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RESOLUTION OF STRESSED ASSETS

Bad bank ready, 15 cases adding up to Rs 50,000 cr to be shifted by March 31

Govt banks will hold majority in ARC; pvt banks will own 51% or more in debt resolution company



BUILD UP TO BUDGET 2022-23

Anantha Nageswaran, economist and teacher, is CEA



V Anantha Nageswaran

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

WITH THE Economic Survey to be presented on Monday, and the Union Budget for 2022-23 on Tuesday, the Government announced the appointment of Dr V Anantha Nageswaran as its Chief Economic Advisor (CEA), adding in a statement that he has assumed charge.

Economist Nageswaran has been an author, teacher and consultant and has taught at several business schools and institutes of management in India and in Singapore, the Union Finance Ministry said in a statement. He has written articles for *The Indian Express*, including one in which he listed the benefits of structural reforms set in motion on November 8, 2016, through demonetisation.

The CEA plays a key role in bringing out the Economic Survey, which presents the economic report card of the Government during the year and suggestions on possible reforms. The Survey this year will likely be a trimmed down version, with only one volume as against the usual two.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 28

WITH JUST three days for Union Budget 2022-23, a proposal by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman February 1 last year to set up a 'bad bank' has been cleared.

State Bank of India Chairman Dinesh Khara Friday said the proposed 'bad bank' has "now" received all necessary permissions including from the Reserve Bank of India. It is ready to com-

mence operations with 15 cases worth Rs 50,335 crore to be transferred by March 31, he said.

Khara said public sector banks will have a majority stake in the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) while private banks will majorly own the India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL).

Sitharaman had in her February 1, 2021, Budget speech proposed a new structure for resolution of stressed assets. "The high level of provisioning

EXPLAINED
E Freeing up bank capital

PROPOSED IN the first term of the NDA government, the bad bank has finally been approved. The new structure is expected to free up the balance sheet and help banks in lending to productive sectors.

by public sector banks of their stressed assets calls for measures to clean up the bank books. An Asset Reconstruction Company and Asset Management Company would be set up to consolidate and take over the existing stressed debt and then manage and dispose of the assets to Alternate Investment Funds and other potential investors for eventual value realisation," she had said.

SBI's Khara said there were certain concerns being raised
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Maharashtra: SC sets aside House action against 12 BJP MLAs

Suspension for a year illegal, can only be for session term, says Bench

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

GOVT & POLITICS

BJP HAILS RULING, MVA SAYS WILL STUDY ORDER
PAGE 7

RULING THAT the Maharashtra Assembly's July 5, 2021 resolution suspending 12 BJP MLAs for one year following alleged misbehaviour in the House was "unconstitutional, substantively illegal and irrational", the Supreme Court said Friday that the legislators could not have been suspended beyond the tenure of that session.

The BJP hailed the ruling, saying it is a "vindication" of its stand and "a huge setback" for the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition in the state.

The bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar, ruling on a plea by the suspended MLAs, declared the resolution "non est in the eyes of law" and "ineffective in law, insofar as the period be-

yond the remainder of the stated Session in which the resolution came to be passed".

"Suffice it to observe that one-year suspension is worse than 'expulsion', 'disqualification' or 'resignation' — insofar as the right of the constituency to be represented before the House/Assembly is concerned. In that, long suspension is bound to affect the rights harsher than expulsion wherein a mid-term election is held within the specified time in terms of Section 151A of the 1951 Act, not later than six months. Thus, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

India bought Pegasus as part of defence deal with Israel in 2017: NYT Report: FBI bought spyware for domestic surveillance but decided against its use

Report: FBI bought spyware for domestic surveillance but decided against its use

KRISHNA KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

THE INDIAN government bought Israeli spyware Pegasus in 2017 as part of a \$2-billion package for weapons including a missile system, *The New York Times* reported Friday.

The year-long investigation, the newspaper reported, revealed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, too, had bought and tested the spyware "for years with plans to use it for domestic surveillance until the agency finally decided last year not to deploy the tools."

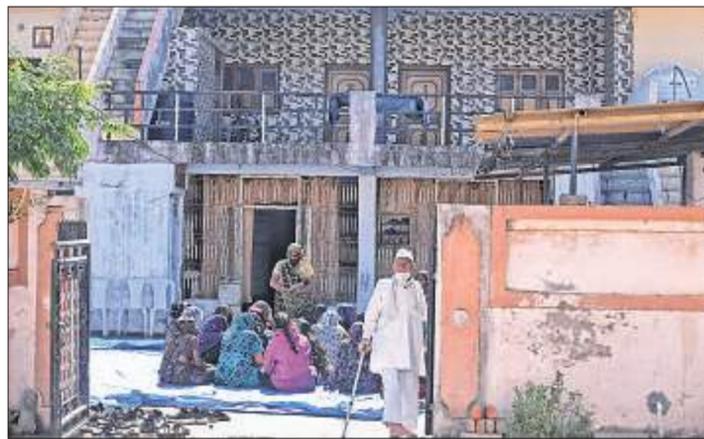
The report details how the spyware was used globally, by Mexico to target journalists and dissidents, and by Saudi Arabia against women's rights activists and associates of columnist Jamal Khashoggi who was killed

by Saudi operatives. It says that under a set of new deals licensed by the Israeli Ministry of Defence, Pegasus was provided to Poland, Hungary and India, and other countries.

Flagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi's landmark visit to Israel in July 2017 — the first by an Indian Prime Minister to that country — the NYT report said that visit came even as "India had maintained a policy" of what it called "commitment to the Palestinian cause," and "relations with Israel were frosty."

"The Modi visit, however, was notably cordial, complete with a carefully staged moment of him and Prime Minister [Benjamin] Netanyahu walking together barefoot on a local beach. They had reason for the warm feelings. Their countries had agreed on the sale of a package of sophisticated

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At the family's residence in Dingucha village, Gandhinagar, on Friday. Nirmal Harindran

Gujarat family that froze to death identified: 'Took all winter clothes'

VAIBHAV JHA
DINGUCHA (GANDHINAGAR),
JANUARY 28

AROUND 6 AM on Friday, Baldev Patel got the call from Canada that he had been dreading. Friends there told the elderly man in his 60s that the Canadian authorities had confirmed that the four bodies found frozen to death near the border with the US were that of his son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

It was nine days after the family, originally from Dingucha, lost touch with the four, the last conversation being on January 19, when they informed they had reached Canada safely. The bodies



The four who died were identified as Jagdish Patel (39), wife Vaishali (37), daughter Vihangi (11), son Dharmik (3)

had been discovered the same day, near Manitoba on the Canadian side of the border, where temperatures drop as low as -30 degrees Celsius this time.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

3rd wave has likely peaked in India, key indicators show

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, JANUARY 28

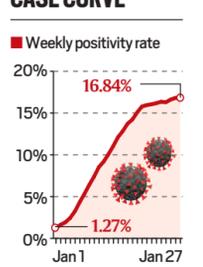
THE DAILY national count of Covid-19 cases has been falling for a week now. Active cases have been going down for four days. The weekly positivity rate has remained almost stable for a week.

By all indications, the third wave seems to have already peaked, and it has happened at a level well below the peak of the second wave.

The cases can rise again, but current trends suggest that it is unlikely to go very high. The reproduction number, or R, which is a measure of how fast the virus is spreading in the population, has fallen below 1 after more than a month, according to calculations by researchers at Chennai-based Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

The R-value, which estimates the number of people getting infected by an already infected per-

CASE CURVE



son on an average, had gone up to almost 3, the highest during the entire pandemic, in the first two weeks of this month. This meant that every infected person was passing on the disease to at least three more on an average, resulting in a very high speed of transmission. However, this number has fallen to 0.9 for the period between January 25 and 27, Sitabhra

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSIDE

MACRON SPEAKS WITH PUTIN TO COOL UKRAINE TENSIONS

EYE ON STRATEGIC TIES, INDIA CALLS FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION
PAGES 5, 12

Hijab row: Udupi college asks students to opt for online classes, local leaders cite divide & politics

KIRAN PARASHAR
UDUPI, JANUARY 28

"IF THE government thinks wearing the hijab is a crime, and does not allow my daughter to attend the final exams, let her stay at home... We want our daughter to study well and excel in life but why are her rights being snatched?"

It's a decision driven by despair. His daughter, a Class 12 student, is among six Muslim girls who have been denied entry into their classrooms at a Government



The Government Pre-University College in Udupi. Express

Pre-University College in Karnataka's Udupi since January 1 for wearing the hijab.

"We are being treated like criminals for demanding the fundamental right to practise our religion. My classmates were not allowed to talk to me and if someone was seen talking to us, they were pulled up," said the student.

Ever since these six students were kept out of classrooms, the issue has been gaining steam until the college in communally polarised coastal Karnataka was
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

DECLINING TO dilute conditions it had stipulated earlier for providing reservation in promotions to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Supreme Court said Friday it "cannot lay down any yardstick for determining inadequacy of" their "representation" in public employment.

The bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai pointed out that the court even in the past had refused to lay down any yardstick and had left it to states to determine the factors relevant for deciding adequate representation, depending upon the promo-

tion posts in question.

Reiterating the position, the bench said "laying down of criteria for determining the inadequacy of representation would result in curtailing the discretion given to the State Governments. In addition, the prevailing local conditions, which may require to be factored in, might not be uniform".

Pointing out that the court, in its 2006 judgement in M Nagaraj vs Union of India, had "made it clear that the validity of law made by the State Governments providing reservation in promotions shall be decided on a case-to-case basis for the purpose of establishing whether the inadequacy of representation is supported by quantifiable data", the
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

Khan Sir, the teacher who can explain all, but RRB: 'Beyond me'

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JANUARY 28

HIS STUDENTS can decode all the theories of science but cannot understand how the Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) thinks, says Faisal Khan a.k.a Khan Sir. In the protests that have broken out in mainly Bihar and Uttar Pradesh over recent RRB exam results, the head of a coaching institute and popular YouTuber is among six teachers booked on the charges of instigating the applicants.

Khan, who has built a YouTube following of 14.5 mil-

lion from his videos breaking down intricate topics into easily understandable details, denies instigating the applicants. However, the 29-year-old says, the workings of the RRB are beyond his comprehension. Talking to reporters on January 26, Khan said: "The RRB people do not know the ground reality." Adding that the government "can't be blamed for everything", he said it was good the Railways has decided to hear out students.

Khan opened his G S Research Centre at Patna coaching hub Chak Musallahpur over five years ago. The centre comprises a big hall with tin shade

that can accommodate about 1,000 students at a time.

However, Khan really took off when he started his YouTube channel in 2019, and soon gained an audience for his videos explaining things in Hindi, with a lot of vernacular and proverbs thrown in. In 2021, he started an app called 'Khan Sir Official', that has one million-plus downloads.

A teacher in the area said around 12,000-15,000 students used to attend classes at G S Centre in batches before Covid struck. Khan has earlier said he charges fees as per the paying capacity of a student. There is no other teacher at the coaching



Faisal Khan, a.k.a. Khan Sir, has built a YouTube following of 14.5 million from his videos. Express



centre though it does have a devoted "research team".

The centre gives coaching for examinations conducted by the Railways, Staff Selection Commission, State Teachers Eligibility Test and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection.

Khan did not reply to calls or text messages, remaining unavailable since issuing a video appeal to students on Thursday night to maintain calm.

In an interaction with the media on January 26 and 27, he said he had never provoked students nor told them to take to the roads. But underlying the anger, he pointed out that a "dig-

ital protest" by them had drawn "some eight million tweets". "I just tweeted once, and it had nothing provocative."

Khan admitted though that, during his classes, he told students how the RRB had changed the format for the exams, leaving many applicants apprehensive that they would not get the jobs for which they had applied back in 2019. The forms released at the time did not mention any change.

"The RRB examinations are very important. A government job means a lot. I have two students who work as daily wagers
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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BATAGUR BASKA: THE SUNDARBANS MAY BE THE LAST HOPE FOR THESE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED RIVER TURTLES

Decline of habitat, threat from predators and the demand for turtle meat have, over the decades, led to dwindling numbers of the Batagur baska in south Asia



KAPIL SHARMA I'M NOT DONE YET REVIEW

Indisciplined Netflix standup special is for the comedian's fans



TECH

ONEPLUS BUDS Z2 REVIEW

Noise cancellation that makes the music better

EXPRESS AUDIO

Express Conversations: Ramchandra Guha

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Writer-historian Ramchandra Guha spoke to Monojit Majumdar about the Indian Republic, undermining of public institutions, rewriting of history, and the abandoning of national icons by the Cong, allowing the BJP to appropriate them

FROM PAGE ONE

Bad bank ready

but eventually both NARCL and IDRCL have requisite approval. NARCL will acquire and aggregate identified non-performing asset (NPA) accounts from banks while IDRCL will handle the debt resolution process, he said.

To a query on why there was back and forth on the bad bank structure with the RBI, Khara said: "I think there is no difference in original construct and what has finally come into existence. This is a structure which has been envisaged for the first time, and whatever time has been taken, it is essentially to iron out some of the issues which could have possibly come up in future. So, they have all been ironed out and they have been appropriately addressed. And so, that the functioning of both entities should be smooth, and they should be in a position to achieve the objective for which they're brought into existence."

Concerns mainly arose on the dual ownership structure and operational mechanism with the setting up of two separate entities NARCL and IDRCL.

NARCL will acquire and aggregate the identified NPA accounts from Banks while IDRCL under an exclusive arrangement will handle the debt resolution process. This exclusive arrangement will be as per the scope defined in the 'Debt Management Agreement' to be executed between the two entities, Khara said.

"This arrangement will be on a 'Principal-Agent' basis and final approvals and ownership for the resolution shall lie with NARCL as the Principal. This is as

per the structure originally envisaged," he said.

Normally, a single entity to be accountable as owner and for recovery of the assets is in practice. The Indian Banks Association (IBA) is learnt to have wanted to have the dual structure with AMC as a privately held entity, to be out of the purview of the regulatory entities. But now 'Principal and Agent mechanism' has been put in place to address regulatory concerns, wherein final approvals will be done by NARCL as the Principal.

The asset resolution will be done in a phased manner. While a total of 38 accounts aggregating Rs 82,845 crore have been identified for transfer to NARCL, it will be done in a phased manner. In the first phase, at least 15 accounts worth Rs 50,335 crore will be transferred to the proposed bad bank by March 31.

Initially, an estimated Rs 2 lakh crore worth of bad assets was planned to be transferred to the 'bad bank'. However, Khara said some of these accounts have already been resolved.

12 BJP MLAs

impugned resolution is unreasonable, irrational, and arbitrary and liable to be set aside," it said.

Pointing out that suspension is a disciplinary measure, the bench said suspension for a period of one year "would assume the character of punitive and punishment worse than expulsion" as it "has the effect of creating a de facto vacancy though not a de jure vacancy".

Suspension beyond the remainder of the ongoing session would also be "violative of basic democratic values" as "the con-

stituency would remain unrepresented in the Assembly" and this "would also impact the democratic set-up as a whole by permitting the thin majority Government (coalition Government) of the day to manipulate the numbers of the Opposition party in the House in an undemocratic manner," the bench said.

"The Opposition will not be able to effectively participate in the discussion/debate in the House owing to the constant fear of its members being suspended for a longer period" and "there would be no purposeful or meaningful debates but one in terror and as per the whims of the majority. That would not be healthy for democracy as a whole," it said.

Writing for the bench, Justice Khanwilkar pointed out that the "dispensation... to order withdrawal of member (suspension)" contained in Rule 53 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules.

According to this, the "Speaker may direct any member who refuses to obey his decision, or whose conduct is, in his opinion, grossly disorderly, to withdraw immediately from the Assembly" and "the member... shall do so forthwith and shall absent himself during the remainder of the day's meeting. If any member is ordered to withdraw a second time in the same Session, the Speaker may direct the member to absent himself from the Assembly for any period not longer than the remainder of the Session".

The Speaker, therefore, is expected to exercise the power only in case of "grossly disorderly" conduct and "in a graded objective manner", the bench said. It said: "Suspension beyond the Session would be bordering on punishing not only the member concerned, but also inevitably impact the legitimate rights of the constituency from where the member had been elected".

It would "entail... unnecessary (unessential) deprivation. And longer or excessive deprivation would not only be regarded as irrational, but closer to or bordering on perversity," it said.

