharmacies, and you will not be able to buy them as a retail product, with or without a prescription.

The vaccines will be available for private hospitals and private clinics to procure though, against required documentation

and payment, government sources said.

However, the sources said, as and when a private hospital or clinic administers a dose, it will still have to capture it on CoWin, the government's digital vaccination platform.

### Will the grant of conditional market authorisation open up the 'precautionary' booster dose to all double-vaccinated people?

No. The two vaccines will be supplied under "programmatic setting", which means only those whom the government has made eligible for the precautionary dose — frontline workers, healthcare workers, and the elderly population with comorbidities — can access the third dose.

Hospitals will be able to administer the third dose of Covishield or Covaxin to others only after the government makes a change in its policy.

### How then is this stage of conditional market authorisation different from the existing EUA for the vaccines?

For individual recipients of the vaccines, not much changes. But conditional market authorisation relaxes somewhat the regulatory requirements on monitoring the safety of the vaccines.

Under EUA, manufacturers have to submit safety and efficacy data every 15 days or a month. Under the conditional market authorisation, the Health Ministry said, they have to submit the data every six months.

Also, the ministry said, while adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) and adverse event of special interest (AESI) shall continue to be monitored, the two companies will have to submit AEFI and AESI data with due analysis on a six-monthly basis or as and when available, whichever is earlier as per the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019.

This means hospitals will need to still have all AEFI monitoring systems in place, and will have to continue to systematically record and report adverse events to the vaccine manufacturer.





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**NO. CWC/CO/PN/2021-22**  
(E NIT. CO/Engg -37/21-22)

**PRESS NOTICE**

CWC invites on-line tenders from the contractors for the following work:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Last date of on-line submission
1.	Civil & electrical works of renovation & repair in CWC flats at Mayur Vihar, Delhi.	Rs. 633.46	24.02.2022

Detailed Tender Notice along with Conditions of Contract and Notice Inviting E-Tendering may be seen and downloaded from the CWC's website [www.cwcacnlic.in](http://www.cwcacnlic.in) or e-tender website [www.cpscprocure.com](http://www.cpscprocure.com) or CPPE Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>. Further Corrigendum/Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on above websites only. **PRESS advertisement in Newspapers shall not be issued for the same.**

**CHIEF ENGINEER (IC)**

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**Web:** www.grse.in, (CIN: L35111WB1934GOI007891)

**E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ONLINE BIDDING**

**NIT No. SCC/AC/OT (Press)/Painting (Above Bilge)/004/ET-1802**  
**SUB: BRC for System Coat Painting of Machinery Compartments (Above Bilge), Dry & Wet Compartments**  
**Due Date:** 21 days from date of publication

1. Details will be available in e-tendering portal <https://eprocuregrse.co.in> and websites <https://www.grse.in/index.php/tender.html> & <https://eprocure.gov.in/cpppl/>  
2. Any addendum/corrigendum to this tender enquiry will be published in above websites only.

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<b>E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 22 OF 2021-2022 DATED 21.01.2022</b>				
<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>E-Tender No.</b>	<b>Name of Work</b>	<b>Approximate NIT Cost (₹)</b>	<b>EMD Cost (₹)</b>
01	DRM-ADI-112 -2021-22	Sabarmati (Freight Depot) - Replacement of sheets of cover shed and valley gutter	1,38,99,962.60	2,19,500.00
02	DRM-ADI-113 -2021-22	Sabarmati (Old Colony): Chlorination of drinking water at Gandhinagar Capital, Chandoliya, Khodiyar & Sabarmati in the jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer (Works) (Old Colony) Sabarmati (For five years) (Re-invited)	38,60,697.02	77,200.00
03	DRM-ADI-114 -2021-22	Patna: Provision of office to Sr. Section Engineer / Junior Engineer and enhancement in infrastructure of Zonal maintenance Centre / Divisional Maintenance Centre	3,64,09,166.28	3,32,100.00

# PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON


**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused females namely **Asif, S/o Mukhtiyar, R/o: Street Kureshiyan Jali, Kotli, P.S. Delhi Gate Meerut, U.P.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 595/20, U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act** registered at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued (unexecuted), stating that the said **Asif** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Asif** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in this case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Asif** accused of **FIR No. 595/20, U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act** P.S. Kotwali, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer said complaint on or before **15.03.2022.**

**By Order**  
**Ms. Pragya Gupta**

**Metropolitan Magistrate NI Act (Central 08),  
DP/1903/N/2022      Room No. 272, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi**

# UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Unknown S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown** was found unconscious at footpath between Gate No. 1 and 2 of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Delhi and admitted to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital Delhi. During the treatment Doctors declared him dead on **21.01.2022**. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 06A dated 21.01.2022** at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age:** About 25 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Square, **Built:** Thin, **ID Mark:** A mole over left side of chest and having tattoo over right forearm. **Wearing:** Unknown. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

**SHO**  
**P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi**

**DP/1916/CD/2022**      **Ph. 011-23370928, 8750870426**

# SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL



**Rukaiya**

General public is here by informed that this girl namely Rukaiya D/ Safeen R/o H.No. C-53/23, Gali No. 4, Babu Nagar, Mustafabad, Delhi **Age** : About 17 years, **Complexion** : Wheatish, **Height** : 5', **Build** : Thin, **Face** : Round, wearing black colour burkha, has been kidnapped since 02.01.2022 from her house. In this regard FIR No. 09/22 dated 03.01.2022 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Dayal Pur, Delhi.

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

E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Fax: 24368639,  
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

**SHO - P.S. Dayal Pur, Delhi**  
**Tel. No. : 011-22800215,**  
**22800216, 22800217**

DP/1303/ME22

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a person namely **Hitesh, S/o Sunil, R/o H. No. 73 Near Badi Chopal, Village Bakner, Narela, Delhi. Age : 31 years, Height : 5'8", Complexion -Wheatish, Face-Long, Built-Thin, Wearing-Blue Colour Jeans and White Shirt and Shoes in feet has been missing from the area of PS-Narela, Delhi, since 31.07.2021**

**Hitesh**

in this regard a **DD No. 51A** dated 07.11.2021 has been registered at **PS. Narela, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned..

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
 Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641  
 Fax : 011-23011334

**SHO**  
**P.S. Narela, Delhi**

DP/1508/ONI/2022      Ph. : 011-27280435, 27282350, 7065036323

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Man Singh S/o Mohan Singh R/o Gali No. 4, Vikas Nagar, Loni, Ghaziabad, U.P., Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 117/15, U/s 379/34 IPC** has been registered at **PS Karawal Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Man Singh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Man Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Man Singh** accused of **FIR No. 117/15, U/s 379/34 IPC, PS Karawal Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before **16.03.2022**.

By Order  
**Ms. Mayuri Singh, ACMM,  
Gharkardooma Courts, Delhi**

DP/1312/NE/2022-(Court Matter)

## SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

**झारखण्ड सरकार**  
**पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग**  
**शुद्धि-पत्र**

इस कार्यालय द्वारा प्रकाशित "Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of Third Party Inspection Agency to carry out inspection of all engineering works relating to civil, mechanical and electrical components of Rural water supply scheme executed under Jal Jeevan Mission" (RFP No. – 01/CDO/Ranchi/TPIA/2021-22) जिसका **PR. No.-260743 & 261010 Drinking Water & Sanitation (21-22)** है, में Last date & time of online submission : 01.02.2022 upto 6.00 PM को संशोधित करते हुए 09.02.2022 upto 6.00 PM; Last date & time for submission of hard copy : 02.02.2022 upto 5.00 PM को संशोधित करते हुए 10.02.2022 upto 5:00 PM एवं Opening date of technical bid : 03.02.2022 at 3.30PM को संशोधित करते हुए 11.02.2022 at 3:30 PM किया जाता है, संघ यथावत रहेगा।

ह/—  
(सुनील कुमार)

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता (गुण निबंधन)  
सी०डी०ओ०, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग,  
झारखण्ड, राँची।

PR.NO.262594 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22):D

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE  
APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**

**SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. Pc.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Riyazuddin @ Raju, S/o Shabbir , R/o H.No.520, Gali No. 12, Mazar Wali Gali, Nehru Vihar, Gokulpuri, Delhi** is involved in case FIR No. 504/2021, U/s 395/392/394/411/506/120B/34 IPC & 25/57 Arms Act, at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Riyazuddin@Raju** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Riyazuddin@Raju** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Riyazuddin@Raju** FIR No. 504/2021, U/s 395/392/394/411/506/120B/34 IPC & 25/57 Arms Act, at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 10.03.2022.

By Order  
**Ms. Neha Gupta**  
Metropolitan Magistrate,  
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/1911/N/2022-(Court Matter).