3rd wave

Sinha, the lead researcher, said. A value lower than 1 signifies that the disease is in the decline phase, since it is getting transmitted to lesser number of people per infected person.

Sinha said the R-values of most of the states had also declined below 1 during this period. The states which still have R-values greater than 1 include Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Jammu and Kashmir. But here also the R-values are showing a declining trend. The only exception to this is Mizoram where the reproduction number is still showing a rise, Sinha said.

This dip in the R-values is getting reflected in the daily case counts as well. On Thursday, 2.51 lakh new cases were detected, well below the 3.47 lakh that were discovered a week earlier, which remains the highest daily count in the third wave so far. The peak of the second wave was at 4.14 lakh.

If the current trends hold, and cases continue to decline, India would have defied predictions of the third wave peak reaching 8 or 10 lakh cases a day. Also, India's third wave trajectory would be remarkably different from most other badly affected countries, where the peak of the Omicron wave was two to four times higher than their previous peaks.

Of course, many more cases are likely to have gone undetected in India during the current wave compared to the previous

two waves, because of the largely asymptomatic nature of infections caused by the Omicron variant. Also, a large number of people probably never got themselves tested.

But while that could have kept the official case count somewhat low, the fact that the positivity rate is now stabilising indicates that the energy of the third wave might actually be dissipating fast.

The weekly positivity rate rose from less than 1 per cent in the last week of December to a shade below 17 per cent now, but this has remained between 16 and 17 per cent for a week. Test numbers have remained stable, with 17-18 lakh samples being tested every day on average for the last two weeks.

Most of the states are reporting far fewer cases now than they were doing a week ago, as a result of which active cases at the national level have begun to come down for the first time in a month.

As on Thursday, there were about 21 lakh active cases in the country. Four days ago, this number was about 22.5 lakh, which has been the highest level during the third wave till now. During the second wave, the active cases had gone as high as 37 lakh. At least 16 states and union territories have seen their active cases decline in the last one week.

Quota

bench said "therefore, we are of the opinion that no yardstick can be laid down by this Court for determining the adequacy of representation of SCs and STs in promotional posts for the purpose of providing reservation".

The court said that "before providing for reservation in promotions to a cadre, the State is obligated to collect quantifiable data regarding inadequacy of representation of SCs and STs" but the exercise of collection of information "cannot be with reference to the entire service or 'class/group', but it should be related to the grade/category of post to which promotion is sought".

It said the "cadre which should be the unit for the purpose of collection of quantifiable data in relation to promotional posts would be meaningless if data pertaining to representation of SCs and STs is with reference to the entire service".

Stating that there should be review of the data collected, it said the period of review should be "reasonable".

The judgement came on appeals by the Centre and States which said they could not proceed with many promotions due to ambiguities in applying reservation norms and urged the court to clarify.

New CEA

After the previous CEA KV Subramanian's three-year term ended in December, several names were shortlisted for the position, including Pami Dua, Professor, Delhi School of Economics; Poonam Gupta, Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER); and, Principal Economic Adviser Sanjeev Sanyal.

Nageswaran was the Dean of the IFMR Graduate School of Business and a Visiting Professor of Economics at Krea University. He has also been a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister from 2019 to 2021.

He holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and a doctoral degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. He is also the co-founder of the Takshashila Institution, a centre for research and education in public policy.

Nageswaran has recently in his column stressed on the need for post-Covid economic re-evaluation and the impact of the pandemic on several sectors of the economy.

In a recent column in Mint, he had argued for the reopening of educational institutions for a healthier India.

Nageswaran's appointment has also been welcomed by those from across the political aisle. "Having known Ananth well for over a decade & co-authored many articles with him, I welcome his appointment... I'm sure he will revive the lost intellectual heft of the Office of the CEA in the Finance Ministry," said Praveen Chakravarty, political economist who heads the Data Analytics department of the Congress.

Gujarat family

At around 3 am on Friday India time, the High Commission in Ottawa issued a statement identifying the four as Jagdish Patel, 39, his wife Vaishali (37), their daughter Vihangi (11), and son Dharmik (3).

Baldev and his bedridden wife Madhu Patel, also the deputy sarpanch of Dingucha, were at the village on Friday with relatives for a 'besna' ceremony. With the cost of the return of the bodies prohibitive, the cremation will be performed in Canada. Jaswant's cousin Jagdish, a schoolteacher, said: "We are absolutely devastated."

Jagdish and wife Vaishali also worked as schoolteachers, at different schools in Kalol and Gandhinagar, till about three years ago, when Jagdish joined younger brother Mahendra Patel's garment business in Kalol city. A few months ago, the family left the rented accommodation in Kalol and moved back to their ancestral home in Dingucha. As per local authorities and police, a fortnight ago, they left for Canada on a visitors' visa.

There is almost no house in Dingucha with a resident who does not live abroad, mostly the US. And the Patels were not the first to try and make it to America somehow. The family admits Jagdish hoped to make a "new life" abroad, and that only his parents and brothers knew about his plans.

Amritbhai Patel, a relative, says Baldev confessed this to him a few days ago. "Jagdish had packed all the winter clothes and toys the children had. He left his motorcycle for his father to use."

Residents say migration of people abroad began in the early '90s. Of its total population of 3,280, Patidars and Thakors constitute 40% each. Dingucha has a government primary school, a trust-funded public senior secondary school and a community health care centre funded by the villagers themselves. Agriculture is the main occupation.

Wall paintings and billboards in lane after lane advertise student visas and permanent residency in Canada "with or without IELTS".

Jayesh Chaudhary, the Talati of the village, says: "There is no record of the number of people from the village overseas. However, more than 50% of the houses here remain locked since the inhabitants are either in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar or other countries."

Besides the four found dead by the Canadian authorities, law enforcement agencies on the American side had detained seven undocumented Indians. Preliminary investigations indicate all 11 were part of the same group illegally trying to enter the US from Canada. A statement by the USC Customs and Border Protection Friday said the seven would be deported to India soon.

Hijab row

ordered closed last week by lo-

cal authorities on account of a Covid outbreak.

The college development committee, which is headed by BJP MLA Raghupathi Bhat, has now "suggested" that students wearing the hijab to college must opt for online classes until the issue is resolved by the BJP state government.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Karnataka Education Minister B C Nagesh said: "We have ordered for the formation of a committee to look into the uniform matter. We cannot change it for one college. Once the committee submits its report, a call will be taken. We have asked all the schools and colleges across the state to maintain the status quo."

The state's Department of Undergraduate Education does not prescribe uniforms for its colleges, and individual government colleges have come up with their own rules in this regard.

At the Udipi college, the students claim the hijab was allowed in class till a few years ago. "But for the past few years, they (college officials) have been objecting to it and asking us to remove it inside the classroom. We have been wanting to wear the hijab in class but were repeatedly denied permission. We decided to go ahead now," said one of them.

Rudre Gowda, the college principal, says the rule on hijab has been in force since the college got established in 1985. "According to the rule, the students are allowed to wear the hijab till they reach their desks. Once the class starts, they have to remove the hijab. This issue started only at the end of December and we don't know why," he said.

There is no state government directive regarding a ban on the hijab at any of its institutions. Bengaluru-based lawyer Maitreyi Krishnan points to a Kerala High Court ruling in 2016 — on a case over a dress code for the all-India pre-medical entrance test — that banning the hijab would violate article 25(1) of the Constitution on religious freedom. "There are essential rights in each faith and that cannot be denied," Krishnan said.

In Udipi, teachers and local leaders feel the issue has gone beyond their control. They are now concerned that the controversy could spread to other schools and colleges in the district since radical groups have entered the fray "to generate political mileage".

The Campus Front of India (CFI), the student wing of Popular Front of India (PFI), has supported the students' demand. But Hindu Jagarana Vedike general secretary Prakash Kukkehalli has warned that Hindu students will attend classes with saffron shawls if the hijab is allowed.

"We do not know how this issue cropped up but if this is not addressed, it is going to spread to other schools and colleges, polluting the environment of educational institutions," said Abdul Rehman Razvi Kalkatta, secretary of the Muslim co-ordination committee for Udipi district.

The college has a strength of about 700 students, including 76 Muslim students. On Wednesday, MLA Bhat held a meeting with Muslim leaders and the principal, and suggested that students unwilling to attend classes without the hijab can take up online classes.

According to local leaders and officials, the roots of the controversy lie in the growing political clout in the region of Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), the political wing of PFI. Last month, the SDPI won three seats in the Udipi urban local body polls, making inroads into the traditional Congress vote base.

The students, however, insist

their demand has no political base. "We approached them (CFI) to support the cause since it is our fundamental right," one of the six students said.

Khan Sir

on the side. If they become station masters, their lives would change forever," he told reporters, thanking Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for putting the exams on hold after the protests.

While applicants took to the streets and blocked rail lines in both UP and Bihar, the maximum violence was in Bihar, where students burnt empty train coaches. The Indian Express had reported that the two states made up nearly 30% of the applicants for the RRB exams.

In a recognition of how the youth protest — and the police action on them in UP — could backfire amid polls in five states, former Union minister and BJP Patna Saheb MP Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday urged the government to hear them out.

Little is known about Khan's background, and he does not say much except that he belongs to Gorakhpur in Eastern UP and wanted to join the Army like his elder brother. Crestfallen after rejection due to a medical condition, Khan has said, he wondered for a long time what to do.

In a video on his channel, he said that with a degree in science and a Masters in geography, he decided to try out teaching. "I started with just six students in Patna. They told me I was good at explaining things. This is when I decided to pursue this field," he said.

About his style, his ease at explaining issues like the Galwan Valley crisis — a video of it went viral at the height of India-China border tensions — Khan once said: "Unless a teacher understands the mind of an average student, he cannot teach well."

He said he liked doing the Galwan video as he is fascinated with defence subjects. "It is my first love. However, a lecture comes after several days of preparation. There are occasions when I spend nights at my studio," he said in an interview recently.

In the wake of the RRB protests and the case against Khan, there has been an outpouring of support for him on social media.

Sometime back, there was a controversy regarding Khan's real identity. "How does it matter if I am called Amit Singh or Faisal Khan? I am only a teacher to my students. One has heard about 'Guru, Govind dou khade.'" (underlining that if God and your guru were both before you, a wise man chooses the guru)," he said at the time.

He also said he revealed his identity wherever necessary. "What's in a name? Teachers have no religion, I can recite verses from the Quran and also the Gayatri Mantra."

On Friday, the Bihar Bandh called by several student organisations, and backed by Opposition parties, was peaceful. While party workers were seen at some places, the DM said: "We were relieved to note almost nil presence of students. It is good that Khan Sir appealed to students. I met Khan and the other teachers to say we do not have any prejudice against them."

Asked about the case against Khan and the others, the DM said: "We are scrutinising the facts. The administration will not do anything that can aggravate the problem."

Unmarried, Khan has also been fending off other, more pleasant, rumours. "I don't have any control over them. Someone said I have two girlfriends, some have declared me married... One even ran a news about my death. My mother called me after learn-

ing about it," he said in a video.

NYT on Pegasus

weapons and intelligence gear worth roughly \$2 billion — with Pegasus and a missile system as the centerpieces."

The report mentioned that months later Netanyahu, Israeli Prime Minister at that time, "made a rare state visit to India" and in June 2019 "India voted in support of Israel at the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council to deny observer status to a Palestinian human rights organization, a first for the nation."

Until now, neither the Indian Government nor the Israeli Government has admitted that India bought Pegasus. A global consortium of media groups had revealed in July 2021 that the spyware had been used by several governments around the world to snoop on opponents, journalists, businessmen etc.

The Indian leg of the investigation, conducted by The Wire, had reported that among the potential list of targets were Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, political strategist Prashant Kishor, the then Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa, now Information and Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw (who was not the minister then), along with several other prominent names. The list also mentioned numbers of around 40 journalists, including three editors of The Indian Express — two current and one former.

Responding to the controversy in Parliament on July 18, Vaishnaw said the report was a "sensational" attempt "to malign Indian democracy and its well-established institutions". He had said that India had established protocols when it comes to surveillance which were robust and had "stood the test of time."

"I highlight... that NSO (the maker of the spyware) has also said that the list of countries shown using Pegasus is incorrect. Many countries mentioned are not even our clients. It also said that most of its clients are western countries. It is evident that NSO has also clearly rubbished the claims in the report," the minister had stated.

In an interaction with The Indian Express at Idea Exchange, Israel's Ambassador to India, Naor Gilon had said that "the export of NSO, a private company, is under supervision" of the Israeli government. Asked if the Israeli government would know if NSO sold the software to the Indian government, he had said: "Every export of this private company's technology has to go under licence."

He said that NSO is a "private Israeli company, which developed a tool for countering terrorism and probably saved lives. Understanding the gravity of the tool, Israel put export control measures on the tool. So, they are limited in their export to only government players and only certain government players. About all the rumours or claims around it, I have no knowledge about it. When it comes to India, it's an internal political fight."

After around a dozen snootings filed against the alleged peeping by the government the Supreme Court in October 27 appointed an independent committee headed by retired Justice RV Raveendran, along with two experts.

The three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana had said that the state cannot get "a free pass every time the spectre of 'national security' is raised", as it ordered a "thorough inquiry" into allegations of unauthorised surveillance using Pegasus. Earlier this month, the panel had requested "any citizen of India who has reasonable cause to suspect that his/her mobile has been compromised due to specific usage of NSO Group Israel's Pegasus software" to contact them.

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POLICE FILE REPORT IN HIGH COURT

Probe pending in over half of 758 riot cases, 6 chargesheets filed in 3 months

SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

SINCE OCTOBER 2021, the Delhi Police has filed chargesheets in only six cases registered in connection with the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots even as investigation continues to remain pending in more than 50% of the total 758 FIRs, the status report filed by the police before Delhi High Court reveals.

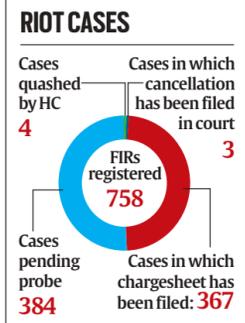
Even in cases where police have already filed chargesheets and declared that the probe is completed, the supplementary investigation, according to the agency, remains pending in more than 64% of those cases.

The court had in November

2021 directed the police to file a fresh status report containing details of all the cases which were registered in connection with the riots. A bunch of petitions connected to the 2020 violence, including those seeking an independent SIT probe into the entire episode and action against political leaders who allegedly gave hate speeches prior to it, are pending before the court.

In October, police had told the court that chargesheets have been filed in 361 cases.

In the status report placed before the court on Friday, police said that chargesheets have been filed in 367 cases and investigations are pending in 384. Cancellation has been filed in three cases while four FIRs were quashed by the High



Court last year. In at least 235 cases out of the 367 cases where chargesheets have been filed, po-

lice said supplementary investigation is pending.

A total of 758 cases were registered in connection with the riots, including 695 being investigated by Northeast Delhi Police. Sixty-two cases were transferred to the Crime Branch and three dedicated SITs have been set up to probe them, said police, adding that one of the cases alleging a larger conspiracy is being investigated by the Special Cell.

According to police data, only 92 cases have reached the stage of actual trial where prosecution evidence is being presented. A total of 209 cases are at the stage of 'argument on charge'.

While accused have been discharged in five cases, acquittals

have taken place in four.

"All FIRs arising out of or registered in connection with the riots which took place in Northeast district in February and March 2020 have been or are being investigated promptly and diligently in accordance with law by the Delhi Police," said the agency in its reply to the court.

With regard to the police case alleging larger conspiracy behind the riots, in which student activists remain behind bars under the UAPA, police Friday told the court that the main chargesheet followed by two supplementary chargesheets has already been filed before the trial court.

"Further investigation is in progress," it said.

Umar Khalid bail hearing: SPP draws parallels between riots and 9/11 attack

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

OPPOSING FORMER JNU student Umar Khalid's bail in a UAPA case connected to the Northeast Delhi riots, the prosecution Friday drew parallels between the planning of the riots and the 9/11 terror attack in the United States.

Addressing Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat, Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad said that even though Khalid's lawyer, senior advocate

Trideep Pais, talked about a web series, *The Trial of the Chicago 7*, during his arguments, "what was more relevant to be referred to was probably the incident of 9/11 which is very well reflected here".

"Just before 9/11 happened when all people were involved, they reached a particular place and took training. A month prior to that, they moved to their respective positions. That is what is relevant in this case also," Prasad told the court.

The SPP added, "The person who was behind 9/11 never visited the US. The conspiracy meeting happened in Malaysia. There were no WhatsApp chats available at the time. Today we

have documents available that he was part of the group. There is a foundation to show that violence is likely to happen."

The SPP also told the court that Khalid's concern for mob lynching was selective, and to corroborate his arguments, spoke about an incident from his own childhood: "When I was a kid, I told my father I wanted a pet; which breeds should I go for? My father told me don't

bother for a breed and pick any pup from the road... My friend is very concerned about mob lynching... (but) mob lynching for him is selective. His concern is equally selective. I (Umar) claim myself to be atheist and not religious. That is the way he wants to portray himself."

Prasad argued that the issue for the accused was "not CAA-NRC but the issue was you had to somehow embarrass the government and take steps which will

reflect in international media".

Arguing that Khalid was Sharjeel Imam's mentor, the SPP said both of them were "two sides of the same coin". Prasad spoke about Imam invoking three issues—Babri Masjid demolition, Ayodhya and Triple Talaq—in his speeches. He conceded that Babri and Ayodhya may be religious in nature but told the court that the "issue of Article 370 was not connected with religion. You are trying to make it an issue for the whole of India and somehow want to colour it".

"A lot of arguments were made that the investigation is communal. You associate with people who do not believe in democracy, nationalism and

courts and the Constitution," Prasad told the court.

He further said the accused used to speak about saving the Tricolour, but during the secret meeting where the conspiracy of the riots was hatched, the "Constitution was missing but a book on the RSS can be seen".

"Where the Constitution is missing you have an RSS book. You won't even keep Tricolour. You will keep a book on RSS," Prasad told the court.

On the last date of hearing, the SPP told the court that all 25 sites, where anti-CAA protests were held in Delhi, were picked because of their proximity to mosques, but were "purposefully given secular names".

Haidarpur where he was declared dead on arrival. We found 9 empty cartridges at the crime scene."

"The body was sent to the mortuary for a post-mortem. Pramod was involved in an attempt to murder and Arms Act cases. He was also involved in the escape of gangster Amit Bhura from police custody and was earlier arrested by the Special Cell as well," DCP Yadav said.

Police said CCTV footage showed the three assailants, who were on a bike, stopping the victim, who was walking outside his home along with his friend. "They executed the crime with the intention to kill the victim and did not harm his friend. After killing him, they fled," an officer said. **ENS**

Police said one of them, who works as a cleaner at a showroom, was friends with the victim, Rohan. "The accused took Rohan to a birthday party and they planned to demand

a ransom of Rs 10 lakh. On Sunday around 11.30 pm, police were informed that Rohan had left with the accused but didn't return. Rohan's father runs a business," said the DCP.

"The location of Rohan's phone was found at UP's Moradabad. Around 200 CCTV were analysed and one of the accused was apprehended in the early hours of Wednesday," Kalsi said. At his instance, the body was recovered from a plot at Harit Vihar, and his associate was nabbed. **ENS**

Umar Khalid was arrested in a Delhi riots UAPA case

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Gangster Neeraj Bawana's associate shot 18 times

New Delhi: An associate of jailed gangster Neeraj Bawana was shot dead by three armed assailants, who fired at him 18 times, in Outer-North district's Alipur area on Thursday night.

Preliminary investigation by police revealed that the gang members of slain gangster Jitendra Gogi were allegedly behind the murder. Police also found that the day of the incident fell on Gogi's birthday—January 27.

DCP (Outer-North district) Brijendra Kumar Yadav said, "Three PCR calls were received around 10.44 pm on Thursday night that unknown persons have shot a man. The deceased, identified as Pramod Kumar (38), a resident of Hiranik Village, was taken to Max hospital in

Haidarpur where he was declared dead on arrival. We found 9 empty cartridges at the crime scene."

"The body was sent to the mortuary for a post-mortem. Pramod was involved in an attempt to murder and Arms Act cases. He was also involved in the escape of gangster Amit Bhura from police custody and was earlier arrested by the Special Cell as well," DCP Yadav said.

Police said CCTV footage showed the three assailants, who were on a bike, stopping the victim, who was walking outside his home along with his friend. "They executed the crime with the intention to kill the victim and did not harm his friend. After killing him, they fled," an officer said. **ENS**

Inspired by movie, youths kidnap, kill boy

New Delhi: Two youths were arrested for kidnapping an 18-year-old boy for Rs 10 lakh ransom before allegedly killing him in North Delhi's Burari. DCP (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said the accused, both aged 19, and residents of Burari, were inspired by Bollywood film *Apaharan*.

Police said one of them, who works as a cleaner at a showroom, was friends with the victim, Rohan. "The accused took Rohan to a birthday party and they planned to demand

a ransom of Rs 10 lakh. On Sunday around 11.30 pm, police were informed that Rohan had left with the accused but didn't return. Rohan's father runs a business," said the DCP.

"The location of Rohan's phone was found at UP's Moradabad. Around 200 CCTV were analysed and one of the accused was apprehended in the early hours of Wednesday," Kalsi said. At his instance, the body was recovered from a plot at Harit Vihar, and his associate was nabbed. **ENS**

Police said one of them, who works as a cleaner at a showroom, was friends with the victim, Rohan. "The accused took Rohan to a birthday party and they planned to demand

a ransom of Rs 10 lakh. On Sunday around 11.30 pm, police were informed that Rohan had left with the accused but didn't return. Rohan's father runs a business," said the DCP.

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STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS (UNAUDITED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

Sr. No.	Particulars	₹ crore					
		3 months ended 31 Dec 2021	3 months ended 30 Sep 2021	3 months ended 31 Dec 2020	9 months ended 31 Dec 2021	9 months ended 31 Dec 2020	9 months ended 31 March 2020
1	Interest earned (a)+(b)+(c)+(d)	8,987.28	9,249.65	8,642.19	27,386.57	25,961.59	34,569.13
	(a) Interest on loans and advances	8,213.56	8,300.16	7,735.48	24,883.57	23,044.41	31,196.24
	(b) Income on investments	773.72	949.49	906.71	2,503.00	2,917.18	3,372.89
	(c) Interest on balances with Reserve Bank of India and other inter bank funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(d) Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Other Income	72.70	-24.22	5.37	70.03	23.65	102.04
3	Total Income (1+2)	9,059.98	9,225.43	8,647.56	27,456.60	25,985.24	34,671.17
4	Interest Expended	6,533.15	6,478.74	6,155.08	19,539.88	18,173.14	24,219.55
5	Operating Expenses (i) + (ii)	542.84	582.95	343.28	1,639.26	1,663.74	2,120.95
	(i) Employees cost	427.47	471.09	256.29	1,321.26	1,408.52	1,683.00
	(ii) Other operating expenses	115.37	111.86	86.99	318.00	255.22	437.95
6	Total Expenditure (4+5) excluding provisions and contingencies	7,075.99	7,061.69	6,498.36	21,179.14	19,836.88	26,340.50
7	Operating Profit before Provisions and Contingencies (3-6)	1,983.99	2,163.74	2,149.20	6,277.46	6,148.36	8,330.67
8	Provisions (other than tax) and Contingencies	210.33	619.53	646.33	1,034.82	1,480.18	2,249.26
9	Exceptional Items	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Profit (+)/Loss (-) from Ordinary Activities before tax (7-8-9)	1,773.66	1,544.21	1,502.87	5,242.64	4,668.18	6,081.41
11	Tax expenses	438.45	392.23	381.73	1,319.57	1,185.72	1,761.45
12	Net Profit (+)/Loss (-) from Ordinary Activities after tax (10-11)	1,335.21	1,151.98	1,121.14	3,923.07	3,482.46	4,319.96
13	Extraordinary items (net of tax expense)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Net Profit (+) / Loss (-) for the period (12-13)	1,335.21	1,151.98	1,121.14	3,923.07	3,482.46	4,319.96
15	Paid-up capital	16,580.00	15,580.00	15,080.00	16,580.00	15,080.00	15,080.00
16	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves (as per balance sheet of previous accounting year)	58,368.34	56,092.34	52,395.89	58,368.34	52,395.89	53,004.48
17	Net Worth	58,368.34	56,092.34	52,395.89	58,368.34	52,395.89	53,004.48
18	Analytical Ratios						
	(i) Capital Adequacy Ratio	19.43%	21.67%	21.32%	19.43%	21.32%	18.80%
	(ii) Earnings Per Share (EPS)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	(iii) Debt Equity Ratio	9.65	9.50	9.28	9.65	9.28	10.42
19	NPA Ratios						
	(a) Gross NPA	2,058.32	2,059.19	1,240.45	2,058.32	1,240.45	1,240.88
	(b) Net NPA	409.63	409.63	0.00	409.63	0.00	0.00
	(c) % of Gross NPA to Gross loans & advances	0.34	0.36	0.24	0.34	0.24	0.21
	(d) % of Net NPA to Net loans & advances	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00
20	Return on Assets	0.81%	0.72%	0.79%	0.81%	0.84%	0.76%

NA = Not Applicable

Return on Assets = Net Profit (after tax) divided by total average assets

Notes:

- The financial results were reviewed by Audit Committee of the Board and approved by the Board in its meeting held on 28 Jan 2022 at Mumbai and are subjected to "Limited Review" by our Statutory Auditors.
- The amounts for three months ended 31 December 2021 are balancing figures between the amounts as per financial statements for the nine months ended 31 December 2021 and half year ended 30 September 2021.
- The amounts for three months ended 31 December 2020 are balancing figures between the amounts as per financial statements for the nine months ended 31 December 2020 and half year ended 30 September 2020.
- Provisions and Contingencies for the period ended 31 December 2021 includes Floating Provision of ₹ 500 crore. (Previous corresponding period ₹ 500 crore).
- During the nine months ended December 31, 2021 GOI contributed ₹ 1,500 crore towards the capital of NABARD.
- The management of the Bank assessed the impact of the COVID-19 considering its internal and external inputs for ascertaining the same on the financial reporting numbers. In the opinion of the management of the Bank, such impact on the reported numbers would not be significant.
- As per RBI's letter dated May 15, 2019, the implementation of Ind AS has been deferred for AIFT's until further notice.
- The financial results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2021 have been arrived at after considering provision for non-performing assets, restructured assets, standard assets, depreciation on investments on the basis of prudential norms issued by Reserve Bank of India and other usual and necessary provisions including employee benefits, other operating expenses, depreciation on fixed assets, income tax made on estimate / proportionate basis wherever required and subject to adjustments as at the year end.
- Previous period figures have been regrouped / rearranged wherever necessary.

Place : Mumbai
Date : January 28, 2022

Dr. G. R. Chintala
Chairman

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**VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS**
70,267

**OMICRON
CASES**
549

**DELHI: TOTAL
CASES**
18,19,332

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	15,428	13,565
ICU BEDS	4,448	3,753

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 1,805
OXYGEN SUPPORT 553
VENTILATOR SUPPORT 151

	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Jan 27	4,291	9,397	34	44,903
Jan 28	4,044	8,042	25	47,042
Total	29,152*	17,64,411	25,769	3,47,39,495

*Total active cases in Delhi

	NOIDA	
	Jan 27	Jan 28
Cases	506	376
Deaths	2	0

	GURGAON	
	Jan 27	Jan 28
Cases	1,671	1,545
Deaths	3	3

9 ARRESTED, 2 MINORS APPREHENDED: POLICE

Woman raped and paraded: Fear made family live in secret for two months

**MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL**
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

FEARING THAT his family could be attacked anytime, the husband of a young woman, who was allegedly gangraped by her neighbours and paraded on the streets in Delhi's Shahdara district, said they had moved to a new house two months ago and were "living in secret".

Such was the fear of the accused, he said, that his parents asked him and his wife to leave home and shift elsewhere. "Even my family couldn't stand by us and asked us to leave. What they did to my wife has scarred us for life," the woman's husband told *The Indian Express* on Friday.

On Wednesday, some of the accused barged into the woman's house and abducted

her. Following the assault, they chopped her hair and forced her to wear a garland of slippers around her neck. "I was at work when I got a call from my neighbour that my wife was taken away by some women from our house. I immediately called the police control room," said the husband, who works in house-keeping at a hotel.

Police had 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, was stalking the woman and had 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," an officer had said.

Narrating the sequence of events, the husband said there

was no flour at home and shops were shut on account of Republic Day: "My wife asked her sister to bring her some flour. The accused followed her to our home and abducted my wife. She is traumatised..."

The victim's younger sister also alleged she was being harassed by the accused and had filed a police complaint a week before the incident, but no action was taken.

The Indian Express accessed her complaint, in which she alleged: "I was attacked and beaten up on January 19... We had an autorickshaw that they burnt down. I used to work at a shop... but (they) broke in and didn't let me work. When I stay at home, their women come and thrash me. When I step out, they... harass me. I am alone... sir, help me. These people say that they aren't scared of the police... (They) don't

let me work or earn any money. How am I supposed to run my house? I am in danger... They threaten me... izzat ki jaan ki..."

A senior police officer said, "We received a PCR call from a family member alleging that their aunt was harassed. We went to the spot, spoke to both parties, and the matter was resolved. We have seen the woman's complaint and are looking into it."

Meanwhile, the husband has been staying at friend's flat for the past two days and has dropped off their toddler with a relative. "My wife and I were being harassed by the accused for a year. After a point, my family members refused to stand by us. We had filed several police com-

plaints, but they (the accused) also filed fake cross complaints. Police asked us to compromise and told us to call if further problems arise. Finally, I moved to a rented accommodation with my wife and child two months ago without informing anyone... We lived there in secret. My salary is Rs 15,000, and I was paying a rent of Rs 4,500," he said.

On the family's allegations, R Sathiyasundaram, DCP (Shahdara), said, "As of now, we are arresting the accused. We will conduct an enquiry to find out the status of their complaints."

Police on Friday said they have arrested two more people, a man aged 37 and a woman aged 40, in connection with the case. "A total of 11 people have been nabbed, including eight women and two minors. Two other accused are on the run," a senior police officer said.

Covid test prices slashed, most pvt labs working with govt yet to come on board

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

ONLY 25 of the 70 private laboratories in Delhi that were conducting RT-PCR tests for the government have so far consented to the lower prices set a week ago, with the government having to extend the deadline to February first week for others to join.

Last Thursday, the Delhi government had slashed prices for the RT-PCR test to Rs 200 for samples collected by the government and Rs 300 for samples collected by laboratories at the behest of the government. The government had been paying private labs Rs 300 and Rs 400 respectively since August last year, when the prices were last revised.

"The deadline for laboratories to consent to the revised prices offered by the government for testing has been extended to February first week. By then, we hope that almost all labs will join," said a senior government official.

A majority of Delhi's quoted 3 lakh RT-PCR testing capability comes from private laboratories that were either set up or expanded during the last two years. Government laboratories in Delhi's hospitals, including the capacity of central labs such as those at the National Centre for Disease Control and National Institute of Biologicals-Noida, add up to only about 8,500 tests a day.

The official added, "This time, instead of asking labs to tell us the peak capacity, we have asked them to share details of the machines that they have, the manpower, etc, to calculate how many tests can realistically be done in a day. Usually, the capacity drops when there is a surge in cases because lab employees start falling sick, there is wear and tear of the machines when they are run continuously, and sometimes there is a shortage of kits."

Delhi's testing capacity had dropped by a third of its 1 lakh peak capacity during the delta wave in April-May last year.

The labs that haven't sent in their consent to the government, however, still have to charge the revised prices to people directly coming to them.

In the same order last week, the government had also slashed the prices to Rs 300 for people directly giving samples at a private lab or hospital and Rs 500 if the samples are collected from home. The prices were previously fixed at Rs 500 for lab collection and Rs 700 for home collection.