## **SEARCH OF MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Amit, **S/o:** Sohan Lal, **R/o:** H-18 Aruna Nagar Majnu Ka Tilla Civil Lines Delhi, **Aged:** about 23 years, has been missing from his house in this regard a **DD No. 68-A, Dated 06.11.2021**, has been lodged at **P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi**.



**Amit**

His physical description is as under:

**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'6" Feet, **Face:** Round, **Build:** Medium, **Clothing:** Blue jeans white dharidar shirt black colour chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Civil Lines, Delhi at **E-mail:** [cic@cbi.gov.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.nic.in) or **website :** <http://cbi.nic.in> **Tele No. : 11-24368638 or 24368641**

**S.H.O.**  
**P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi**  
**Ph. 011-23815444**

DP/1710/2021

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Last date for submission of offers is 11.02.2022 upto 04:00 p.m.

**Date: 27.01.2022 Senior Regional Manager, Patna**

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**Note :** For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

**PRO/AAM(M)/115/2022** **GENERAL MANAGER**

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<h3 style="text-align: center;">Tender Notice (E-Tendering Mode Only)</h3>	
<p>CONCOR invites Online Tender in Single bid system for below mentioned work, only through e-tendering mode. The bid document can only be downloaded after paying Rs. 1000/- through online from the website <a href="http://www.tenderwarder24.com/CCIL">www.tenderwarder24.com/CCIL</a></p>	
<b>Tender No.</b>	<b>CONAREA-1/TC/Valuation/2021-22</b>
<b>Name of Work</b>	<b>Appointment of Valuation Agency for Valuation/Re-Valuation of Unclaimed/Un-destined Cargo/Damaged Containers (S/D/SO) at Inland Container Depots &amp; Domestic Container Terminals of Area-I</b>
<b>Estimated Value</b>	<b>Rs. 38.47 crore (incl. GST)</b>
<b>Period of Contract</b>	<b>24 Months (2 years) plus four months obligatory period.</b>
<b>Earnest Money Deposit</b>	<b>Rs. 72, 944/- (through e-payment only)</b>
<b>Cost of Document</b>	<b>Rs.1000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment which is non-refundable.</b>
<b>Tender Processing Fee</b>	<b>Rs. 2152/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment (non-refundable)</b>
<b>Date of Sale (Online)</b>	<b>From 28.01.2022 at 15:30 Hrs. to 14.02.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.</b>
<b>Date &amp; Time of submission of Tender (Online)</b>	<b>14.02.2022 up to 15:00 Hrs.</b>
<b>Date &amp; Time of opening of tender</b>	<b>15.02.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.</b>
<b>Place of Opening and Communication Address</b>	<b>Office of the SG/M&amp;C&amp;A/Area-1, NSIC Business Park, New MDBP Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate, (Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station), New Delhi- 110020</b>
<p>*Exemption for MSE. CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons therefor. For complete details login to <a href="http://www.tenderwarder24.com/CCIL">www.tenderwarder24.com/CCIL</a>.</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Sr. General Manager/C&amp;A/Area-1</b></p>	




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 ( पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की एक स्वायत्त परिषद )  
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 (An Autonomous Council under the Ministry of Environment,  
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**No. 15-1(T) Minor Work & Maint./2021-22/Pur/TFRI/JBP/1779 dt. 24/01/2022**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR: CARRY OUT DETAILED GRID SURVEY,  
 DEMARCATION AND GRID PILLAR MAKING & FIXING IN THE FIELD &  
 EQUIPMENT**

**No. 2021-22/TFRI/JBP/05**

Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur invites online tenders for The carrying out the work & Equipment from eligible bidders. Details may be obtained online at MoEFCC web site <http://moefcc.euniwizarde.com> and <http://tfri.icfre.org>. Last date for submission of bids is **25/02/2022**. Bids shall be submitted online only at MoEFCC web site. Manual bids will not be accepted.

**Sd/-**  
**Co-ordinator (F), TFRI, Jabalpur**

# APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown **S/o** Unknown, **R/o** Unknown **Age:** about 25 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Red coloured jacket and Blue coloured jeans, was found dead in Park near Bankhandi Mandir, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No.99A, u/s 174 Cr.PC, dated 19.01.2022** has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Kotwali, Delhi**

Ph.: 011-23977100, 23921740  
Mob.: 8750870121

DP/1912/N/2022

**छत्तीसगढ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग**  
कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, मिनीमाता बागो नहर संभाग क्रमांक 6  
नंदेलीभाटा-सक्ती, जिला-जाजगीर-चाम्पा (छ.ग.)

**ई प्रोक्चूरमेंट निविदा सूचना**

**(प्रथम आमंत्रण)**

सिस्टम निविदा क्र. 91315 निविदा सूचना क्र. 15/ग.ल.ले.ज.ई-प्रोक्चूरमेंट/2021-22 दि. 24/01/2022

निम्नालिखित कार्यों के लिए दिनांक **14.02.2022 17.30** तक ऑन लाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

**कार्य का नाम:-** जाजगीर-चांपा जिले के सक्ती शाखा नहर के अंतर्गत मुरलीडीह वितरक नहर मलनी वितरक नहर, सिरिली एवं माईनर तांदुलडीह माईनर एवं भोथिया माईनर नहर के क्षतिग्रस्त सी.सी. लाईनिंग बैंक सुदुर्डीकरण टो-वाल का कार्य। निर्माण एवं मिट्टी का कार्य।

**अनुमानित लागत:-** रु. 436.80 Lakhs

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छत्तीसगढ शासन की ई-प्रोक्चूरमेंट वेब साइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक **31-01-2022** समय 17.31 बजे से देखे तथा डाऊनलोड किये जा सकते है।

**नोट:-** निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु टेकेदारो को ई-प्रोक्चूरमेंट वेबसाईट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर नामांकित/पंजीयन तथा लोक निर्माण विभाग की पंजीकृत प्रणाली के अंतर्गत टेकेदार को उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीयन कराना अनिवार्य है। अन्य निविदा संबंधी शर्तें विभाग के साईट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में Live Tender के अंतर्गत निविदा प्रपत्र में उपलब्ध है।

**हस्ता/-**  
**कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
मिनीमाता बागो नहर संभाग क्र. 6,  
नंदेलीभाटा-सक्ती

67139

**(Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir)**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADORA**  
**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**  
**NIT No: 209/E/EE/R&B/Chadhora of 01/2022**  
**(Two Cover System)**

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, the Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadhora invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of consultant for allied Engineering Consultancy Service from Registered firms, Partnership Act/ Societies Registration Act Registered Companies for following work:

Name of work	Bid security in Rs.-	MH
Preparation of Feasibility Study and Detailed Project Report for Construction/ Upgradation of Alternate Road proposed from Yousmag to Doodpathri, Tomsaidan upto Gulmarg in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.	50,000/-	SMRDA

**AA Accorded**  
**TS under process**  
 RFP document is available online on UT PWD/e-tendering portal <http://www.iktenders.gov.in> from 25th of January, 2022 to 14th of February, 2022 (upto 4:00PM). The RFP must be accompanied with a non-refundable fee/ Rs. 5,000/- Rupees Five thousand only per packages. RFP document fee in the form of demand draft/ Treasury-Challan (MH: 0059 Revenue Misc.) drawn on any Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank in India in favour of Executive Engineer R & B Division Chadhora (Tender Receiving Authority). The Applicant shall furnish as part of its Proposal, a bid security of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft issued by one of the Nationalized / Scheduled Banks in India in favour of the Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Srinagar/Budgam (Tender Receiving Authority) (the "Bid Security"), returnable not later than 120 (One Hundred and Twenty) days from Proposal Due Date (PDD).  
 RFP must be submitted online only at <http://www.iktenders.gov.in> on or before 14th of February 2022 (upto 4:00PM).  
 RFP transmitted through any other mode shall not be entertained.  
 Instructions to applicants regarding e-tendering process:

- The eligible consultants can download the RFP from UT PWD/e-tendering portal <http://www.iktenders.gov.in>.
- The applicants have to submit their bids including scanned copy of Document fee and Bid Security online in electronic format with Digital Signature.
- No proposal will be accepted in physical form except RFP document fee and Bid Security. The applicants have to submit their RFP document fee and Bid Security in hard copy (original) also on or before 14th of February (upto 4:00 PM) at address given in the office. Papers to be closed on the last date of submission of RFP document fee and Bid Security in hard copy as specified, the same will be received on the next working day at the Office mentioned below. Incomplete RFP document fee and Bid Security is not received within specified time, the Bid shall be considered non responsive and shall not be downloaded / evaluated. Bids shall be strictly treated as non-responsive if bid is not accompanied by an acceptable bid security (validity for a period of not less than 120 days from PDD).
- Before submission of online bids, applicants must ensure that scanned copy of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.
- UT PWD shall not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason whatsoever.