"Even in the worst of situations, Delhi can do around 1.75 lakh to 2 lakh tests perhaps with

REVISED RATES		
	Current	Previous
RT-PCR test where samples are collected by govt	₹ 200	₹ 300
RT-PCR test where samples are collected by pvt labs for govt	₹ 300	₹ 400
RT-PCR test where samples are given by patient at pvt hospital or lab	₹ 300	₹ 500
RT-PCR tests where samples are collected at home	₹ 500	₹ 700
Rapid Antigen Test	₹ 100	₹ 300

RANDOM TESTING RESTARTED

New Delhi: With restrictions being eased at markets and malls from Friday, the district administrations have restarted random testing at Metro stations and public places. "The districts have also strengthened enforcement at markets to maintain social distancing and Covid appropriate behaviour. Random tests are being conducted to curb the spread of the virus," said a senior district official, on condition of anonymity. Random testing was stopped from January 12 after the ICMR guidelines directed that tests be done only for symptomatic and co-morbid patients who have come in contact with positive cases. Meanwhile, Delhi recorded 4,044 fresh cases on Friday, just over 200 cases short of the previous day's 4,291 when the tally dropped below the 5,000-mark for the first time since the current surge began. The positivity rate stood at 8.60%, with just 47,042 tests conducted. The capital also recorded 25 deaths. **ENS**

the capacity of all the labs," the official said.

Even as the government remains hopeful that all the labs will join, labs remain dissatisfied as they get paid lower rates and have outstanding bills. "I have already invested in the machines, paid my technicians and microbiologists, paid for the maintenance of the lab and machines. But I am yet to get paid by the government; my survival is at stake. The outstanding bills are worth crores," said the owner of a private laboratory in the city.

The lab said they have stopped collecting samples from home unless it is extremely close to them and will stop conduct-

ing rapid antigen tests once the existing lot of kits gets over. "I buy the RAT kits for Rs 95, and the government is asking us to conduct the tests at Rs 100. How can I? I will stop once my current batch is over; people can do it at home," the owner said.

The owner of another Delhi lab said, "Now it is just charity, I am paying out of my pocket to conduct RT-PCR tests. We are focussing on other tests now."

On the cost concerns raised by private labs, another government official said: "When purchased in bulk, the RNA extraction kits are available for Rs 18 or Rs 19 and the RT-PCR test kits for Rs 23 to Rs 24. Yes, there are other costs involved in managing the lab and the human resource, but the labs can do it. Some of the labs in Delhi have taken up rate contracts for government testing in other states like Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand for Rs 180 or so. Of course, they will get high volumes there, but what is the problem then in conducting the tests for Rs 200 to Rs 300 in Delhi?"

Meanwhile, the price cut for RT-PCR as well as rapid antigen tests last Thursday did not lead to an increase in the number of people getting tested. There was a huge increase in the number of people getting the tests when the government had reduced the prices significantly to Rs 800 per test for samples given at labs and Rs 1,200 for home collection in November 2020.

"People who can pay Rs 300, can pay Rs 500 as well for the test. For the others, the government collection centres are already there," said the second lab owner quoted above.

The second government official also agreed that there was no increase in the number of tests when prices were reduced; the numbers increased from the previous dip because the ICMR urged the governments to continue collecting samples from the community after the January 10 guidelines did away with testing for asymptomatic people on demand.

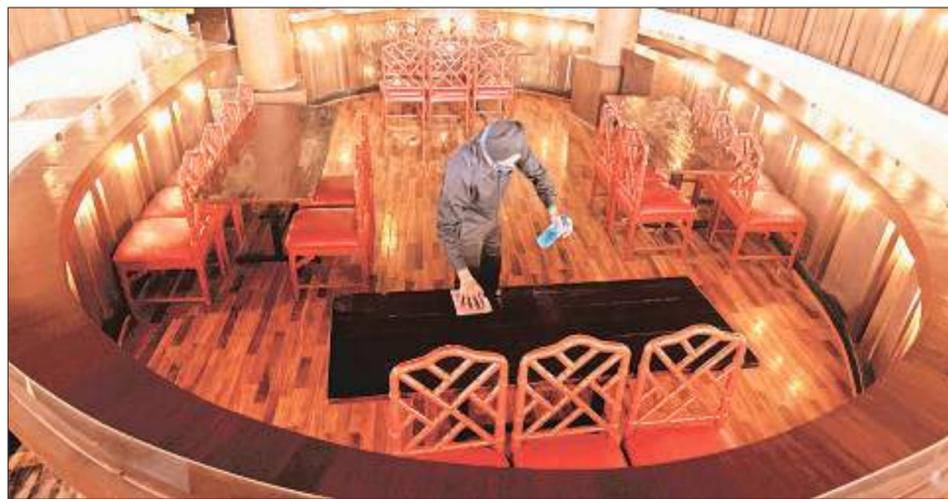
BRIEFLY

SDMC to give bicycles to Class IV students in its schools

New Delhi: Bicycles will be provided to 5% of meritorious students in Class IV studying in South MCD schools, the municipal corporation announced Friday. The move comes ahead of the civic polls slated for April. Education committee head Nitika Sharma said bicycles will be given to students based on their academic performance in Class III. A proposal in this regard was approved in the South MCD's standing committee meeting on Friday.

Hit by tanker, security guard dies

New Delhi: A security guard died after allegedly being hit by a water tanker in Southwest Delhi's Sarojini Nagar Friday morning. According to police, the incident came to light around 6.15 am after they received a call about the accident. "The victim, Jai Parkash Bharti, a resident of Piliangji village, was a guard at a private security firm. He was hit by a water tanker near Sarojini Nagar market. The offending vehicle drove away from the spot," a senior police officer said. A case under relevant sections has been registered. The offending vehicle has been identified with the help of CCTV cameras and a team has been sent to nab the accused, police said. **ENS**



(RE)OPEN FOR BUSINESS

A staffer at a restaurant sanitises tables before it reopens for customers, Friday. Restaurants can open at 50% capacity from 8 am to 10 pm as the night curfew restriction is still in place. *Praveen Khanna*

Pollution certificates to be made mandatory for refuelling vehicles

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

A POLLUTION under control (PUC) certificate will soon be made mandatory for refuelling at petrol pumps in Delhi, with the government issuing a draft notification in this regard and inviting suggestions from the public.

Vehicle owners will be required to carry the PUC certificate to the pump and if it is found to be invalid, it will have to be reissued.

The government is also considering methods to implement the policy, including radio frequency identification (RFID) to check PUC certificates in order to avoid queues at pumps, it said. However, these methods have not yet been finalised.

The city has 966 registered



Vehicle owners will be required to carry the PUC certificate to the pump and if it is found to be invalid, it will have to be reissued. *Archive*

centres that issue PUC certificates to ensure that vehicles comply with emission norms.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said, "North India, including Delhi, faces grave air pollution particularly in winter. With this policy

in place, vehicles will be mandated to have their PUC certificate with them at the fuelling station. Pollution levels of every single vehicle will be kept in check from time to time. The policy will effectively help us ensure that pollut-

ing vehicles do not ply in Delhi and residents can enjoy cleaner air."

A communication from the Delhi government said that enforcement of PUC certification was found to be effective when conducted at fuel pumps. In October last year, the Transport Department had issued a circular deploying enforcement staff at petrol pumps to check PUC certificates of vehicles that came in for refuelling. This was in anticipation of air pollution levels rising in winter.

According to the Decision Support System for Air Quality Management in Delhi, which uses a modelling method to ascertain the contribution of different sectors to particulate matter levels, the transport sector was estimated to contribute around 13.38% of the PM 2.5 levels in the city on Friday.

Nuh: Locals, farmers protest at construction site

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
NUH, JANUARY 28

A GROUP of over 150 locals and farmers from 9 villages in Nuh staged a protest at a construction site owned by a foreign firm in IMT Sohna Friday morning, alleging that the administration had reneged on the terms and conditions of an agreement in 2015, years after it had acquired land from the farmers.

The farmers, including representatives of Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) Haryana, sat at the entrance of the site to try and stop work. They issued an ultimatum to the administration, warning that they will start an agitation if their demands were not met. The site was acquired by a Japanese firm and now a Chinese construction company has been contracted to build a factory there.

At 3.30 pm, a delegation of 13 leaders from a committee of pro-



A group of 150 people sat down at the entrance of the site, owned by a foreign firm, in IMT Sohna on Friday morning

testers met district administration officials, including the deputy commissioner, and deferred the protest till February 2 but said they will resume it if there was no headway till then.

Capt. Shakti Singh, deputy commissioner, Nuh, said the issue was related to employment at the site between some local groups in these villages: "We have

discussed the grievances with a delegation of the protesters and will find a solution soon. At the same time, we will ensure that law and order is maintained."

In 2012, people from these 9 villages had protested for several months demanding increased compensation for over 1,600 acres of land, which was acquired by the Haryana State Industrial and

Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) in 2009-10 for developing an Industrial Model Township in the district.

Imran Khan, a resident of Kheri village, said an agreement had been reached in 2015 whereby HSIIDC agreed to undertake development projects related to sewerage, power, water supply, schools, and burial grounds: "The agreement stated that in the industries set up in IMT and development work, priority in employment will be given to local youth... Other demands related to payment of royalty to land owners and allotment of land for 100 sq yard plots to some villagers. Since the administration failed to fulfill these demands, we are protesting."

Ravi Azad, a BKU leader from Haryana, alleged farmers were assaulted by some goons at the site: "... The people have not been paid due compensation and can't

approach courts as per affidavits... Action should be taken against those who assaulted farmers and raised anti-farmer slogans."

He added that BKU Haryana supported the decision of the committee and if required, an agitation would be started, which would "shake the foundations of the government".

Some local villagers, who have been employed with sub-contractors at the site, alleged that the protesters were not farmers. A sub-contractor from Kheri village, who supplied labour at the site, requesting anonymity, said, "They are using the farmers' protest so that their own associates are allotted tenders for labour and trucks. For the past two months since work started, they have used several intimidating tactics..."

Waseem, former sarpanch of Kheri village, said, "These are pressure tactics by a small group from these villages to stall work."

Relief for farmers who lost crops due to unseasonal rain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

THE DELHI cabinet Friday approved ex-gratia relief of Rs 20,000 per acre to farmers whose lands were damaged by unseasonal rains last year.

In September-October, several acres of farmland were damaged due to incessant rain and waterlogging in fields owing to flooding in nearby natural drains. Following requests by farmers, the government had sent several teams to assess the situation on the ground in October.

The settlement will be paid as per the damage caused. If it is found to be 70% or less, the recompense will be 70% of the amount. If the assessed loss is more than 70%, Rs 20,000 per acre will be paid fully.

According to the revenue department's order issued Friday, farmers claiming ex-gratia must have records proving ownership of the land that was damaged last year. "Compensation will not be paid to landowners who are in the nature of companies or whose land has been vested in Gaon Sabha and the vesting order stands. Further, farmhouses which are in nature of plots with pucca boundary walls will also be excluded," it stated.

The expenditure for this will

The settlement will be paid as per damage caused. If it is found to be 70% or less, recompense will be 70% of the amount. If assessed loss is more than 70%, Rs 20,000 per acre will be paid fully

be about Rs 53 crore for an approximate area of 29,000 acres.

"CM Arvind Kejriwal has always stood for the rights of farmers. He had announced compensation in the past too. Back then, the CM had stated that ever since AAP came to power in Delhi, the government has made sure that the farmers don't feel helpless and had paid compensation each time crops were damaged. This has never been a hollow promise and he will ensure that all farmers get compensated," said a statement issued by the Delhi government.

However, Paras Tyagi working for a non-profit organisation, Centre for Youth Culture Law and Environment, that functions in villages, said, "In many cases, farmers are not the recorded owners since many practice contract farming. The government is not paying them what they deserve."

Farmer's death during R-day protest: HC seeks UP govt stand on kin's claims

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

A YEAR after 25-year-old farmer Navreet Singh died during violence that broke out when protesting farmers entered the capital on Republic Day, the Delhi High Court Friday asked the Uttar Pradesh government to respond to his family's allegations that "serious lapses" were committed during the medical examination following his death, particularly while preparing the X-ray plates.

Navreet, police have said, died in a road accident. In a petition through advocates Vrinda Grover and Soutik Banerjee, his grandfather Hardeep Singh (69), citing media reports, has said Navreet, a resident of UP, was shot by police due to which he lost control of the tractor, which then collided with some barricades and overturned.

While hearing an application, Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar said the reply, if any, be filed within four weeks by the respondent authorities and listed the matter for hearing on May 11. The court last year directed the Delhi government to constitute a medical board at MAMC to examine the X-ray plates.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



TOP SECRET

THE CBI is so alarmed due to the leak of probe papers related to the case against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh that it has now deputed a DIG-level officer as in charge of the agency's security. Officers are no longer allowed to use pen drives and everything coming in or going out of the agency is thoroughly checked. Officers have even been warned that any interaction with the outside world, including the media, about any case could result in dismissal from service. Last year, the CBI's preliminary enquiry report against Deshmukh had come out on social media leading to embarrassment for the agency as it had concluded that no case could be made out against him.

PRIVACY RESTORED

PHYSICAL HEARINGS in Supreme Court had the advantage that judges sitting on a bench could chat with each other confidentially about the case before them without anyone else overhearing. But the advantage was gone with the hearings shifting to virtual mode because of the pandemic. To address this, the computer committee of the SC came up with the idea of 'break out chat rooms'. Whenever the judges feel the need to consult each other, they go off the screen after alerting the counsel and move to the break out chat room. Everyone else disappears from the screen before the judges during that time enabling them to interact privately.

TELUGU CONNECT

CHIEF JUSTICE of India N V Ramana congratulated Padma awardees from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and expressed that he was proud of the achievements of his fellow Telugu-speakers. In a note issued in Telugu, CJI Ramana specifically congratulated Bharat Biotech founders Dr Krishna Ella and Suchitra Ella for making the Telugu community proud.

India calls for peaceful resolution to Ukraine crisis

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

INDIA's first statement on the ongoing crisis between Russia and the West led by the US over Ukraine, India on Friday broke its silence and called for a "peaceful resolution" of the situation through "sustained diplomatic efforts" for "long-term peace and stability" in the region and beyond.

The Indian government's position was articulated by Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi at the weekly briefing on Friday.

In response to questions, the MEA spokesperson said, "We have been closely following the developments relating to Ukraine, including the ongoing high-level discussions between Russia and the US. Our Embassy in Kyiv is also monitoring local developments. We call for a peaceful resolution of the situation through sustained diplomatic efforts for long-term peace and stability in the region and beyond."

ufactured, which means it cannot afford to alienate Moscow, particularly at a time when Indian and Chinese troops continue to be in a stand-off on the eastern border.

At the same time, the US and Europe, which are pushing back against Russia over Ukraine, are both important partners from India's strategic calculus. Many American platforms have been used for reconnaissance and surveillance along the India-China border. Winter clothing for 50,000 troops has been sourced from these western strategic partners.

India is also conscious that the hostility between the West and Russia, with talks of sanctions being considered, is likely to push Moscow in the direction of Beijing, hence strengthening the Chinese.

Another concern for Delhi is the small Indian community in Ukraine, comprising mostly students in medical colleges. The Indian Embassy in Kyiv has started collating information on the students as part of preparations for any hostilities. According to government estimates, 18,000 Indian students were in Ukraine in 2020, but the numbers may have dipped since due to Covid and classes moving online at many places.

Sources in the strategic establishment recall that when Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, and the West lined up against President Vladimir Putin, India had expressed "concern" but also qualified it by talking of "legitimate Russian interests". The view was articulated at the time, under the UPA government, by then NSA Shiv Shankar Menon. In fact, Putin had thanked India for the "restrained and objective" stand, and called up PM Manmohan Singh to express gratitude.

More than a week ago, on January 19, US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman called up Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and the two discussed "Russia's concerning military build-up on Ukraine's borders". However, New Delhi, which did not issue an official statement on the matter, choosing to closely monitor the developments before breaking its silence on Friday.

With key strategic partners on both sides, India cannot afford any hasty moves hurting its vital stakes. Sources said while there is concern about Russia's "muscle-flexing" and external intervention in national matters, New Delhi does not want to jeopardise the close military ties with Moscow.

EC seizes cash, drugs worth Rs 240 cr in poll-bound states

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India has seized cash, drugs and other freebies worth Rs 240 crore in the five assembly election-bound states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa. Material worth Rs 99.99 crore has been seized from Punjab alone, including drugs worth Rs 75 crore.

meetings on Friday regarding expenditure monitoring with the chairpersons of the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.

According to the EC's records, until Friday, drugs worth Rs 170.73 crore, Rs 38.42 crore in cash, and liquor worth Rs 27.51 crore were seized from the five poll-bound states. ENS



TAKING STOCK

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla during an inspection ahead of Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Budget session: Test for Opp unity, Cong readies strategy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

THE FIRST leg of the Budget session, although brief with just 10 sittings, will once again test the unity of the opposition parties given that some of them, including the Congress, are pitted against each other in the five election-bound states.