(a) All documents/ papers uploaded/ submitted by the bidder must be legible.  
 The following are the important dates forward of above consultancy work:

Sl. No.	Event Description	Date
1.	Issue of Tender Notice	24-01-2022
2.	Bid Submission Start Date	25-01-2022
1.	Last date for receiving queries /clarifications	07-02-2022(3:00 PM)
2.	Pre-Proposal Conference(Pre-bid meet)	08-02-2022(11:00 AM)
3.	Authority response to queries	10-02-2022
4.	Proposal Due Date (PDD)	14-02-2022(4:00 PM)
5.	Opening of Proposals	15-02-2022(11:00 AM) In the Office of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Srinagar/ Budgam

**Communications:** All communications including the submission of **bid security** should be addressed to:  
 Superintending Engineer, P-Walk Circle Srinagar/Budgam, Engineering Complex, Near Silk Factory Raj Bagh Srinagar J&K.  
 Telefax No.0194-2310482 E-mail: [se@srinagarbudgam@yahoo.in](mailto:se@srinagarbudgam@yahoo.in), [se@srinagarbudgam@gmail.com](mailto:se@srinagarbudgam@gmail.com)

**Executive Engineer**  
**PW(R&B) Division Chadhora,**  
**Jammu & Kashmir**  
 E-mail: [xennnrbchd@gmail.com](mailto:xennnrbchd@gmail.com)

No: 13959-70  
 Dt: 24-01-2022      DIKP-17182

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**  
**SAMAGRA SHIKSHA**  
STATE PROJECT OFFICE, KBC BOYS HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS,  
OPP. RAITHU BAZAR, PATAMATA, VIJAYAWADA, ANDHRA PRADESH


**Request for Proposal**

e-procurement notice No.SS-1602/150/2021-CMO SEC-SSA, dt.25.01.2022

Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh is inviting Request for Proposal for procurement and supply of a Uniform cloth and Bags under the scheme of "Jagananna Vidya Kankana" to all the students (approximately 47.88 lakhs in number) studying classes I to X in Government management schools in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2022-23. For details please visit <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> from 28.01.2022 Tender/KFP form can be downloaded from website. Eligible firms shall upload the prescribed format as per the schedules given in the above said site. Contact No.0896-2428599.

**Sd/- State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh**


**DIPR No G4MP/PC/ADVT/11/2021-22 Dt.27/01/2022**



## CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

d/r, Siri Institutional Area,  
August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016




### Warehousing for Everyone

### Public Notice - Fake Recruitment Advertisements

1. It has come to our notice that unscrupulous elements are trying to deceive candidates/General Public through fake recruitment notices/fictitious messages in the name of securing jobs in the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), a CPSU under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, New Delhi.
2. This is to inform that recruitment notifications are widely advertised in the print media in National/Local Newspapers, including Employment News. Candidates can also check details of recruitments from the Recruitment link in website [www.cwacar.nic.in](http://www.cwacar.nic.in) / [www.cwccareers.in](http://www.cwccareers.in)
3. Therefore, General Public is hereby cautioned against such fake recruitment notices by unauthorized persons. Any person dealing with such unscrupulous elements will be doing so at his/her risk & cost and CWC shall in no way be responsible for the consequences thereof.

**Sd/-**  
**Group General Manager (Personnel)**

 **King George's Medical University U.P.**  
**Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226003**

Ref. No. GEM/2022/B/1894957      Date: 26-01-2022

**Recustom BOQ bid Inviting Notice**

Recustom BOQ bid on Gem portal is invited under 02 bid system (technical & Financial) for the Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Jonson Make 04 Nos Passenger Lift for the period of 3 years at New Girls Hostel, King George Medical University U.P. Lucknow. the Original Manufacturer and their authorized Indian Agency/service provider can apply on the terms and conditions as per Recustom BOQ bid documents. Short details can be viewed at [kgmu.org](http://kgmu.org) & detailed will be available on GEM Portal.

**(Executive Engineer)**  
(Electrical/Mechanical Department)

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**  
**Public works Division, Nanded**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE NO. (83) FOR 2021-2022**

**कार्यालय,  
विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियंता  
विद्युत कार्यप्रमंडल, इन्जीनियर्स हॉस्टल  
दुर्गा, रॉटी**

**शुद्धि पत्र**

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक— 209 दिनांक—20.01.22 से प्रेषित तथा पीओ आर०—262060 Energy (21-22)-D द्वारा विनिम्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित अति अल्पकालिन ई० निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं—67/ 21—22 में वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि— 28.01.2022, वेबसाईट पर निविदा जमा करने की तिथि— 29.01.2022 के 10.30 बजे से 07.02.2022 के 2.00 बजे अपराह्न तक एवं निविदा खोलने की तिथि—08.02.2022 को 3.00 बजे अपराह्न के स्थान पर क्रमशः वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि— 01.02.2022, निविदा जमा करने की तिथि— 02.02.2022 के 10.30 बजे से 10.02.2022 के 2.00 बजे अपराह्न तक एवं निविदा खोलने की तिथि—11.02.2022 को 3.00 बजे अपराह्न में पढ़ा जाय।

शेष सभी शर्तें यथावत् रहेगी।

विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियंता  
विद्युत कार्य प्रमंडल, रॉटी

**PR 262555 Energy(21-22).D**

**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**TENDER NOTICE KOTA DIVISION**

**SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT**

**CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER NOTICE NO.1**  
for tender No. KOTA/S&T/Sig/2021/20

Following tender, which was invited vide NIT KOTA/S&T/ SIG./ 2021/20 and dated 11.01.2022 following amendment are being made. **Tender No.- KOTA/S&T/ Sig/2021/20, Name of Work- Design, Manufacturing, Supply installation, Testing and Commissioning of Microprocessor based Electronic Interlocking (EI) system at Sawai madhopur (C) cabin for execution of indoor and outdoor Signalling work in lieu of old and obsolete Mechanical lever frame of Kota division on WCR.**

**Date of Opening As per previous NIT - 07.02.2022.**

**Date of Opening As per New NIT - 17.02.2022.**

**Sr.DSTE/SIGNAL & WORKS/KOTA**  
**West Central Railway, Kota Division**

कोरोना को है हराना,  
तो टीकाकरण जरूर कराना



## LIC IPO MAY HELP CENTRE PARTLY BRIDGE FY22 DIVESTMENT TARGET

# Privatisation plans lagging Budget target, Air India disinvestment a booster shot

SUNNY VERMA  
& PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

HANDOVER OF Air India to the Tata Group will bolster government's privatisation roadmap, which has been significantly lagging the Budget targets so far. Tata has taken over Rs 15,300 crore worth of Air India debt and paid Rs 2,700 crore to the government in cash. The government is also hoping to bring the initial public offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) before the end of this fiscal year, while privatisation of Neelachal Ispat Nigam is expected to be completed shortly.

Depending upon the size of the offering, LIC's IPO and other transactions could help the Centre partly bridge its Rs 1.75-lakh-crore FY22 divestment target, of which less than 10 per cent has been raised so far. Including funds received from Air India, the government has, so far, raised Rs 12,029.90 crore via stake sales.

Other companies in line for privatisation include Shipping Corporation of India, BEML, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd, Container Corporation of India and Pawan Hans. The government has received financial bids for Pawan Hans and Neelachal Ispat Nigam, and privatisation process has moved to its concluding stage. Privatisation and asset monetisation has been the foremost component of this year's Budget. The Finance Ministry has unveiled a comprehensive National Monetisation Pipeline, but state-owned banks' privatisation,



Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran and Tata executives in a meeting with DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal, Air India CMD Vikram Dev Dutt and other government and Air India officials in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

a key Budget announcement, is yet to move forward.

Privatisation of state-owned banks and downstream oil major BPCL is expected to stretch into the next year. The enabling framework to enable the privatisation of one of the four general insurance companies, another key budget announcement, has been done. The amendments to the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act was cleared in the Monsoon session of Parliament, but the insurer targeted for the stake sale is yet to be finalised.

Even as the government is working on pushing the IDBI Bank stake sale this year, regulatory issues relating to promoter ownership and volatility in markets could stretch it into next year. The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 "regarding privatisation of

two Public Sector Banks" was listed for introduction in the Winter Session of Parliament. But it was not taken up by the Cabinet, despite a draft being ready. Pullback on the farm laws, bank unions' opposition to privatisation and upcoming Assembly elections seem to have had a bearing on privatisation timing.