The Trinamool Congress had stayed away from meetings of opposition floor leaders convened by Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge during the Winter Session but had played a major role in the dharna staged by suspended MPs at the Mahatma Gandhi statue the entire session.

But ties between the Congress and Trinamool Congress worsened after the Congress did not respond to the latter's overtures for an electoral understanding in Goa. The Congress, upset with the TMC for "poaching" its leaders, had its own reasons not to respond.

Similarly, the NCP and Shiv Sena too were upset with the Congress for refusing to enter into a seat-sharing arrangement in Goa. In Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party, BSP and Congress are pitted against each other. In Punjab, the main battle appears to be between the ruling Congress and Aam Aadmi Party.

Given the situation, many Congress leaders are not hopeful of the Opposition putting up a united front unlike the last Budget Session when they joined hands to boycott the President's address over the farmers' protests and raised the issue in both Houses unitedly. The Congress nevertheless will reach out to other opposition parties, rather like-minded parties, to take on the government. Congress president Sonia



Sonia Gandhi

Gandhi on Friday chaired a meeting of the party's parliamentary strategy group to finalise the issues to be raised.

The party decided to work with like-minded parties and raise issues such as agricultural distress, Chinese incursions, relief package for Covid victims and selling of Air India.

Besides Sonia and Kharge, the meeting was attended by Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Congress deputy leader in Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma, senior leaders AK Antony, KC Venugopal and Manish Tewari and floor managers Jairam Ramesh, Gaurav Gogoi, Kodikkunnil Suresh and Manickam Tagore.

The TMC, on the other hand, has already decided to bring a motion against West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar during the session. The party has been accusing the Governor of meddling in the functioning of the elected state government. It will also raise the issue of the amendments proposed by the central government in IAS cadre rules.

The Budget Session begins on January 31 with the President's address to a joint sitting of both Houses. The Union Budget will be presented on February 1. The first part of the session will conclude on February 11.

The second part will begin on March 14, four days after counting of votes in the five states, and end on April 8.

BJP declared assets worth Rs 4,847 cr in 2019-20: ADR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

HOLDING NEARLY 70% of assets held by national political parties, the BJP declared assets worth Rs 4,847.78 crore in FY 2019-20, according to a report by electoral reforms advocacy group Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) released on Friday.

Among seven national parties, BSP was ranked second at assets worth Rs 698.33 crore, followed by Congress (Rs 588.16 crore).

The report noted that total assets declared by the seven national and 44 regional parties in 2019-20 amounted to Rs 6,988.57 crore and Rs 2,129.38 crore, respectively.

Among regional parties, Samajwadi Party — at Rs 563.47 crore — held the most assets, followed by TRS (Rs 301.47 crore) and AIADMK (Rs 267.61 crore). The report said assets held by top 10 regional parties were worth Rs 2,028.715 crore, nearly 95.27% of total assets of all regional parties. The report took into account assets declared by political parties under six major heads: fixed assets, loans & advances, FDR/deposits, TDS, Investments and "other" assets.

The report noted that in 2019-20, Congress declared most total liabilities — Rs 49.55 crore, or 66.72% of total liabilities — followed by TMC at Rs 11.32 crore.

During 2019-20, the report noted, 65.48% of assets, amounting to Rs 5970.59 crore, of national parties were under FDS. Total liabilities declared by the seven national and 44 regional parties for 2019-20 amount to Rs 134.93 cr, it said.

"National and Regional Parties failed to adhere to ICAI guidelines that direct parties to declare details of the financial institutions, banks or agencies from whom loans were taken. The guidelines specify that the parties should state the 'terms of repayment of term loans' on basis of due date such as a year, 1-5 years or payable after 5 years," the report noted.

U.P. POLLS 7TH LIST

BJP to repeat Ayodhya MLA, drops 20 from list

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 28

THE BJP on Friday released its seventh list of 91 candidates for various phases of the upcoming UP elections, denying ticket to sitting MLAs on 20 seats, most of which fall in eastern UP.

In the high-profile Ayodhya seat, the ruling party has fielded its sitting MLA Ved Prakash Gupta. Earlier, there was speculation that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath may be nominated from Ayodhya, but the party fielded him from Gorakhpur Urban, his home turf.

The BJP seems to have made significant changes in the districts of Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Deoria, and Sant Kabir Nagar in eastern UP where Adityanath has influence. In Gorakhpur district, the party has denied ticket to the CM's close confidant and sitting MLA Sheetal Pandey in the Sahajanwa constituency, replacing him with Pradeep Shukla.

The BJP has replaced sitting MLA from Biswan, Mahendra Singh, with Nirmal Verma who had finished third on this seat as the BSP candidate in the 2017 polls. Verma switched to the BJP a few days ago. In Bhognipur, the



Adityanath, fielded from Gorakhpur Urban

party has replaced sitting MLA Vinod Kumar Katiyar with former Congress leader Rakesh Sachan who defected to its fold on Thursday. In Tindwari, where sitting MLA Brijesh Kumar Prajapati crossed over to the Samajwadi Party (SP) earlier this month, the BJP has fielded Ramakesh Nishad.

On various seats, the saffron party has replaced sitting MLAs with their family members. For instance, in Bikapur in Ayodhya district, in place of Shobha Singh Chauhan, her son Amit Singh Chauhan, a medical practitioner, will contest. In Goshianganj seat in the same district, it has fielded Aarti Tiwari, wife of MLA Indra Pratap alias Khabbu Tiwari, who had been disqualified from the UP Assembly following his conviction

in a 28-year old case of alleged use of fake mark sheet for getting admission in a college. In Kaiserganj in Bahraich district, sitting MLA and cabinet minister Mukut Bihari has been replaced with his son Gaurav. In the SC-reserved Salon constituency, where MLA Dal Bahadur Kori had passed away due to post-Covid complications last year, his son Ashok Kori will be the BJP nominee.

The BJP has replaced MLA Sant Prasad in the Khajani constituency with minister Sriram Chauhan, who is a sitting MLA from Dhanghata in Sant Kabir Nagar district. In Dhanghata, Chauhan has been replaced with another party worker from his caste, Ganesh Chandra Chauhan.

In the Khalialabad seat in Sant Kabir Nagar, sitting MLA Digvijay Narayan alias Jay Chaubey, who recently joined the SP, has been replaced with Ankur Raj Tiwari.

The BJP has replaced sitting MLA Satya Prakash Mani Tripathi in Brahmhin-dominated Deoria seat with Shalabh Mani Tripathi, CM Adityanath's media advisor and a former journalist. In Kushinagar district, the BJP has replaced sitting MLAs on Fazilnagar, Kushinagar and Hata with new faces from the party organisation.

1/3rd of Odisha rural poll posts won unopposed

Bhubaneswar: The Opposition BJP and Congress cried foul as the ruling BJD's candidates formed 90 per cent of the 36,976 panchayat election nominees declared to have been elected uncontested by the Election Commission. This is for the first time in the state that one-third of the posts in a rural election have been won uncontested. The opposition alleged the ruling BJD had threatened candidates from other parties to withdraw their nominations. ENS

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING & TOURISM CORPORATION LTD
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Barakhamba Road New Delhi-110001 India
Tel: 011 - 23311263-64, Email ID: investors@irctc.com; Website: www.irctc.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, ("Listing Regulations") that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, February 8, 2022**, to inter alia, consider and declare Interim Dividend for FY 2021-22, if any, and to fix record date for the purpose of payment of Interim Dividend, if declared, in addition to consideration of unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended on December 31, 2021.

This information is also available on website of the Company at www.irctc.com and also on the website of Stock exchanges where the shares of the Company are listed at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.

For INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED
Sd/-
Suman Kalra
Company Secretary and Compliance officer

Place: New Delhi
Date: January 27, 2022

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS), BHOPAL EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. Applications are invited for short listing suitable candidates for selection of contractual employment for 11/12 months for the vacancies of **OIC (01), Medical Officer (03), Dental Hygienist (01), Pharmacist (02), Lab Technician (01), Lab Assistant (01), Nursing Assistant (01), Clerk (01), Data Entry Operator (01), Peon (01), Female Attendant (01) and Safaiwala (01)** on contractual basis at ECHS Polyclinic Bhopal.

2. Details of terms & conditions are available on ECHS website. Application is available at https://echg.gov.in/img/download/appl_echs_form.pdf

3. Please submit application in hard copy only by post / hand (02 sets) alongwith PPO, Discharge book (For Ex-servicemen Only), 10th Class & above Marksheets, Other Educational Certificates, Experience certificates. Application to be addressed to **OIC ECHS Cell, Stn HQ Bhopal, SI Lines, Bhopal, PinCode-462001**. Applications in email/online submission form are NOT ACCEPTABLE.

4. Last date for receipt of applications along with connected documents is **15 Feb 2022**.

5. Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview on **19 Feb 2022** from 0900h onwards at Station Headquarters, Bhopal

Tele No 0755-2730247
Mob No 7027133633

Particulars	Quarter ended on 31.12.2021	Quarter ended on 31.12.2020	Year ended on 31.03.2021
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1 Total income from operations	991.88	1,692.24	6,989.00
2 Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax	(458.25)	(95.44)	(637.32)
3 Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax	(458.25)	(95.44)	(637.32)
4 Total comprehensive income	(458.25)	(95.90)	(635.09)
5 Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of ₹ 10 each)	8,000.42	8,000.42	8,000.42
6 Reserve excluding revaluation reserve	(12,806.32)	(11,366.33)	(11,639.26)
7 Net worth	6,377.98	7,817.97	7,545.04
8 Outstanding debt	7,687.75	6,733.95	6,980.34
9 Debt equity ratio	1.21	0.86	0.93
10 Basic earnings per share (₹) (not annualised)	(0.57)	(0.12)	(0.80)
11 Diluted earnings per share (₹) (not annualised)	(0.57)	(0.12)	(0.80)
12 Debenture redemption reserve	-	-	-
13 Debt service coverage ratio (not annualised)	(0.58)	1.05	0.68
14 Interest service coverage ratio (not annualised)	(0.79)	1.39	0.92

Notes:
1. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meetings held on 28th January, 2022.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website of the stock exchange www.nseindia.com and on the company's website www.tatapower.com

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Ramesh N. Subramanyam
Chairman

Place : Mumbai
Date : 28th January, 2022

JAMNALAL BAJAJ FOUNDATION

Nominations Invited

44th JAMNALAL BAJAJ NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL AWARDS - 2022 FOR GANDHIAN 'WARRIORS'

National Award for Constructive Work

For contribution in any of or all the development areas of Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Programmes, to create a self-reliant community in rural India.

The Man - Jamnalal Bajaj was among the stalwarts who gave of himself completely - mind, body and soul - to India's freedom movement. Jamnalalji overreached himself in making words into deeds and in implementing the Constructive Programme of Gandhiji, be it *Khadi, Dalit - welfare, women emancipation, ethics in business, or preservation of cattle-wealth through Goseva*. So much so that Mahatma Gandhi adopted him as his 'fifth son'.

The Awards - To promote and propagate Jamnalalji's philanthropic vision as also Gandhian ideology of rural development, the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation instituted four Awards, which have come to be regarded as most coveted in respective fields.

— EACH AWARD COMPRISES —

Cash Prize ₹ 10 Lakhs | Trophy | Citation

National Award for Application of Science & Technology for Rural Development

For contribution through adaptable, affordable, replicable appropriate grassroots technologies, which has resulted in economic, social and ecological development of rural people.

National Award for Development & Welfare of Women & Children

Only to a woman.
For contribution towards education, skills training, healthcare, literacy, livelihood activities, holistic development, advocacy, etc. of women and children.

International Award for Promoting Gandhian Values Outside India

Only to a foreign national.
For contribution, outside India in promoting Gandhian principles like vision for peace, non-violence, harmony of human life with nature and moral conscience.

3 Days left for Nominations

National & International Awards: 31st January, 2022

Online Submission: www.jamnalalbajajawards.org/nomination-forms

Know more: www.jamnalalbajajfoundation.org; www.jamnalalbajajawards.org

Email: nominations@jamnalalbajajfoundation.org

For more details contact: Secretary, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, 2nd flr., Bajaj Bhawan, Jamnalal Bajaj Marg, 226 Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021 India
Tel: 91-22-22023626 Ext: 241/244/245 & 249
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JBFMumbai>



BALLOTIN

Independent Manipur MLA joins JD(U)

Imphal: An Independent MLA from Manipur's Jiribam announced on Friday that he was joining the Janata Dal (United). Ashab Uddin said he was joining the party because he wanted to work for the people of the state and did not want any hindrance, which was not always possible as an Independent MLA. Uddin was one of the two Independents who backed the BJP while it was staking claim to form a government although the Congress had won the most seats in 2017 polls. **ENS**

Punjab CM's brother files nomination as Independent

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's brother Manohar Singh Friday filed his nomination from Bassi Pathana seat in Fatehgarh Sahib district as an Independent candidate. Denied a ticket by the Congress, Manohar will be contesting against the party's sitting MLA Gurpreet Singh GP. **ENS**

Barely 10% of Congress and AAP candidates are women; SAD-BSP's share the lowest

NAVJEEVANGOPAL
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 28

IN AN election where parties have been trying to outdo each other to attract women voters, a demographic that comprises at least half the state's 2.12 crore voters, the number of women candidates remains abysmally low in Punjab.

Of the 117 candidates of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)-BSP alliance, only five are women. That's around 4 per cent of the total candidates. Of the five, four are of the SAD, which is contesting on 97 seats, and one of the Mayawati-led BSP, which is contesting on 20 seats.

The Congress, which has launched a high-profile campaign in UP revolving around women — even promising to set aside 40 per cent of its tickets for them — has announced tickets on 109 seats in Punjab, of which the party has given only 11 (10 per cent of total seats) to women.

PUNJAB ELECTION

The missing women candidates



Jeevanjot Kaur (AAP), Nimisha Mehta (BJP), Farzana Alam Khan (PLC), Jasdeep Kaur (SAD)

The AAP, which is attempting to project itself as a change from established parties, has announced tickets on all 117 seats, giving only 12 (10 per cent) of those to women.

The BJP-led alliance that has Captain Amarinder Singh's Punjab Lok Congress and SAD (Sanyukt) as partners, has given tickets to eight women out of 106 candidates announced so far (around 7.5 per cent of total candidates).

While the representation to women in terms of tickets announced by all parties remains low, that has not stopped political parties from going all out to get their votes.

The SAD was the first off the blocks when its chief Sukhbir Singh Badal announced Rs 2,000 per month to every woman head of BPL families with 'blue ration cards', if the SAD-BSP alliance is

voted to power in the state.

In December last year, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal had announced Rs 1,000 per month for every woman of Punjab aged 18 or above. Earlier this month, Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) chief Navjot Singh Sidhu promised Rs 2,000 a month to every woman homemaker in Punjab, in addition to eight cooking gas cylinders free of cost every year, if the Congress forms the government.

Among the 11 women candidates fielded by the party are former chief minister Rajinder Kaur Bhattal (Lehra constituency); two sitting Cabinet ministers Aruna Chaudhary (Dinanagar-SC) and Razia Sultana (Malerkotla); sitting MLA Rupinder Kaur Ruby (Malout-SC) who won in 2017 on an AAP ticket and is now with the

Congress; and debutant Malvika Sood (Moga), the sister of actor Sonu Sood.

On the gender skew in the party's candidates, Sunil Jakhar, senior Congress leader and poll campaign committee chief in Punjab, said, "I can only say that nobody has been denied a ticket because of their gender. The problem is that you have to nurture them prior to elections. It is not something that happens overnight. Priyanka-ji was there [in Uttar Pradesh]. She worked on the ground to bring women aspirants up. In Punjab, the process has started and I think it will take a while for them to establish themselves in the political arena. In coming times, we can expect more women claiming their rightful place in politics." Among the AAP women candidates are two sitting MLAs Baljinder Kaur (Talwandi Sabo)

and Saravjit Kaur Manuke (Jagraon-SC); singer-turned-politician Anmol Gagan Maan (Kharar); and Jeevanjot Kaur, who has been fielded from the high-profile Amritsar East seat.

AAP MLA from Driba and Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema said, "We have given maximum tickets to all those women candidates who were active on the ground."