Apart from privatisation, asset monetisation is the key element of this year's Budget and the government has put out a four-year National Monetisation Pipeline worth an estimated Rs 6 lakh crore. Roads, railways and power sector assets will comprise over 66 per cent of the total estimated value of the assets to be monetised, with the remaining sectors including telecom, mining, aviation, ports, natural gas and petroleum product pipelines, and warehouses.

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

"DEAR GUESTS, this is your Captain speaking ... Welcome aboard this historic flight, which marks a special event. Today, Air India officially becomes a part of the Tata Group again, after seven decades. We look forward to serving you on this and every Air India flight with renewed commitment and passion. Welcome to the future of Air India! We hope you enjoy the journey. Thank you."

This is a message that will be read by Air India pilots on every flight departing on Friday, January 28, according to what was one of the first circulars issued by Air India's operations department after the Tata Group took over the airline from the government on Thursday. Smaller changes notwithstanding, one of the first priorities for the Tata Group following the takeover of Air India is to institute a senior management for the airline, according to sources. For now, while four of Air India's existing directors are continuing to be on the board, the conglomerate is in closing stages of finalising the executive and non-executive directors for the new board. "The names are close to being

## Tata Group is in closing stages of finalising the executive, non-executive directors for the new board

finalised but the security clearance can take some time," a Tata Group official said. *The Indian Express* has learnt that Tata Group has interviewed several expatriates with significant airline experience for the post of Air India's chief executive. Indications are that a top Mumbai-based FMCG leader could be nominated by Tata as a non-executive director of Air India.

For the remainder of the airline's employees, the Tata Group is bound to retain the staff for a period of one year, as per the bidding conditions, following which it can offer a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) in the second year.

"Once the management is finalised, we will be announcing the plans and strategies for the airline over the next 10 days with the focus being on doing things the Tata way," another company official said. "The work will begin now but any perceptible changes for both the employees and the customers could take a few months to get ex-

ecuted," the official added.

Even before the formal handing over of the company to Tata, it is learnt that the conglomerate's executives had been stationing at the airline's headquarters in New Delhi to familiarise key employees across several departments about the Tata Group's work culture. This familiarisation exercise has been ongoing since almost the last two months, one of the officials cited above said, adding that the focus of this process had been on instilling the private sector ethos in public-sector employees.

Air India and its low-cost subsidiary Air India Express add to a portfolio that boasts two airlines — Vistara and AirAsia India. According to sources, a merger between Air India Express and AirAsia India could be announced as early as next week. "The consolidation of operations could take a few more months," one official said. Tata Group will also be looking to focus on turning the loss-making Air India around.

For the government, the disinvestment means the taxpayer no more funds the Rs 20-crore a day loss being incurred by the airline. Since 2009-10, the government has pumped in Rs 1.10 lakh crore to support Air India. *Full report on* [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## AIR INDIA UNDER TATA WING



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, Thursday. *via @PMOIndia Twitter*

**October 15, 1932** Tata Airlines inaugural service operated on Karachi-Ahmedabad-Bombay route on a de Havilland Puss Moth aircraft flown by JRD Tata

**January 1, 1946** Civil aviation in India is restored to commercial status post-World War II

**August 1946** Tata Airlines converted into a public company, renamed Air-India

**August 1947** India gains independence from British rule

**March 8, 1948** Air-India International formally incorporated with 49% capital participation from the Government of India

**March 1953** Parliament passes Air Corporations Act, amalgamating all scheduled airlines into 2 corporations: Indian Airlines and Air-India International. With this, government owns majority stakes in the two airlines

**August 1, 1953** Indian Airlines takes over domestic business of Air-India

**April 19, 1960** Air-India International enters the jet age with Boeing 707 planes

**January 1, 1978** Air India's Boeing 747 crashes off the coast of Bombay killing 213 people on board

**February 1, 1978** Morarji Desai government removes Chairman JRD Tata from boards of Air India and Indian Airlines

**April 1980** Indira Gandhi government reinstates JRD Tata on the boards of both airlines but not as Chairman

**1986** JRD Tata steps down

from the boards, his successor at Tata Sons Ratan Tata appointed as Air India Chairman by the Rajiv Gandhi government

**1989** Ratan Tata steps down as Air India Chairman

**2001** Tata Sons partners with Singapore Airlines to bid for a 40% stake in Air India, in what was government's first attempt at disinvesting the airline, but Singapore Airlines withdraws from the bid

**MAY 2004** Air India launches low-cost subsidiary Air India Express

**2006** Air India places order for 68 wide-bodied Boeing aircraft

**2007** Manmohan Singh government merges Air India with Indian Airlines

**2012** Government approves the turnaround plan and the financial restructuring plan for Air India. By now, the airline has accumulated ₹43,000 crore in debt and losses of ₹20,000 crore

**2018** Fresh disinvestment attempt by Narendra Modi government to sell 76% stake in Air India. No bid received

**January 2020** At attempt by Centre at disinvesting Air India, this time 100% of it

**September 2021** Tata Sons and SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh place financial bids for Air India

**October 8, 2021** Government announces Tata Sons will acquire Air India

**January 27, 2022** Tata Sons officially regains control of Air India

## '39% insurers able to describe risk selection, pricing as data-driven'

Around 39 per cent of insurers were able to describe their risk selection and pricing as fact-based and data-driven, as per a Capgemini Research Institute report



**Around 39%** insurers were able to describe their risk selection and pricing as fact-based and data-driven

### DATA USES

- Develop new solutions
- Create value-added services to engage customers
- Unique insights into risk, pricing

**LARGER INSURERS** are at more advanced stages of data-driven implementation

**METHODOLOGY** The report interviewed 510 executives across 204 insurance organisations

**40%** of insurers are using data to enter new markets while 43 per cent have modernised

**INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT** for traditional insurers to compete with InsurTech companies

**Data is being leveraged by insurers to grow profitably, according to 'The data-powered insurer: Unlocking the data premium at speed and scale' report** Source: Capgemini Research Institute

# What does Tata get with Air India buy

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

TATA GROUP, which had placed the highest bid of Rs 18,000 crore in the Air India disinvestment, took over the airline on Thursday from the government.

**What happened in the run-up to the transfer?**

The final balance sheet, with a cutoff of January 20, was shared by

the airline with Tata on Monday. Last October, the government announced the Tata Group as the winning bidder in Air India's disinvestment process.

**What does the Tata Group gain by acquiring Air India?**

The addition of Air India to its aviation portfolio will give Tata Group — which includes full-service carrier Vistara, and budget airline AirAsia India — a significant leg-up in its international operations, as it gets access to 1,800 international landing and parking slots at domestic airports, and 900 slots at airports overseas, in addition to 4,400 domestic slots. This includes routes and slots at prime locations like London and New York, and a wide-bodied aircraft fleet essential for long-haul operations.

line AirAsia India — a significant leg-up in its international operations, as it gets access to 1,800 international landing and parking slots at domestic airports, and 900 slots at airports overseas, in addition to 4,400 domestic slots. This includes routes and slots at prime locations like London and New York, and a wide-bodied aircraft fleet essential for long-haul operations.

**What happens to some of Air India's other assets?**

Certain immovable assets held by the airline such as real estate and housing projects have been transferred to the special purpose vehicle, Air India Asset Holding Ltd, and will be monetised to repay outstanding debt. The airline's art collection, comprising over 4,000 works, however, has been left out of the divestment and asset monetisation processes. *Full report on* [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# Free power transmission for green hydrogen

**New Delhi:** A national green hydrogen policy which will provide free power transmission for production of green hydrogen is set to be announced soon, Power Minister RK Singh said Thursday. The Centre aims to swap use of grey hydrogen produced using fossil fuels with green hydrogen produced from renewable energy. The petroleum refining and ferti-

ser sectors are among the largest users of hydrogen in India.

In the green hydrogen policy, "we are saying that we will give free transmission ... for 25 years," Singh said, noting that one could generate power in Rajasthan and can transport it to Guwahati and produce green hydrogen there.

Singh was addressing a conference by Confederation of Indian

Industry on raising the use of smart metering. He noted that the policy would provide land in renewable energy parks and bunkers at ports for storage of green hydrogen and green ammonia to producers, adding that the Centre aims to make India a key destination for green hydrogen export.

The Power Minister noted that production of smart metering in

India would be a great opportunity as the government would come out with an approved list of models and manufacturers that would only include smart meters made in India.

In another interaction with renewable energy producers and hydro pumped storage developers, Singh discussed a draft policy on Energy Storage Systems. ENS

## BRIEFLY

### 30-day top-ups

**New Delhi:** Telecom regulator Triai has told telecom operators to have recharge plans with 30-day validity for pre-paid users. **PTI**

### Nadella award

**New Delhi:** Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella on Thursday tweeted, "It's an honor to receive a Padma Bhushan Award and to be recognized with so many extraordinary people. I'm thankful to the President, Prime Minister, and people of India ... " **ENS**

### Canara Bank Q3

**New Delhi:** Canara Bank saw a 116% rise in its Q3 profit after tax at ₹1,502 crore.

### TVS stake buy

**New Delhi:** TVS bought 75% in Swiss E-Mobility Group AG for \$100 million. **PTI**

### FB crypto arm

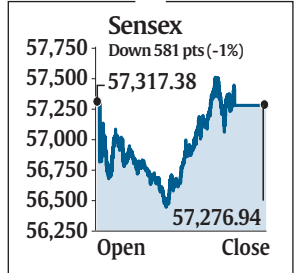
**Bengaluru:** Meta's digital currency venture Diem Association is winding down and selling its tech to Silvergate Capital Corp for about \$200 million, said WSJ. **REUTERS**

# Powell comments pummel markets

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 27

**VOLATILE STOCK** markets on Thursday fell again as investors reacted to an overnight update from the US Federal Reserve that indicated the central bank plans to raise interest rates as soon as March.

The Sensex, which plunged 1,419 points intra-day, recovered partially close with a loss of 581 points, or 1 per cent, to 57,276.94, taking the total loss in the last 7 sessions to over 4,000 points, or 6.5



per cent. The Nifty50 plunged 168 points to 17,110.15 on Thursday. Nifty has lost 1,198 points over seven sessions. The rupee also lost

31 paise at 75.09 against the dollar on capital outflows and dollar demand.

The hawkish commentary of Fed was mostly in line with expectations, while the global market is looking at the developments of Ukraine. Fed Chair Jerome Powell indicated at a news conference that the central bank had "quite a bit of room to raise rates without threatening the labour market."

Bank and auto indices gained the most while realty, consumer durables, telecom, IT and healthcare indices fell the most.

# Plus Code feature on Google Maps

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

**GOOGLE MAPS** will now let India users rely on 'Plus Codes' when saving and sharing their home addresses. A Plus includes a set of 6 or 7 letters, numbers along with the name of the town or city for the particular address.

They do not rely on street and locality names, instead use latitudes and longitudes. This feature was originally rolled out in India in 2018 to Maps. It has so far been extensively used by businesses, NGOs, etc, as per the company. The capability is now being ex-

tended to home addresses as well. "We piloted this feature in India a month ago, and are thrilled to share that over 300,000 users in India have already found their home address using Plus Codes. We are looking forward to expanding to more types of places, and are actively looking for opportunities to partner with e-commerce, logistics, and delivery companies, to scale up the experience to more people across the world," said Amanda Bishop, product manager, Google Maps.

The feature is rolling out to Android first, and iOS will get the capability later on. *Full report on* [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## 'iPhones to turn into payment terminals'

**Bengaluru:** Apple Inc plans a new service that will let small businesses accept payments directly on their iPhones without connecting any extra hardware such as Block Inc's Square terminals, *Bloomberg* News reported. The new feature turns the iPhone into a payment terminal and will let merchants accept fees with the tap of a credit card or another iPhone onto the back of their device, *Bloomberg* reported, citing sources. **REUTERS**

## Dow, oil slip

**New York:** Wall Street erased gains in afternoon trading on Thursday, dragged down by a sharp fall in Tesla shares on supply chain issues. At 12:54 p.m. ET, the Dow was down 79.58 points, or 0.23 per cent, at 34,088. Oil prices fell, after Brent earlier hit a seven-year high. Brent dropped 47 cents to \$89.49 a barrel by 1:30 pm ET. **REUTERS**

## US Q4 GDP up 6.9%; 2021 growth best since 1984

**Washington:** US economic growth accelerated at 6.9 per cent annualised rate in fourth quarter, showed Commerce Department's advance estimate, as businesses replenished depleted inventories to meet strong goods demand, helping the US post its best performance in nearly 40 years in 2021.

The economy grew 5.7 per cent in 2021, the strongest since 1984. It had contracted 3.4 per cent in 2020. **REUTERS**

**RailTel**  
(A Government of India Undertaking)  
CIN No. U64202DL2000GOI107905  
Tender No. RailTel/WRE-Tender/01/2021-22/OPC Patch Replacement/01 Dated 27.01.2022  
RailTel/Western Region invites open E-tender for "Survey, Supply, Installation, Trenching, Laying of Duct, Blowing of OFC through Ducts, Splicing, Testing & Commissioning, OPC Patch Replacement and Rectification at various sections of Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Mumbai and Nagpur Territory of Western Region."  
Tender Notice and Tender Document are available on <https://www.railtelindia.com/> and can be downloaded from the e-tendering portal <https://www.ireps.gov.in/>. All future Addendum/Corrigendum will be uploaded on RailTel website and e-tendering portal only.  
Western Railway, Microwave Complex, Senapati Bapat Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai-400013  
Phone: 91 (22) 24923907, Fax: 91 (22) 24923913

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E-Tender Notice No. PI/EP/21-22/03 Phone No. 0172-2756469  
Tender applications are invited for purchase of various items against tender No. 13. 2 from the Manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/agents. The bidders can place their bids as per terms & conditions contained on <https://eprocure.gov.in> or <https://eprocure.gov.in>  
Sr. No. Equipment/Item Name Quantity EMD Bid submission date Bid Opening Date Debit Name  
1. Pre Bid case  
1. High Energy Linear Accelerator for Nehru Extension block 01 No. 40,00,000/- 14-02-2022 15-02-2022 Radiotherapy  
2. Non Pre Bid case  
2. Wide Bore CT Simulator on Buyback Basis 01 No. 16,00,000/- 14-02-2022 15-02-2022 Radiotherapy  
Tender document can also be downloaded from website [www.pgimer.edu.in](http://www.pgimer.edu.in) and can be applied on website [www.pgimer.edu.in](http://www.pgimer.edu.in). The tenders will be opened on the dates given above at 03:00 PM in the presence of the authorized intending tenderers. Tenders not submitted on the prescribed form, not accompanied with Bid Security shall be summarily rejected.  
The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof. "PRE-BID CONFERENCE" WITH INTENDING BIDDERS FOR ITEM Sr. No. 1 shall be held on 04-02-2022 from 03:00 P.M. ONWARDS IN THE (PIEP), OFFICE, PGIMER, CHANDIGARH. The intending bidder are free to join Pre Bid Conference through video conference. For more details contact: 0172-2756469 at Procurement Branch (Import).  
NOTE 1. The terms and Conditions of the original Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) available on PGIMER Website will remain same. However on switching over to e-tendering on e-Procurement, the bids will be received in electronic form on e-Procurement website and no bid will be received in Physical form.  
NOTE 2. If any of the tender opening dates happens to be a holiday in PGIMER, Chandigarh, then the same shall be opened on next full working day.  
Additional Terms and Conditions.  
1. The Institute has adopted amended Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) which is available on e-Procurement website <https://eprocure.gov.in> and Website: [www.pgimer.edu.in](http://www.pgimer.edu.in). Therefore the bidders are requested to go through the Instructions Carefully before submitting bids.  
2. The performance bank guarantee will be deposited @ 3% of the Contract value in compliance to the G.O.I. Letter No. F 9/4/2020-PPD dated 30.12.2021.  
3. In case of item Sr. No. 1 and 2 above Exemption under Public Procurement (preference to Make in India) order 2017 has been granted by the Competent Authority, therefore Para 5 of Annexure 'A' of NIT will not be applicable in this case.  
HR-59/PGI PROFESSOR IN-CHARGE (EP)



# Charanjit, hockey captain who won back Olympic gold in 1964, passes away

NITIN SHARMA  
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 27

CAPTAIN OF India's 1964 Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning hockey team, Charanjit Singh, 93, passed away on Thursday in Una, Himachal Pradesh after suffering a heart attack. He had suffered from paralysis a few years ago.

"A captain who brought luck to the team, a calm yet authoritative player and above all a humble human being, that's what my captain Charanjit Singh was and we would like the future generations to know about him," an emotional Gurbux Singh, a member of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics team, said.

Charanjit captaining the team to gold with a 1-0 win over Pakistan in Tokyo was significant because four years earlier India had suffered their first-ever loss in an Olympic final against the arch-rivals.