Of the four women fielded by SAD, at least two of them, Jasdeep Kaur and Sunita Chaudhary, are first-timers and relatives of Akali leaders. Jasdeep was declared party nominee from Khanna after the Punjab and Haryana High Court dismissed her husband Akali leader Yadwinder Singh Yadu's plea to contest the polls. Yadu was booked in 14 FIRs, including criminal cases. Sunita Chaudhary, who will contest from Balachaur, is daughter-in-law of former Akali MLA, late Chaudhary Nand Lal.

The most high-profile of the four Akali contenders is Jagir Kaur, nominee from Bholath.

SAD spokesperson Daljit Singh Cheema said, "The party always makes an effort for women to get maximum representation... But there are practical difficulties. Assembly constituencies are huge and in some of them, it becomes difficult even for men to travel long distances and campaign."

I HEREBY DECLARE



MD AZAM KHAN
SP candidate from Rampur

TOTAL ASSETS:
₹6,14,75,680
Self: ₹1,49,54,281
Wife: ₹1,43,67,399

IMMOVABLE ASSETS:

Self: ₹40,500,000
Wife: ₹2,81,04,000

LOANS FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OR INDIVIDUALS: Nil

PENDING CRIMINAL CASES: 87

PROFESSION: Social service

SOURCES OF EARNING: Agriculture, pension and business

EDUCATION: LLB (Honours) in 1974

HASHTAG POLITICS



• BJP campaign video: Yogi again

The BJP released a campaign video on social media platforms ahead of the UP elections. Taking a dig at the previous Akhilesh Yadav government, the party said UP has changed for the better in the last five years under Yogi Adityanath.

831 LIKES, 453 RETWEETS IN 10 HOURS

• Trinamool promises pre-approved credit cards to Goan youth

TMC promised a 'Yuva Shakti Card' that will allow Goans to take need-based credit for skill development and help them to start businesses. "It's a collateral-free pre-approved credit card with a limit of Rs 20 lakh at 4% interest rate to the Goan youth," it said on Twitter.

118 LIKES, 53 RETWEETS IN 8 HOURS

It's final: Rane Sr out, Cong left watching as BJP gets son, bahu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI, JANUARY 28

IN A setback for the Congress, veteran leader and former chief minister Pratapsingh Rane, who had been fielded by the party from his stronghold Poriem in Goa, on Friday withdrew from the assembly election race.

Rane, 87, did not make a statement, but a Congress leader confirmed that he will not contest the election. Sources close to Rane said the former CM withdrew from the fray to avoid a clash with his daughter-in-law Deviya Rane, who has been fielded by the BJP from Poriem. Rane's son Vishwajit is also a BJP member.

It was speculation that Pratapsingh Rane may suggest the name of his wife, but the Congress's revised list on Thursday named Ranjit Rane from the seat.



REACHING OUT

Aam Aadmi Party convener and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on his arrival at Jalandhar on Friday. He is leading the party's campaign in poll Punjab. **ANI**

SP-RLD tie-up 'solid', say 'sons of farmers' Jayant and Akhilesh

AMIT SHARMA
MUZAFFARNAGAR,
JANUARY 28

DESCRIBING HIMSELF and his alliance partner Jayant Chaudhary, Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) chief, as "sons of farmers who know very well their economic pains and tribulations", Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday asked farmers to be wary of the BJP, alleging that the saffron party-led Centre had withdrawn the controversial farm laws only for the sake of votes.

The former chief minister assured farmers that if their alliance forms the government after winning the upcoming UP Assembly elections, they will not allow the implementation of any such "anti-farmer laws".

Addressing the first joint press conference with Jayant after forging the SP-RLD alliance, Akhilesh claimed that the ruling BJP would be defeated in the UP polls. Taking a swipe at UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over the BJP's decision to field him from his home turf Gorakhpur, he said, "Baba-ji (Adityanath) ka palayan ho chuka hai. Unhe BJP ne ghar bhej diya. Ab BJP ka UP se palayan hona hai (Adityanath has been sent back home by the BJP leadership. The only thing left now is the BJP's exodus from UP)".

The SP chief reached the venue of the press conference here late by around three-and-



Jayant Chaudhary, Akhilesh Yadav in Muzaffarnagar, Friday. **PTI**

half hours since, according to him, his chopper was not given clearance to fly from Delhi for reasons not told to him.

In a tweet earlier, Akhilesh posted a picture with a helicopter in the background, stating "My helicopter is still detained in Delhi without assigning any reason and not being allowed to go to Muzaffarnagar, whereas a top BJP leader has just flown from here. This is a desperate conspiracy of the losing BJP." He told the press conference that he was "thankful" to the person who somehow got permission for his chopper to take off for Muzaffarnagar.

With polling around the corner, the BJP is reaching out to the Jat community in western UP from where Jats had taken part in

significant numbers in the farmers' protest. After Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting with Jat leaders in Delhi on Wednesday, the BJP leaders even made overtures to the RLD president urging him to join hands.

Jayant said the RLD's alliance with the SP is "solid" and aimed at furthering the cause of farmers. The SP chief avoided direct replies to questions related to issues such as "exodus" from Kairana, the BJP's "propaganda" against Muslims and the SP not fielding any Muslim candidate from all the six assembly seats in Muzaffarnagar district. "The BJP leaders are raking up very old issues... Jayant and I are sons of farmers and we know very well their economic pains and tribulations," he said.

With polling around the corner, the BJP is reaching out to the Jat community in western UP from where Jats had taken part in

Yogi speaks graveyard, riots in attack on Opposition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MEERUT, JANUARY 28-

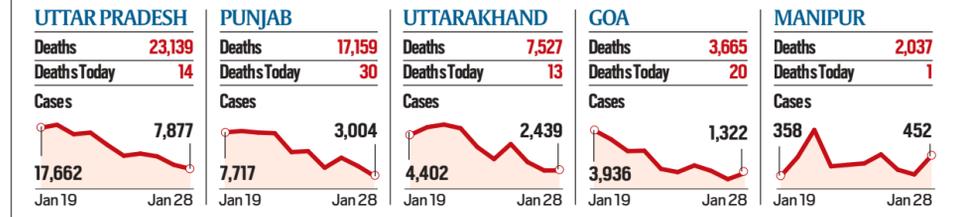
UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday continued his tirade against the opposition Samajwadi Party, alleging that "goons" backed by the previous Akhilesh Yadav-led government "grabbed" public money while the BJP government utilized it to develop pilgrimage sites in the states.

"The money meant for building the boundary walls of graveyards used to be grabbed by goons of the SP and with the misuse of that money, such elements used to misbehave with our sisters and mothers," the Chief Minister said during an interaction with people in Meerut's Hastinapur constituency.

Adityanath again attacked the SP over the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots and said that the opposition party, which was in government at the time, "engineered" the violence.

"If you want your state to be free from riots and want that bulldozers should continue to raze properties of the mafia elements, then you will have to empower BJP through your ballot for a second term in Uttar Pradesh," the Chief Minister asserted on Friday.

TRACKING COVID IN ELECTION-BOUND STATES



Candidates shuffled around here, the constant remains caste, party base

ABHINAV RAJPUT
GARH MUKHTESHWAR,
JANUARY 28

GROUPS OF three to four people sit around bonfires at every intersection, burning up tree trunks around a line of shops selling furniture — the mainstay of livelihoods in Garh Mukhteshwar. Overlooking them are electricity poles enveloped with inanimate faces of contenders who will fight for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly from this seat in Hapur district.

In the last few weeks, key parties have changed their minds about their candidates for the constituency that votes on February 10. And caste appears to have a major role.

It is of little surprise that even the offices of prominent parties — the SP, BSP and the BJP — are located within a two kilometre stretch in the town. The first in the row is the office of the Samajwadi

Party's Ravinder Chowdhary, who belongs to the Gujjar community that makes up for around 10% of the constituency's 3 lakh voters.

His supporters say he will win with ease on the back of the substantial Muslim and Gujjar votes in the area. "Chowdhary saheb will not have any difficulty in winning, the Muslims voters (which make up for a quarter of the voter base) are completely backing us and he himself is a local Gujjar. There are other castes also in our support," said Manmeet, an SP supporter who goes by just his first name.

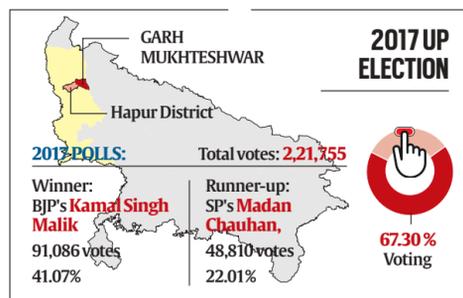
The SP initially picked an outsider to fight from the constituency: Naina Devi, who comes from an influential political and business family of Meerut. She was replaced by Chowdhary weeks later, with the BSP saying the SP changed its strategy because the Mayawati-led party

fielded a three-time legislator from the constituency.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) announced Mohammad Arif as their candidate, but changed it to Madan Chauhan — also a former minister in the Akhilesh Yadav-led SP government from 2015 to 2017.

The party believes Chauhan, a Rajput leader, may get the backing of his 40,000-member strong community in the region, but it is also banking on the support of over 15% of the population.

"I have done enough in the region to get votes from all castes... got roads built, government guest houses were built and ghat beautification was done by me," Chauhan says, referring to the time he was an MLA from Garh Mukhteshwar (2002-2017).



The switch to Chauhan is why the SP was forced to field another candidate, BSP leaders say. SP supporters, however, disagree and instead point to Devi's lack of "local connect".

"Naina-ji even campaigned for a day but since she had no local connect, she could not gather enough supporters, she could not handle press questions on issues that are important in this constituency and seeing that the

party changed the candidate," said Mohammad Hanif, an SP worker.

The BJP followed a similar path, albeit not the same. The party did not opt for sitting MLA Kamal Singh Malik and gave the ticket to Harendra Singh Tewatia, who says he is the descendant of late prime minister Choudhary Charan Singh. Tewatia is also a Jat candidate and is hoping to secure the votes of around 35,000 members of

the community apart from support of the upper castes that have normally veered towards the BJP.

The three parties are relying on their conventional ideological base apart along with their candidates' caste and community support. The SP is pinning its hopes on the Muslim and Gujjar votes; the BSP on Rajputs and Dalit votes; and the BJP on Jats, Rajput and Brahmins.

The Congress, however, is an outlier. A Jat woman contestant, Congress's Abha Chaudhary expressed confidence that she is the choice for several castes and women in the constituency.

"I have the support from each caste, including Jat, Brahmins and especially women due to our women centred campaign," she says, referring to the party's outreach to women voters for these assembly elections. While parties insist on these probabilities, the people of the town are concerned over their livelihoods.

Residents depend largely on the sale of furniture and like many small businesses, the two years of pandemic have been hard.

Salik Chand, a Jatav, is one of them. He owns a shop that sells *modha*, stools that are made from bamboo. "Our income is largely dependent upon tourists who buy this. But with Covid, tourism is down and so is our business. The income has fallen down by more than 30% the furniture that we make are even exported but the government has not done anything to promote this art," he says.

There are thousands more like him, he adds, and many who make such furniture at their homes and sell them in cities or on highways.

The UP town also counts on historical tourism. The Garh Mukhteshwar ghat, on the banks of river Ganga, hosts a Kartik Mela related to the Hindu epic Mahabharata. Every October-November, over 25 lakh pilgrims

through the town and trigger a rush of business activity — from renting out rooms for tourists to running eateries and selling flowers for religious rituals. But the crowds have long thinned.

Vinod Mishra, a *kirana* shopkeeper in Braj Ghat in Garh assembly constituency, says, "This area has the potential to be developed as tourism hub like Haridwar but has never been promoted that way. If that happens, we will also earn more."

For others too, their lives have been upended. Sachin Kaushik, a sugar cane farmer in the region, says, "The payment by mills (to farmers) is delayed... no one talks about that... what about our issues, I see party workers are all always discussing which caste will vote for them... Each party has its own caste loyalty and need some more (votes) from different castes. The candidate that is able to get that will win."

"But we will be in the same condition that we have been."

DHANBAD JUDGE DEATH PROBE

Explain why 2 brain profiling tests on accused: HC to CBI

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, JANUARY 28

THE JHARKHAND High Court, which is monitoring the probe into the alleged murder of Dhanbad Additional Sessions Judge Uttam Anand last year, has pulled up the CBI for conducting brain fingerprinting tests on the two accused twice — four months apart — which gave contradictory results.

Chief Justice Ravi Ranjan and Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad asked the CBI to produce its internal manual or guidelines on investigation to check if there is any provision that allows the test — Brain Electrical Oscillation Signature (BEOS) profiling — a second time if the accused showed "intention" to kill in the first.

On July 28 last year, the judge was on a morning walk when an auto-rickshaw veered towards him on an empty road and knocked him down. The incident was caught on CCTV cameras.

The police had arrested two suspects, Lakhman Verma and Rahul Verma, both residents of Dhanbad, after which the CBI took over the probe and re-registered a case.

In its charge sheet filed in a Dhanbad court on October 20, the CBI claimed that Rahul was a "professional thief who keeps looking for vulnerable targets", and that he and his accomplice Lakhman had been "looking for a chance to execute the plan". It remained silent on what the plan was and on the crime motive.

During the last weekly hearing on January 21 of the CBI's probe progress, the court observed that in the first brain profiling test on the two accused in September last year, one of them indicated that he had been given an assignment to hit the judge. However, the CBI got the tests conducted again in January this year in which the accused indicated he was not even present when the incident happened.

The bench said: "This court has perused BEOS report wherein the results of two ac-

EXPLAINED The BEOS test method

BRAIN ELECTRICAL Oscillation Signature profiling, also known as brain fingerprinting, is a neuro-psychological method of interrogation in which the suspect's participation in a crime is investigated by studying his brain's electrical activity as a response to the accused being shown a video clip or sound clips among others.

cluded persons... to the effect that one of the accused persons indicated that he was given an assignment to hit Judge Sahab, i.e., late Uttam Anand. "...The said accused person took help of another accused person to execute his plan. On 28.07.2021, when they saw Judge Sahab, one of the accused persons asked another accused person to accelerate his auto's speed and thereafter, one of the accused persons had seen Judge Sahab falling down on the road with the hit of auto."

This detail is significant as the CBI in its charge sheet had not mentioned it.

The court then cited the second BEOS report. "We have also seen the subsequent BEOS... he (the accused) took U-turn in the subsequent BEOS report..., stating that he was not present in the auto.... He also revealed that he has no idea about the accident," the bench said. It then asked the CBI what led it to subject the accused to the second BEOS test.

After the CBI said it did so as no clue emerged in between, the bench said, "This court is not in agreement with such explanation of conducting second BEOS test after lapse of about 4 months wherein a complete contradictory recording has come up the said accused persons."

MARITAL RAPE

HC to Centre: Are you withdrawing 2017 response?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

THE DELHI High Court on Friday asked the Centre to clarify whether it wants to withdraw its reply which was filed in 2017 in response to the petitions seeking criminalisation of marital rape. The Centre has earlier told the court that it wants to place a fresh and constructive stand before the court in the matter, which has remained pending since 2015.

"Take instructions on that as well," the court told Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma after advocate Karuna Nundy, representing one of the petitioners, asked whether she should address arguments on Centre's earlier affidavit or it was being withdrawn.

The division bench of Justice Rajiv Shakher and Justice C Hari Shankar has been hearing the petitions challenging the Exception 2 in IPC Section 375 that protects men, who have forced non-consensual intercourse with their wives, from criminal prosecution under Section 376 IPC.

The Centre in 2017 submitted that striking down the exception "may destabilise the institution of marriage apart from being an easy tool for harassing the husbands".

'YEARS PASSED LIKE A FAMINE'

Rajasthan: Unemployed for a decade, tribal man dies by suicide

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, JANUARY 28

FOR AROUND ten years, Namu Narayan Meena, 28, kept trying to get a government job — with no success. Earlier this week, he was found hanging inside his rented room in Rajasthan's Dholpur city.

According to his family, recognised as a Scheduled Tribe in the state, Namu Narayan left behind a note claiming the previous BJP state government kept announcing Ayurveda compounder vacancies but never hired for those. "Five years of that government passed like a famine," he wrote. "I waited since 2012 and kept wasting my family's money."