A BSC Agriculture degree holder from Government Agriculture College, Lyallpur in pre-partition Punjab, Charanjit started playing hockey in school. He would represent Panjab University and later Panjab Police. It was during his Panjab Police days that the centre-half would rub shoulders with Balbir Singh Senior, Udhham Singh. He was first picked in the Indian team in 1958.

Charanjit was the first choice centre-half for the Rome Olympics. He would play a key role in feeding the ball to the likes of Ragbhir Bhola, Prithipal and Jaswant Singh. After India's 1-0 win over Great Britain in the semifinal, he suffered a fracture in his leg and missed the final in which India lost to Pakistan.

Charanjit would remain a regular member of the Indian team from 1958 to 1965, including 1962 Asian Games, where he missed the final again due to an injury.

Harbinder Singh, 79, who made his debut for India during the New Zealand tour in 1961, recalls his first impressions of the captain. "There were senior players in the squad like Udhham Singh, Prithipal Singh, Gurdev Singh, Darshan Singh and it was a two-month long tour. Charanjit would talk to all these senior players with ease. He

would always make a point to call us and talk. During the tour, we would travel almost every day and Charanjit would lead the team in singing his favourite Mohammed Rafi song 'Watan ki rah main watan ke naujawan shaheed ho' from the movie Shaheed. The team won all the three tournaments he captained and he would always start this song in the team bus to motivate us all," Harbinder said.

At Tokyo, India would score wins over Belgium, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Canada apart from a hard fought 1-1 draw against Germany and 1-1 draw against Spain in the pool stage. In the semifinal, India beat Australia 3-1. Most of the matches were played in rain and it was up to Charanjit to feed the forward line, including Harbinder, who scored five goals in the tournament.

"Despite rain, Charanjit made sure that the centre-line fed the ball to the forward-line and communicated well with the defence line too as the ball would sometimes slip," Harbinder added.

In the final against Pakistan, at one point the umpires had to stop the match and warn players about rough play. In a fast paced match, India found the winner through a penalty stroke conversion by Mohinder Lal. "Charanjit was very good in his own 25 m circle. He was not very flashy but a compact player and he showed that by countering Pakistani centre-forwards," Gurbux added.

Charanjit served as Dean of student welfare at Punjab Agricultural University and Hisar Agricultural University before becoming a Director of Sports in the Himachal University.

Col Balbir Singh Kular, member of the 1968 Mexico Olympics bronze-medal winning team, remembers Charanjit as a compassionate human being. "As a captain, he knew how to respect players. When Pakistan's four-time Olympian Brigadier Manzoor Hussain Atif was captured as a POW in 1971 war, Charanjit would often enquire about his well being from us. As a captain, he earned respect but he would also earn respect as a human being," Kular said.



CHARANJIT SINGH  
1928-2022

# Why Winter Games are not green

Artificial snow needs to be pumped in to pull off the Olympics in Beijing

SHASHANK NAIR  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

THE PROMISE of a 'green and clean' winter Olympics by China is one that looks increasingly unlikely with the start of the Games looming closer. A combination of global warming and poor water conservation policies have cast a shadow on not just Beijing's attempt at holding the Winter Olympics, but the event's future in general.

A report released by Sport Ecology Group at Loughborough University and Save Our Winters has stated the dangers of artificial snow on athletes' bodies and the amount of water wastage that happens inevitably for the snow at these games to be produced.

## What is artificial snow?

Snow that is injected with water to harden it and then treated with chemicals to keep the hardened snow in place, is a form of artificial snow that is recommended for winter competitions.

The Loughborough University report states that by 2050, only 10 of the 20 venues that have hosted the Winter Olympics since 1924 will be able to produce an amount of snow that is capable of holding an international-level competition like the Winter Olympics. The survival of the Winter Games is based on the production of artificial snow.

The process of producing this snow is where matters get murky.

## How is artificial snow produced?

High volumes of water and energy are required to create slopes of artificial snow that are competition-ready. In a world where natural snowfall is steadily reducing, the usage of artificial snow, especially for sports, has significantly increased.

For the 2014 Sochi Olympics, Russia used 80% of artificial snow for competitions. That figure rose to 90% for the Pyongyang Winter Games. The 2010 Vancouver Games were also infamous for having to use helicopters to fly in snow for the competitions.

For the Beijing Winter Games, snow making machines from an Italian company called TechnoAlpin have been brought in. Since November 2021, these machines have been pumping out artificial snow. These machines produce this snow by pumping out ice particles at the same time as a thin mist of water vapour. Both these particles are launched upto 60 metres in the air where they combine to become snow and then fall to the ground. TechnoAlpin has been using 290 snow cannons in Beijing, according to the Sunday Times.

## Why is it problematic that Beijing is producing artificial snow?

The region of Beijing is notoriously low on water. This has been achieved through an



The Beijing Winter Olympics begins on February 4. File

## EXPLAINED

over-reliance on groundwater coupled with the ice glaciers around the area steadily melting since the 1950s at an unsustainable rate. According to

a Greenpeace study in 2018, China's glaciers had melted by 82% and one-fifth of the ice cover had been lost since the 1950s. The report also estimated that the water 'shortage' will hit a critical point around the year 2030 when the demand will outstrip the supply considerably.

"There is bound to be some impacts in a region where there is nearly no water in the winter," said Carmen de Jong, a geographer at the University of Strasbourg to Bloomberg.com. "For half a year, during the snow sports season, the water stays away from the natural ecosystem." These Games are estimated to require around 49 million gallons of water to be converted into snow. To put it in perspective, that amount of water would fill 74 Olympic-sized pools.

## What has China said about water usage?

The area of Zhangjiakou, one of the main venues of the Olympics, lays transformed but at some cost. For the past six years, China has attempted to turn the area into a winter destination. Over half of Zhangjiakou is said to be a 'high water-stressed' area. According to China Water Risk, an environmental group based out of Hong Kong, the local water resource per capita is one-fifth less than the China average.

Another major problem in the region is

that the average precipitation that the area has received over the last four decades periodically is below 8 millimetres. Davos, in Switzerland receives nine times the snow-fall in December alone.

That combined with the region's dry weather means water gets lost to evaporation and winds during the ice-making process. Therefore, the region is being pumped with water into the soil which will harden and then create a surface where artificial snow is capable of not melting. "We are adhering to the concept of sustainability," said Li Zhenlong, facility manager at the national cross-country skiing centre in Zhangjiakou to the Sunday Times. "We've collected surface water for snow-making, and we don't need to tap any underground water. It has no impact on the environment."

Beijing has also said that only 2% of the local water supply has been used for the Olympics. At Zhangjiakou, this figure jumps to 9.8%.

## Is it beneficial for competition?

There are pros and cons to artificial snow. India's lone entrant to the Beijing Winter Games Anif Khan has said that artificial snow helps in improving technique.

"It actually helps you build levels of technique. If you have technique, you'll be able to drive down the slopes with speed while being stable," said Anif to the Indian Express. He then adds, "It's kind of a challenge because you're skiing more on ice than snow. It's faster and challenging in terms of balance."

The cons are that artificial snow creates harder and faster slopes and therefore the risk of athletes falling and hurting themselves is higher.

# Ranji Trophy in two phases, says BCCI treasurer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DELHI, JANUARY 27

BCCI treasurer Arun Dhimal on Thursday said that the board intends to hold the Ranji Trophy in "two phases" after they were forced to postpone the premier first-class competition due to rising cases of COVID-19 in the country.

The Ranji Trophy comprising 38-first-class teams was scheduled to start on January 13 but was postponed indefinitely due to the third wave of COVID-19.

With the BCCI planning to start the IPL from March 27, it is practically impossible to hold the tournament in one go but after requests from many state units, the brass held a meeting to discuss the way forward.

"We are exploring the possibility of staging Ranji Trophy, cases were going up when it was postponed, now they seem to be coming down. The operations team is working on whether we can do the league stage next month and complete the rest of the tournament later (post IPL)," Dhimal told PTI after the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah.

As of now, the plan is to hold the league phase for a month, starting in February till March and then have the next phase in June-July, when the monsoon starts in a lot of parts of India with peak summer in some other parts.

"The operations team will work out the logistics and factor in the weather, venue availability as well as availability of players. We are very keen to organise the tournament and that is why we are exploring all possibilities to stage it without compromising players' safety," Dhimal added.

The pandemic played spoilsport last season as the BCCI only had the two men's white ball tournaments (Vijay Hazare Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy).

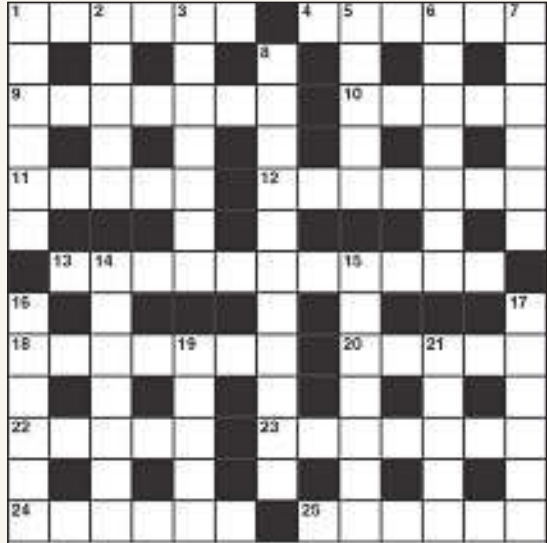
The BCCI paid 50 percent of the earlier match fees as compensation to all first-class cricketers who have endured financial losses.

If it is not held this year, it will severely affect the BCCI's pathways cricket like India A team, which is primarily selected on the basis of Rani Trophy performance.

**The operations team will work out logistics and factor in weather, venue and player availability. We are very keen to organise the tournament and hence exploring all possibilities."**

ARUN DHIMAL  
BCCI TREASURER

## CROSSWORD 4649



### ACROSS

- 1 Like little Charles and us, in trouble (4,2)
- 4 Songs the Fuhrer heard? (6)
- 9 Almost hoping to get painkiller (7)
- 10 They play an important part in Holland's defence (5)
- 11 Not even adverbial (5)
- 12 A man follows Judah's son continuously (2,3,2)
- 13 It throws light on what has been written (7,4)
- 18 She's presumably met her match (7)
- 20 Government report (5)
- 22 Best alfresco celebration (5)
- 23 It puts us in the shade naturally (7)
- 24 I tried a more orderly arrangement (6)
- 25 Bones on view in the library (6)

### DOWN

- 1 The old sailor moves up without notice (6)
- 2 An investment a number managed (5)
- 3 Dressed in a dreary outfit (7)
- 5 Home help up country (5)
- 6 A noble estate (7)
- 7 Mounting a revolt (6)
- 8 In the finish the teller with the key came across (11)
- 14 Beat up Edward? It's done match (7)
- 15 The final round (4,3)
- 16 Kept self-sufficient by sum of petty cash (6)
- 17 People mending pipes? (6)
- 19 The end is nigh (5)
- 21 Trembling because going to prison (5)

Solutions Crossword 4648: Across: 1 Records, 5 Ibsen, 8 Perpendicular, 9 Squat, 10 Torpedo, 11 Effort, 12 Swains, 15 Upright, 17 Dig up, 19 Bend backwards, 20 Emend, 21 Strings. Down: 1 Ropes, 2 Circumference, 3 Re-enter, 4 Sedate, 5 Incur, 6 Soldering iron, 7 Nervous, 11 Equable, 13 Widower, 14 Sticks, 16 Gibed, 18 Pests.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

I married an archaeologist because the \_\_\_\_\_, the more he appreciates me. - Agatha Christie (5,1,4)

OVERR



IITYDL



GLIOO



INORGW



SUDOKU 4728

### Difficulty Level 1s

#### 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 4727



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You're not quite sure what's happening, so no surprises there. You'll be mulling over certain secret fears and worries, but the general mood of the times is in your favour. Helpful circumstances will boost your confidence, but eventual success is down to you.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

If you have a choice then it may be to spend your time putting in some extra work, either directed towards achieving success in your career or fulfilment in a personal hobby. Extra practical assistance is must to counter your impulsive tendencies.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Current planetary patterns should be keeping you on the go, and it looks very much as if you'll have the chance to experiment with new ways of managing affairs at home. Time-saving devices and gadgets could revolutionise your life, while more experienced people should have the answers you need. First, though, you have to ask.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Life is looking up, at last. You should make an early start if you want to make the most of today's exceptionally lively planetary picture. This is a perfect moment to get out of the rut you've been in and instill a renewed sense of adventure into your life.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Energetic planets make for an interesting day all round. Don't be dismayed if you're out of step with a partner, as differences of opinion on important matters are almost inevitable under the current relationship between Venus and Saturn.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You can't live without other people, you know that better than anyone. You must pay attention to partners and joint activities, and allow yourself to rely on friends to help you cope if you're bitten off more than you can chew. There'll be little time to relax.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Whether you are truly prepared or not, you're entering one of the busiest times of the year. Don't be surprised if social engagements are altered at the last minute, or if friends turn out to be not what they seem. They might just be pulling the wool over your eyes.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

You are happy for most arrangements to stay as they are, yet changes of plan will be more than welcome if you've recently allowed yourself to sink into a rather pressurised routine. A financial plan may require further scrutiny, and your judgement could be open to question.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

A number of domestic disagreements could add spice to a lively period, and this is an excellent time to start acting over promised home improvements, including speculation in the property market if that's where your interests lie. Keep other people up to date, if you require assistance.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

General trends now, and over the coming days, continue to be mildly disruptive, although there's no reason why this shouldn't be an enjoyable and stimulating period. If considering career moves, think about the financial consequences. Be kind to younger people. You never know when you might need their help.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Your favourite friends and loved ones will soon come to appreciate your generosity of spirit, and any cash you care to splash out will be warmly received. Disagreements about money will take place in an atmosphere of goodwill and hope for the future.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The presence of powerful planets in passionate regions of your chart brings a warm glow to all events, but is also making you prone to overconfidence and impatience. Take the initiative if you can and inject enthusiasm into a lacklustre enterprise.



# 19SPORT

## Aussie legend Alcott bows out with emotional speech

DYLAN ALCOTT fell short of a fairytale finish and an eighth Australian Open title, losing 5-7, 0-6 to Dutchman Sam Schroder in the quad wheelchair final. The 31-year-old, however, bid farewell to tennis as a national hero with a decorated career, featuring 23 Grand Slam quad titles including 15 in singles, Paralympic gold medals and a revered golden slam.

### Golden Slam

In the Olympic year of 2021 -- while the spotlight was on Novak Djokovic and his bid to first achieve the Golden Slam, and later the Grand Slam -- Alcott became the first man to complete the Golden Slam in quad singles, winning all four Majors and the Paralympic gold medal. At the Tokyo Paralympics last September, he also earned a silver in doubles to add to his twin golds at Rio 2016.

### Basketball gold

Alcott found success initially with the Australia wheelchair basketball team, colloquially known as the 'Rollers'. At 17, he was part of the Beijing gold medal-winning Australia team and won a silver in London.

### All-court player

With 15 titles, Alcott retires as the most successful quad singles player. As well as seven Australian Open titles, Alcott won the US Open three times (2015, 2018, 2021), Wimbledon twice (2019, 2021) and was a three-time Roland Garros champion (2019, 2020, 2021).

### List of honours

The retirement came after a whirlwind 48 hours for Alcott, during which he won his semifinal, flew to Canberra to attend the Australian of the Year ceremony, and flew back to Melbourne for his final match. In Canberra, he became the first person with a visible disability to be made Australian of the Year in the award's 62-year history.

"Whenever I turned on the TV or the radio or read the newspaper, I never saw anybody like me," Alcott said after winning the award. "Whenever I did, it was a road safety ad where someone drink-drives, has a car accident and the next scene was someone like me, in tears because their life is over. I thought to myself, 'That's not my life...'"

Previous winners of the Australian of the Year include Olympic swimming champion Dawn Fraser, Formula One champion Jack Brabham, tennis champion Evonne Coolagong, and Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh.

Alcott has also been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2009, three Victorian Institute of Sport Award of Excellence awards and Officer of the Order of Australia in 2022.

On Thursday, host broadcaster Channel 9 delayed its prime-time news bulletin to not interrupt Alcott's match on Melbourne



Dylan Alcott retired with 23 Grand Slam quad titles

Park's main show court. The Australian Open also had its spectator capacity lifted to 65 per cent, from 50 at the start of the tournament, in time for Alcott's final and fellow Aussies Nick Kyrgios and Thanasi Kokkinakis' doubles semifinal.

### Off-court legacy

In 2017, he founded the Dylan Alcott Foundation, which provides disabled Australians mentoring, grants and scholarships. Using his platform as a presenter and broadcaster on youth-oriented music radio station Triple J, Alcott created a musical festival, called Ability Fest, accessible to people with a wide range of disabilities.

### Being an inspiration

In his retirement speech, Alcott said he didn't "want there to be a dip where wheelchair tennis goes back on the outside courts and no one cares."

"The reason I am retiring is I think there are people who are ready to take that mantle, and keep breaking down those glass ceilings and keep pushing," he added.

World No.1 Australian Ashleigh Barty later revealed that the powerful speech served as an inspiration going into her semifinal on Thursday.