Namu Narayan's fruitless wait for the job was similar to what

ED: Deshmukh, family laundered unaccounted income of Rs 29.8 crore

Court takes cognisance of supplementary charge sheet

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN
MUMBAI, JANUARY 28

AN ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) probe has found that Anil Deshmukh, the former home minister of Maharashtra, and his family have allegedly laundered unaccounted income of Rs 29.83 crore between 2005 and 2016. This, according to the prosecution complaint (chargesheet) filed by the ED against Deshmukh and his sons in a money laundering case before a special court.

The court on Friday took cognisance of the supplementary chargesheet.

The ED has alleged that Deshmukh, along with his wife Aarti, sons Hrishikesh and Salil, and daughter-in-law Ridhee Deshmukh, have together declared income of only Rs 6.53 crore in their income tax returns between 2009 and 2020. The agency said the Deshmukhs have acted as a "unit" and even though they did not have "sufficient income" as per their tax returns, they have set up a "formidable empire".

The central agency has alleged that the Deshmukhs used



Former Maharashtra Home minister Anil Deshmukh

DESHMUKH HANDED OVER UNOFFICIAL LIST SUGGESTING COPS FOR TRANSFERS: KUNTE

Mumbai: Former Maharashtra additional chief secretary (Home) Sitaram Kunte told the ED that former state home minister Anil Deshmukh, who is being probed for money laundering, "at times" used to "hand over an unofficial list containing suggestions in respect of certain police officers/certain posts with regard to transfer and postings" of police officers, which were "usually" included in the final transfer and posting order. ENS

"unaccounted money" to set up several businesses such as warehousing, hotel and restaurant,

colleges and a trust through "dummy directors".

According to the ED, of the Rs 29.83 crore unaccounted income, Rs 9.82 crore was routed to various projects such as construction of three colleges run by Anil Deshmukh's Shri Sai Shikshan Sansthan Trust, a warehouse and acquiring a restaurant.

The agency has also alleged that another Rs 13.25 crore was routed to Sai Shikshan Sansthan for its day-to-day needs and Rs 2.12 crore was used to buy a piece of land at Worli in Mumbai — owned by Premier Port Links Private Limited, a company where the Deshmukhs have a stake.

The ED has alleged that a part of Deshmukh's unaccounted money has also been routed to a Nagpur-based hotel, Travotel Suites, which has been operational since 2015-16. The probe has found that Hrishikesh had "diverted" funds for acquiring the land where the hotel has been built. Apart from this, the hotel runs a restaurant called Mocha Sky and the central agency has alleged that the profit from the restaurant business is deposited with Hrishikesh in cash.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at an NCC rally in New Delhi on Friday. Prem Nath Pandey

Misinformation, drugs, real-virtual balance key challenges for youths: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

DRUG ABUSE, misinformation, and balance between the real and the virtual worlds are the three key challenges facing the country's youth today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday addressing a National Cadet Corps (NCC) rally in the national capital.

He said that digital technology and information have presented great opportunities to people, but "on the other hand, there are dangers of misinformation", he said, appealing people not to fall prey to rumours.

"One more challenge in front of you is the deteriorating balance between virtual and real life," the Prime Minister said. He then urged the NCC to train cadets to find the balance and help others too.

PM Modi, at the rally in New Delhi's Cariappa ground, said that the third issue he wanted to highlight was the addiction to drugs by the young people.

"You all are aware of how addiction can ruin our young generation... So in the schools and colleges where there is NCC or NSS, how can drugs reach there? As a cadet, you should stay free from drugs and keep your campus drugs-free as well," he said.

The youth can play a major role, the Prime Minister said, in the 'Vocal for Local' campaign — the government's initiative to boost the use of India-made products and services.

"If the youth of India decide that they will only use items which have been made by an Indian, by the sweat and toil of an Indian, then the fate of India can change," Modi said.

He urged the cadets to think of "nation first" as the country celebrates 75 years of Independence through the government's 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. PM Modi said: "No power of the world can stop the country whose youth starts moving ahead with the thinking of nation first."

PM Modi's global outreach: Letters to researchers, sportspersons

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi made a special effort to reach out to foreign academics, researchers, scholars, singers and sportsmen on the occasion of India's 73rd Republic Day through personal letters sent to each of them.

Some of the recipients of the letter include Polish researcher Krzysztof Iwanek, cricketers Jonty Rhodes and Chris Gayle, professor and president of the German Institute for Global and Area Studies, Amrita Narlikar, and others. In his note to Iwanek, whose area of expertise also lies in Indian history and politics, PM said said: "I decided to write to you and a few other friends of India, with a sense of gratitude for your affection towards India and a hope that you continue to work closely with our nation."

PM Modi said in his letter to Rhodes, "Over the years, you have developed a profound connection with India and its culture."

AFTER SC SETS ASIDE MAHARASHTRA BJP MLAS' SUSPENSION

MVA says will discuss with legal experts on next course of action

VISHWAS WAGHMODE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 28

THE MAHARASHTRA Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government on Friday hinted that the Supreme Court's decision to quash the suspension of 12 BJP MLAs was a setback to legislative sovereignty and said it would chart its course of action after consultations with legal experts even as the BJP welcomed the apex court order. Former chief minister and BJP Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis welcomed the SC judgment and said the verdict was a "tight slap on the face" of the MVA government.

"We will hold discussions with legal experts before deciding our course of action. Earlier too we had taken the opinion of legal luminaries from across the country. The decision that was earlier taken was within the framework of the law. We will analyse and study the

Supreme Court's reasoning behind this order," Anil Parab, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs said.

MVA ministers said the government will also study whether the SC decision infringed on legislative sovereignty. "This decision does not pertain to Maharashtra alone but it has ramifications for legislative bodies, including Parliament and state legislative assemblies, across the country. The state legislature secretary will study whether parliamentary sovereignty is supreme or whether powers of review of the judiciary are applicable on it. A final decision will be taken by the Maharashtra assembly Speaker," Cabinet minister and senior NCP leader Nawab Malik said.

Parab also raised the issue of delay in the appointment of 12 members of the legislative council by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari in spite of a recommendation by the state

council of ministers in November 2020. He said the SC order said that no legislative post should remain vacant for more than six months and questioned why the same rule is not being applied to the nomination of the 12 people to the legislative council through the Governor quota.

"For the last one and a half years, we have been demanding that the Governor should appoint 12 MLAs to the Legislative Council. In this regard, even though the Bombay High Court has not given a direct order to the Governor, it has observed that these posts can not be kept vacant. Then, how can there be two different orders? On the one hand, if a decision has been taken in the case of 12 MLAs that the post cannot be left vacant for more than six months, then the same justice should be given to 12 MLAs of the Legislative Council. So this is double standards," he added.

In order on BJP MLAs, SC calls for statesmanship, not brinkmanship

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G.
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

FRIDAY'S SUPREME Court judgment, holding the Maharashtra Assembly resolution suspending 12 BJP MLAs for one year as "unconstitutional", also sought to highlight "popular sentiments" about conduct of business in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. The court underlined that the need of the hour is "statesmanship, and not brinkmanship".

Writing for a three-judge bench, Justice A M Khanwilkar said the case has "thrown up an occasion for all concerned to ponder over the need to evolve and adhere to good practices befitting the august body; and appropriately denounce and discourage proponents of undemocratic activities in the House, by democratically elected (people's) representatives".

Pointing out that Parliament and state Assemblies are regarded sacred places, the court said these are "places where robust and dispassionate debates and discussion inspired by the highest traditions

of truth and righteousness ought to take place for resolving burning issues confronting the nation/State and for dispensing justice — political, social and economic".

"The happenings in the House are (a) reflection of the contemporary societal fabric," the court said. It said, "it is in public domain (through print, electronic and social media) that members of Parliament or Assembly/Council of the State spend much of the time in a hostile atmosphere".

"Parliament/Legislative Assembly are becoming more and more intransigent place," the judgment noted. "The philosophical tenet — one must agree to disagree — is becoming a seldom-seen or a rarity during the debates. It has become common to hear that the House could not complete its usual scheduled business and most of the time had been spent in jeering and personal attacks... instead of erudite constructive and educative debates consistent with the highest tradition of the august body."

"This is the popular sentiment gaining ground amongst the common man," the court added.

This, the order noted, "is disheartening for the observers" who "earnestly feel it is high time that corrective steps are taken by all concerned and the elected representatives would do enough to restore the glory and the standard of intellectual debates of the highest order, as have been chronicled of their predecessors. That legacy should become more prominent than the rumpus caused very often".

The bench said that "aggression during debates has no place in the setting of (a) country governed by the Rule of Law". It sought to impress upon legislators that "even a complex issue needs to be resolved in a congenial atmosphere by observing collegiality and showing full respect and deference towards each other".

It also said that "in any case, there can be no place for disorderly conduct in the House, much less 'grossly disorderly'... Such conduct, it noted, "must be dealt with sternly for ensuring orderly functioning of the House. But that action must be constitutional, legal, rational and as per the procedure established by law".

IS conspiracy case: NIA files charges against ex-Cong MLA's kin, others

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

THE NIA has filed a chargesheet against a family member of former Congress MLA from Karnataka, late B M Idinabba, among others, in connection with a case of Islamic State (IS) conspiracy to recruit from India.

The chargesheet was filed against eight accused, including Deepthi Marla and Ammar Abdul Rahiman. Marla's husband Anas Abdul Rahiman is son of B M Basha, whose father Idinabba was a former Congress MLA. Idinabba died in 2009. Ammar Rahiman is Anas's brother. Marlah had been arrested earlier this month.

Others chargesheeted in the case were identified as Mohd. Waqar Lone; Mizha Siddeeqe; Shifa Haris; Obaid Hamid Matta; Madesh Shankar; and Muzamil Hassan Bhat. "Investigation has revealed that all eight accused chargesheeted today are affiliated with... ISIS and were involved in radicalising, recruiting, organising terror funds and grooming like-minded gullible Muslim youth through different secured social media platforms to perform Hijrat to ISIS-controlled territory for joining ISIS," NIA said. NIA registered a case in the matter in March 2021.

"During investigation, it has been revealed that after the decline of ISIS Caliphate in Syria/Iraq, Deepthi Marla and Mohd. Ameen had visited Kashmir in January and March 2020 for Hijrah (religious migration) and for engaging in terrorist acts and supporting the activities of ISIS," the NIA stated.

BSF constable injured in gunfight with smugglers

Chandigarh: The BSF on Friday foiled a cross-border drug smuggling bid and recovered 58 kg heroin after an exchange of fire with Pakistani smugglers along the Indo-Pak border in Punjab's Gurdaspur district that also left a force personnel, head constable Gyan Singh, injured, police said. PTI

Philippines signs deal to buy BrahMos missiles from India for \$375 mn

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

IN A major fillip to India's hopes of becoming an exporter of defence platforms, the Philippines has signed a deal to buy three batteries of BrahMos missiles, developed jointly by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya.

The deal is worth nearly \$375 million, and is India's first significant defence export.

The Defence Ministry said in a statement on Friday that BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL), which manufactures the missiles in India, "signed a contract with the Department of National Defence of the Republic of Philippines on January 28, 2022, for supply of shore-based anti-air missile system to Philippines".

"The BAPL is a joint venture company of the Defence Research and Development Organisation. The contract is an important step forward for

Government of India's policy of promoting responsible defence exports," the statement said.

While the formal contract was signed on Friday, the Philippines had given the go-ahead for the deal on Dec 31. Its National Defence department had sent a Notice of Award to BAPL, which mentioned that BAPL's proposal for the shore-based anti-air acquisition project for the Philippine Navy, with a corresponding price proposal of \$374,962,800, "is hereby accepted".

The deal with the Philippines comes at a time when, like India, the country has seen its relationship with China sour. Beijing has been making aggressive moves in the South China Sea, and Philippine fishermen have also had to face China's maritime militia. At the same time, India has been involved in an over 21-month-long stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh.

Sources said other nations in Southeast Asia have also shown interest in buying the missiles, including Vietnam and Thailand.

US: Selling S-400 missile system to India shines light on Russia's 'destabilising role'

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 28

RUSSIA SELLING the S-400 air defence missile system to India shines a spotlight on the "destabilising role" that Moscow is playing in the region and potentially beyond as well, the US has said.

In October 2018, India had signed a US \$5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 surface-to-air missile defence system, despite a warning from the then Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions. India has asserted that its decisions are based on its interest to protect its national security.

"Well in many ways, this doesn't change the concerns that we have with the S-400 system. I think it shines a spotlight on the destabilising role that Russia is playing not only in the region but potentially beyond as well," State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters on Thursday at his daily news conference.

The US was urging all countries to avoid major new transactions for Russian weapon systems, Price said, amidst escalating tensions between Washington and Moscow over Ukraine.

The Biden administration has not yet clarified whether it will impose sanctions on India under the provisions of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for procuring the S-400 missile systems.

"When it comes to CAATSA sanctions, you've heard me say before, we haven't made a determination with regard to this transaction, but it's something we continue to discuss with the government of India given the risk of sanctions for this particular transaction under CAATSA," he said.

CAATSA is a US law that authorises the US administration to impose sanctions on countries that purchase major defence hardware from Russia. PTI

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, PUSHPA DAVI CHADHA, W/O SHADI LAL CHADHA, R/O SD-45, TOWER-APARTMENT, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PUSHPA DEVI. 0040600706-4

I, Arun Gauba S/o M.L. Gauba R/o House No-K-306, Central Park-1 Golf Course Road, Sector-42, Gurgaon Galleria DLF-4 Farruhnagar Gurgaon Haryana-122009, have changed my name to Arun S Oberoi 0070770349-1

My Wife's Name has been wrongly Published in my Service Records as Vanita whereas Correct Name is Vanita Sandeep Sonawane (No.155748555 Naik: Sonawane Sandeep Kashinath) 105, ENGR REGIMENT vide affidavit no. B-265 dated 16/11/2021 0090298035-1

I, pratibha, W/o-Raj Kumar, Add-210 sant nagar new delhi-110065, changed my name to pratibha Rani. 0040600701-4

I, hitherto known as Richa Vashisth, W/o Deepak Vashisth, residing at, H.No.-11/7, Mandir-Marg, Chhajjapur, East-Babarpur, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Richa Deepak Vashisth. 0040600701-6

I, Sukhwinder Pal Singh Lamba S/o, Ragbir Singh Lamba R/o-H.No. J-9/2nd-Floor, DLF-City Phase-2, Gurgaon, Haryana-122002, have changed my name to Sukhwinder Singh Lamba. 0040600716-7

I, Suresh W/O Narendar Kumar R/o-36 Ashiana, Apartments, Harsh Vihar Pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my minor son name, from Keshav aged-17, years to Keshav Sharma. 0040600701-8

I, Sardar Darshan Singh / S Darshan Singh, S/o Sujaan Singh, R/O N-174, Gali No.9, Vishnu Garden, Tikka Nagar, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to DARSHAN SINGH 0040600644-1

I, Sandeep Kumar Jajoo, S/o Pawan Kumar R/O-H.No.180, Gali.No.7, East Azad-Nagar Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Sandeep Jaju, for all purposes 0040600701-3

I, Royas Joseph Eattackal, S/o Joseph Eattackal Thomas, R/O JB-32-D, Hari Enclave, Harinagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to ROYAS JOSE 0040600647-1

I, Rekha, D/O-Devender Chauhan, R/O-H.No.F-920, Inder-Enclave, Phase-2, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi-86, inform that my father's name, wrongly written, in my document as Devanand, instead of Devender Chauhan 0040600706-2

I, Ravi sonkar, S/o Ganesh Lal, Add-32-B, DDA-Flats, Taimoor-Nagar, New Friends, Delhi, Changed my name to Ravi Shanker. 0040600701-2

I, Raj Rani, W/O-Sh. Ravinder Kumar, R/O-9/4414, Gali.No.7, Ajit Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031, inform that Rani and Raj Rani are one and the same person. 0040600706-1

I, Pooja Sachdeva, W/o Vikram Mehta, R/O C-40, Second Floor, Vijay Vihar Phase-2, Delhi-110085, have changed my name Divya Mehta, for all purposes. 0040600716-3

I, Mubarak Hussain, S/o Nasruddin R/O-A-15-A DDA-Flat Munirka, New Delhi-110067, have changed my name to Praveen, for all future purposes. 0040600716-8

I, Mohd Hanif, S/o-Abdul Masid, R/O-B-24, Gali.No.2, Shastri Park, Delhi-110053, that name of my father, mistakenly written, in my passport no. K3340105 as Abdul Majid, instead of Abdul Masid 0040600706-3