"He has inspired a nation. He's inspired the whole globe," she said. "We were watching his match today," Barty said after her win over American Madison Keys. "I was with my physio about an hour before coming out and when he was saying his acceptance speech, we were both crying. I was like, 'I need to get out of here and game on'. I just wanted to watch Dylan."

During his press conference, Alcott shared a touching message from Andy Murray.

"I hope he doesn't mind this but Andy Murray just messaged me: 'I don't know if I've articulated that well, but you're an absolute rockstar and inspiration with everything you've done'," Alcott said. "That kills me. That makes me want to cry. It's special. You're a part of it."

## All semifinalists have been pushed to their limits in Melbourne and hungry to be the last man standing

CHRISTOPHER CLAREY  
MELBOURNE, JANUARY 27

None of the men's singles semifinalists at the Australian Open has made it this far unscathed. All have been pushed to five sets in the heat at Melbourne Park this year.

Rafael Nadal, making his latest comeback, dropped about 10 pounds and had to battle through nausea and dizziness during his toasty, testy victory over Denis Shapovalov of Canada on Tuesday in Rod Laver Arena. Daniil Medvedev of Russia had to save a match point in the same stadium Wednesday before prevailing against Shapovalov's countryman, Felix Auger-Aliassime, in an after-midnight thriller.

Matteo Berrettini has been stretched to the limit twice: by Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz and French veteran Gael Monfils. Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece had to rally to wriggle free of American Taylor Fritz.

But after Medvedev's entertaining escape from a two-set deficit in the quarterfinal, the final four is set, and it is a lineup with genuine star power if, for now, only one true tennis great.

That is Nadal, 35, who is in close range of surpassing his longtime measuring sticks, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, with a 21st Grand Slam tournament singles title but, as usual, is talking down the destination and favoring the journey.

"I am super satisfied and feel a very lucky person in general for all the things that happen to me in this life, no?" Nadal said, looking drawn but fulfilled after battling past Shapovalov. "You can't always be frustrated if the neighbor has a bigger house than you or a better phone or a better thing, no? I'm not going to be frustrated if Novak or Roger finishes the career with more Grand Slams than me."

### Hungry as ever

Nadal, it should be said, has a lot of nice things, including a million-dollar watch and an 80-foot yacht named "Great White," but he clearly still craves more time on the court. Why else would he spend months rehabilitating again from the chronic foot condition that first threatened his career in his early 20s? Why else would he make the trip to Melbourne despite falling ill with the coronavirus in late December?

The love of the game remains, and he could get plenty more court time (and challenges) in his semifinal duel with Berrettini, the strapping 6-foot-6 Italian whose topspin forehand is nearly as heavy as Nadal's.

They have played just once. Nadal won in straight sets in the semifinals of the 2019 U.S. Open, the last Grand Slam tournament Nadal won on a hard court. But Berrettini, 25, is now an established threat in majors after reaching last year's Wimbledon final.

Berrettini is the first Italian man to reach



Sixth-seeded Rafael Nadal overcame Denis Shapovalov in a gruelling five-set battle to reach the last four.

Reuters

a singles semifinal at the Australian Open and will remain the only one until at least next year. Jannik Sinner, his redheaded, 20-year-old compatriot, was no match for Tsitsipas in the quarterfinals Thursday.

Tsitsipas, a 23-year-old right-hander coming back from minor elbow surgery in the offseason on his playing arm, seemed under par in the early rounds as he mistimed his groundstrokes. But he clicked into a higher gear against Sinner, dominating with his versatile and powerful forehand, one of the best shots in the game. He converted all four of his break points, did not face a break point on his own serve and adjusted beautifully to Sinner's big-bang baseline pace to win, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

But to reach the final, Tsitsipas must complete what looks like the toughest mission left in Melbourne. He must defeat Medvedev,

the gangly, 25-year-old Russian with an unorthodox style, who is closing in on Djokovic's No. 1 ranking after defeating him in the 2021 U.S. Open final.

Medvedev and Tsitsipas — ranked No. 2 and No. 4 respectively — both leaders of the new wave, have had a chilly relationship on tour and acknowledged it. But they warmed to each other when they played the Laver Cup for Team Europe in Boston last year.

"It kind of got better after Laver Cup," Tsitsipas said. "We haven't really spoken in the last couple of months, but our relationship is competitors on the court and kind of fighting for the same dream."

Medvedev leads their head-to-head series 6-2 and is 4-0 against Tsitsipas on outdoor hard courts, the surface at the Australian Open. But Medvedev, who lost to Djokovic in the final at Melbourne Park last year, came

within one point of elimination Wednesday against the dynamic and inspired Auger-Aliassime.

Medvedev had beaten him in all three of their previous matches while losing just one set. But he lost the first two sets in the quarterfinal as he proved less reliable than usual during their extended, often spectacular baseline rallies and struggled to read and return Auger-Aliassime's big serves.

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# ‘Apna time aayega’: After a long wait, Hooda’s time has arrived

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 27

AFTER BEING ignored for nearly five years, Deepak Hooda one day asked Irfan Pathan why wasn't he getting his chances to play for India? Hooda believed that he had it in him to play for the country, but things weren't going his way.

Irfan, the former India all-rounder had a one-liner to pacify his junior in the Baroda team: "Apna time aayega".

Eight years after making his Baroda debut, Hooda's time eventually came, when he was picked for the upcoming three-match home ODI series against the West Indies.

Irfan's one-liner predated the Bollywood rap that became a hit. There was another piece of advice that got stuck with Hooda: "Be calm and just go through the process."

Train hard, look after your fitness and diet; that's process in a nutshell for a sportsperson. Work ethic and determination embellish it. Hooda began his "process" three years ago. Quietly, he followed the routine in Baroda. In fact, he internalised it, striving to play for his country. A staggering Rs 42 crore IPL contract with Sunrisers Hyderabad in 2016 didn't satiate his desire. Playing for India has always been his Holy Grail. "I slowly got close to Irfan bhai and Yusuf (Pathan) bhai. They taught me to be calm, they made me realise the power of calmness. As a youngster it was natural to be restless and I was no exception. It was hampering my game. At times, I tried too hard. Tried to overdo things that weren't needed," Hooda told *The Indian Express*. Irfan's cricket career had been a roller-coaster ride. After a sparkling start in Australia, the left-arm seamer became a victim of former India coach Greg Chappell's 'all-rounder' experiment, losing his bowling mojo, swing to be precise, in the process. He came back after being written off. So, when he spoke to Hooda, he did it from his personal experience.

Hooda gave the lowdown on the process he followed. "I remember Irfan bhai telling me the importance of preparation and process. Doing the same thing over and over again,



Deepak Hooda's List - A Strike rate is 93, his T20 strike rate is touching 139.

without expecting anything from anyone. So, be it the gym sessions, training at the nets and following a strict diet; I always maintained a good work ethic. It paid off."

In search for the right balance, the Chetan Sharma-led selection committee has loaded the white-ball squads with all-rounders. Hooda being a flatish off-spin bowler and a hard-hitting batsman, has made the cut. His List A strike rate is north of 93, his T20 strike rate is touching 139. The ODI squad also has Washington Sundar, Deepak Chahar and Shardul Thakur alongside him as all-rounders. Washington is expected to be the team's first-choice spin-bowling all-rounder. But Hooda's ability to go ballistic with the bat is a currency that the 26-year-old carries.

"People wondered and doubts crept in pretty often, but Irfan bhai always told me one line, 'Apna time aayega'," Hooda said. And when he got frustrated, he found his younger brother was by his side, ready to share the pain. "Whenever I got frustrated I took it all on my younger brother, who is now a sports manager. He was also a cricketer, so he understands what are the things player sometimes go through," Hooda said.

In 2020, he was in the news for all the wrong reasons. He fought with Baroda captain Krunal Pandya and left the bio-bubble, when he found that his name was missing from the 15-member squad for the Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy. In 2021, he moved to Rajasthan, a move that had a touch of inevitability. Hooda recalled: "I saw the ups and downs and then everyone knows what happened in Baroda. I moved to another state last year. It was a new journey but Rajasthan welcomed me. All the hard work has paid off. I didn't get an answer initially, why I was picked and why I was dropped. It was a challenging time. I wanted to know why I was not picked. I became desparate, desparate to be picked again and just wanted to be in the team."

During the last IPL, he spoke to Anil Kumble, and the legendary leg-spinner, too, said Hooda had it in him to play for India again. A thank you to Kumble was due as well.

"I would also like to thank Anil bhai, because Punjab Kings gave me a chance in two IPL seasons, people there saw that I still have something in me. I always backed myself. I always believed... Try, try until your last breath."



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