I, Jatin Kashyap S/o Manoj Kashyap R/O C-227/27, Guru Nanak Park, Laxmi Nagar Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Jatin Singh 0070770352-1

I, Mayank S/o Devender Kumar Gosain R/O H.No.-2, F/F, Gali.No. 3, Ram Chander Enclave, Mohan Garden, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Mayank Gosain. 0040600716-4

I, Mamta W/o Manish Bhaskar R/O-9/36 Eklayva Vihar Sector-9, Vasundhara Ghaziabad U.P.-201012, have changed my name to Mamta Bhaskar. 0040600701-1

I, Karanjeet Singh S/O Paramjeet Singh R/O-547/A, Rishi Nagar, Rani-Bagh, Delhi Changed Name To Karanjeet Singh Sandhu. 0040600701-10

I, Adesh Tyagi, age 50 yrs, S/o Anand, R/O VIII - Chandpur, Post- Shahpur, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh-251318, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Adesh Kumar for future purposes. 0070770283-1

I, Reeta Devi D/o Late Sh. Shiv Prakash Pandey W/o Sh. Shashank Tiwari R/O 29-C, Ganesh Nagar Extn-2, Shakar Pur Baramand, Shakarpur East Delhi, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Kajal Prakash for all purposes. 0040600625-9

I, Deputy khari s/o nawab singh khari, H.No.5764/6, new chandraval kamia-nagar, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Daksh khari, for all future purposes. 40600716-9

I, Assad S/o Wahid Husain R/o-1-2, First-Floor, Street No.9, Sangam Vihar, Wazirabad Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Assad Wahid, for all purposes. 0040600701-5

I, Arpit Bindal, S/o Ram Dhan Bindal, R/o-45A Riviera, Apartment Mall, Road Civil, Lines Delhi-110054, changed my minor daughter name Myra to Myra Bindal. 0040600701-7

I, Anjali D/o Narendar Kumar R/o-36, Ashiana Apartments, Harsh Vihar Pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Anjali Sharma. 40600701-9

I, VIJAY KUMAR, R/o Village-Khairana, P/O Bewal, Tehsil-Kanina, Distt.-Mohindergarh, Haryana-123021, have changed my son's name from ARYUSH KUMAR to AYUSH SHARMA. 0040600716-6

I, Shally W/O Kuldeep Chauhan R/O 306-F, Pocket-2, Mayur Vihar, Phase -1, New Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Shally Chauhan. 0070770337-1

I, RENU SHARMA, W/o Vijay Kumar, R/O Village-Khairana, P/O Bewal, Tehsil-Kanina, Distt.-Mohindergarh, Haryana-123021, have changed my name from RANU to RENU SHARMA. 0040600716-5

I, Qamar Aleem S/O Khalique Ahmad R/O Flat No.H-801, Amaara Homes, Plot No.GH-02, Sector-10, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201308 have changed my name to Qamar Aleem Saifi. 0040600656-1

I, Mayra Rajeev D/o Sh. Abhishek Mishra, A562E, 2nd Floor, Block A, Sushant Lok-1, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 have changed my name from Mayra Rajeev to Myra Mishra for all future Purpose. 0040600672-1

I, Manoj Kumar Sharma s/o Janardan Sharma, R/O 89A, Gali No.1, Gupta Enclave, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Manoj Kumar, permanently 0040600658-1

I, Manoj Kumar S/O Pyare Lal, born on 22-08-1986 residing at 3/9 KAD Road Shipra Suncity Indrapuram Ghaziabad 201014, have corrected my Father's name spelling Pyre Lal to Pyare Lal in passport vide affidavit dated 13 Dec 2021 at Gurgaon. 0050191085-1

I, Manju Kumari alias Manju, D/o Karan Singh And W/o Girdi Raj Singh, R/O UG 2 T-7, Civitech Proestia, Park Sapphir Ram Flancha Greens, Sec-7, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201010, have changed my name to Manju Singh. 0070770351-1

I, Deepak Kumar S/O Sukhdev Raj Wadera, R/O A-36, Near Sadiq Nagar, Sanwal Nagar, Delhi-110049, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Deepak Kumar Wadera. 0070768560-2

I, Kashish S/o Surender Manocha, R/O-A-55, GF, New Moti Nagar Delhi-15, have changed my name to Kashish Manocha. 0040600716-1

I, Atul Sharma R/O C-1204, 12th Floor Uninav Heights, Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, UP-201017, Have changed the name (added surname) of my daughter (age 02 years) Dhruvi to Dhruvi Sharma for all future purposes. 0040600678-1

I, Mohd Nadim S/O Akhlaq Mohammad R/O H.No.8035, Gali Tyre Wali, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Mohammad Nadem for all purposes. 40600625-8

I, MAHESH KUMAR JAIN S/O Surender Kumar Jain R/O D 184, Ashok Vihar, Phase 1, Delhi 110052 have changed my name to MANEESH KUMAR JAIN 0040600655-1

I, Prachi D/o Late Raj Kumar, R/O H.No.311/21, Gali No.5, Madanpuri, Gurgaon, (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Prachi Arora. 0040600716-2

NOTICE I declare that my client namely MRS. GULECHHA W/O SHRI RAM AVTAR, R/O A-8/11, NEW SAINIK VIHAR, MOHAN GARDEN, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 wants to disown her son's name AMIT, from self acquired movable and immovable property for future all actions and above statements are true and correct in the best of my knowledge and belief. Date: 29/01/2022 GULECHHA Place: New Delhi SURPRIYVE (ADVOCATE) D-4239/2018, 57 & ASSOCIATES (M) - 9717847404, 8225547179

PUBLIC NOTICE General Public at Large is informed that my client Sh. Bharat Bhushan Verma S/o Late Sh. Bindandev Verma R/o 17/9, Paris Mohalla, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, being the sole Class-2 heir of Late Bri Kishore Verma (brother) who owned 4 properties during his lifetime (i.e. 1) House bearing no. H-246, area measuring 185 sq. yards, Kharsa No. 51/8, 9, 12 & 13, Village Barapola, Adedi Known as Jai Vihar, Nangli, Najalgarh Road, Jai Vihar, Delhi-110043, 2) Plot measuring 85 sq. yards, Kharsa No. 51/8, 9, 12 & 13, Village Barapola, Adedi Known as Jai Vihar, Nangli, Najalgarh Road, Jai Vihar, Delhi-110043, 3) Plot of Kharsa No. 51/4, Village Barapola, Delhi, Colony known as Jai Vihar, H.No. 1022, area measuring 300 sq. yards out of Kharsa No. 51/4, Village Barapola, Delhi, Colony known as Jai Vihar, H.No. 1022, area measuring 150 sq. yards, Delhi. The above-said properties are subject matter in a pending lawsuit and if anyone created third party interest or purchase these properties or entered into an agreement of any type in regards of these above-said properties, it will be on their own risk and cost. My client shall not be responsible for any such transactions. Sd/- SANOBAR ALI Advocate GLOBAL JURIS CONSULTANTS C-21/122, C.L. JOSEPH BLOCK, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-54

LOST & FOUND

I, Pallavi Goyal, W/o Dicky Goyal, R/O Q-12, Sec-12, Noida, U.P., have lost my original Property Documents (Transfer Memorandum) vide no. 4567 dated 23-05-2016 of Plot AG-51, sec-144, Noida, Contd.: 9818044893. 0070770308-1

I, Ameruddin, S/o Salauddin, R/O-B-140 Gali.No.2, Indra-Vihar, Delhi-110094, have lost my original LIC-Policy Bond policy.no.128044623, please finder Contact-9810170784. 0040600716-10

I, Kaishash Chand Garg, S/o Radhey Shyam, R/O 38, Defence Enclave, Vikas Marg, Delhi, have lost my Buyer Agreement dated 12.04.1986 & Property Documents of A/23/9, DLF Phase-1, Gurgaon Haryana Qutab Enclave & Sale Deed, Vastika Number 8459 dated 01.01.1990. If found please contact 9810309793, kcgarg38@gmail.com. 0070770291-1

PUBLIC NOTICE Our Clientess Smt Walida W/O Md. Ayub R/O RZ-1B/168, Gali No. 5, Dayal Park, West Sagar Pur, Delhi-110046 hereby inform general public that she has severed all her relations her son Usman and his wife Furkan and hereby debarred and disowned them from her movable and immovable properties from today as they are not in their control. Please note that my clientess will not be responsible/liable if anybody deals with them in respect of their movable and immovable properties. HARMINDER SINGH BANGA (Advocate) Sd/- Narendar Kalra Advocate Ch. No. 34, Tehsil building, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known that we for and on behalf of our clients, Mr. Gulshan Nanda S/O Mr. Churni Lal Nanda and Ms. Anju Nanda W/o Mr. Gulshan Nanda, both R/O D-37, Ajay Enclave, Near Subhash Nagar, New Delhi-110018 hereby declare and inform the public at large that they are having leasehold rights with respect to and ownership of the property bearing flat no. 246D, MG Green Flats, Rajouri Garden-110027. If any person disputes or otherwise claims any right, title or interest in the aforesaid property in any manner whatsoever, he/she may come forward and contact the undersigned with documentary proof within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice. Sd/- Narendar Kalra Advocate Ch. No. 34, Tehsil building, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE General Public is hereby informed that my client, Mr. Annu Sharma (Advocate) ENRO, NO. D8655/14 Chamber SDM Gally, Patiala House, New Delhi-110001 Mobile No. 9870450035

PUBLIC NOTICE सार्वजनिक को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरी मुकदमा करती देवी सती केशव जी की सती करवा निवासी RZ-324, गली नंबर-15, दुर्गा विहार फेज-1, नजफगढ़, सीनगरपुर, दिल्ली-110043 ने अपने पुत्र कुलदेव मेहरा को उसकी नसे की चीन, बनारसकी, रामनगरपुर और मानसिक व शारीरिक रूप से उत्पीड़न करने के कारण अपनी तब से अलग करती है। मेहरा को अपने तब से अलग करके वे परिवारिक रूप से बिछड़ कर लिये हैं। यह निर्णय तब को ही सती करवा मेहरा से किया जाएगा कि वह अलग व सेन-सेन करवा या किसी प्रकार के ही नसर आचरण में साथ देते तब अपने जोखिम पर करवा। इसमें मेरे मुकदमा व उसके परिवार की कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी। ADITYA DAIYA (Advocate) 3, BARAN LANE, NEW DELHI FLOOR, BANGAL MARKET, DELHI-110091

PUBLIC NOTICE It is general information that I, Vinita Arya D/O Vijay Kumar Arya R/O F-57, Kalyani Farm, Radhey Mohan drive, 5th avenue jaunapur village, Fatehpur Bari, South Delhi-110074 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Vinita Kishore in my pan card. The actual name of mine is Vinita Arya respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Ms. Susma Aggarwal D/o Mr. Shiv Ji (W/o Mr. Rajesh Kumar Goel) is the owner of Entire Third Floor Prop. No. B-3/200, Yamuna Vihar Delhi, and he has lost the Original Page No. 5 i.e. Sale deed dated 31.12.2010 Our client has also lodged a FIR dated 20.01.2022 for the same. If any person dealing with the said document may do so at his/her own risk and manner whatsoever any claim on the basis of the title document will be entertained within 07 days of publication of this notice. If any such right, title interest, or claim if any, will be deemed to have been waived and null binding on our client. Sd/- Manoj Kumar, Advocate, (Ch.No. 132, Tis Hazari Courts, Civil Side) Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE Public at large is hereby informed that my client, C-2492, Sushant Lok Phase-1, Gurgaon, Haryana, presently owned & possessed by Smt. Kusum Kaur by virtue of Award of the Permanent Lok Adalat vide order dated 02.03.2009, duly registered vide Vastika No. 25122, dated 18.03.2009 & as per present version the said property is / are free from all sorts of encumbrances, few link documents are informed as misplaced / untraceable sometimes on 28.01.2021 at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi & the same is informed to be Delhi Police, S.P. Crime Branch, vide LR No. 77653/2022, dated: 28.01.2022. It is hereby notified that my client, Attorney and / or executor of POA, or entity, firm/ company, Bank, HUF/ member of HUF, financial institution, any other claim, any charge, interest or lien or claim on the basis of document informed as lost and/or object to thereof (he/she) they may lodge/ notify the same to the undersigned with supporting proof/ court judgment within 10 days from the day of publication of this public notice, failing which any further future claim/ objection(s) shall be rejected. Sd/- Amit Chaudhary (Advocate) Ch.No. 561, Saket Courts, N. Delhi (M) 9910147876 Email: amillicve2007@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE General Public at Large is informed that my client Sh. Pratul Verma S/o Sh. Bharat Bhushan Verma R/o 17/9, Paris Mohalla, Indore, Madhya Pradesh is the actual Nominee in the Max life insurance policy vide no. 715938100 owned 4 properties during his lifetime (i.e. 1) House bearing no. H-246, area measuring 185 sq. yards, Kharsa No. 51/8, 9, 12 & 13, Village Barapola, Adedi Known as Jai Vihar, Nangli, Najalgarh Road, Jai Vihar, Delhi-110043, 2) Plot measuring 85 sq. yards, Kharsa No. 51/8, 9, 12 & 13, Village Barapola, Adedi Known as Jai Vihar, Nangli, Najalgarh Road, Jai Vihar, Delhi-110043, 3) Plot of Kharsa No. 51/4, Village Barapola, Delhi, Colony known as Jai Vihar, H.No. 1022, area measuring 300 sq. yards out of Kharsa No. 51/4, Village Barapola, Delhi, Colony known as Jai Vihar, H.No. 1022, area measuring 150 sq. yards, Delhi. The above-said properties are subject matter in a pending lawsuit and if anyone created third party interest or purchase these properties or entered into an agreement of any type in regards of these above-said properties, it will be on their own risk and cost. My client shall not be responsible for any such transactions. Sd/- SANOBAR ALI Advocate GLOBAL JURIS CONSULTANTS C-21/122, C.L. JOSEPH BLOCK, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-54

8 booked for 'disrespecting' flag on R-Day

Lucknow: Eight people have been booked for allegedly disrespecting the national flag at a function at Tewda village in Muzaffarnagar on Republic Day. No arrests have been made. Police have also invoked the Epidemic Disease Act against the accused. Police learnt about the incident after a video was circulated on social media. Station House Officer of Kakralui Sunil Sharma said the accused, who work in the electricity department, hoisted the national flag on their office premises on Republic Day. Police said they played music on high volume and draped a three-wheeler with the Tricolour. In the video, the accused are seen sitting on the national flag and touching it with their legs, said Sharma. ENS

Days after reunion with his elder brother, Sikka Khan gets Pakistan visa to visit him

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

DAYS AFTER two brothers separated in 1947 were reunited after 74 years at Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi on Friday issued a visa to Sikka Khan to visit his brother Muhammed Siddique and other family members in Pakistan. "The story of the two brothers is a powerful illustration of how the historic opening of the visa-free Kartarpur Sahib Corridor in November 2019 by Pakistan is bringing people closer to each other," the Pakistan High Commission said on Friday. Separately, India said it has a "positive approach" on religious tourism between the two coun-



During the brothers' recent reunion at Kartarpur Sahib

tries and is ready to discuss expansion of pilgrimage sites on both sides. India is keen to include temples in Balochistan and Gurdwaras in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as part of Indian pilgrims visiting Pakistan. Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "As you are aware, under the 1974 Protocol between India and Pakistan, visits to religious shrines are being facilitated regularly. There is an interest on both sides to expand the agreed list of shrines and mode of travel. It naturally needs to be discussed under the Protocol." "Let me underline that India has a positive approach on this matter and is willing to engage the Pakistani side. You are also aware that currently restrictions are in place on movement and gatherings in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. As the situation normalises, we expect that this time can be utilised to hold discussions under the bilateral Protocol. It is our hope to facilitate early exchange of visits to all shrines of interest to pilgrims," he said.

Days after he met his elder brother at Kartarpur Gurdwara on January 10, Sikka had said, "Please give me a visa. I want to go to my brother as soon as possible."

Seventy-four years after the border split the two Punjabis, leaving Sikka and his mother on one side and his elder brother Sadiq Khan and father in the Pakistani part, all it took for the search to end was a video shared on social media. A day after a YouTuber in Pakistan, Nasir Dhillon, uploaded Sadiq's appeal, he got a call from a rural medical practitioner from Sikka's village Phulewala. He said the man Sadiq was looking for was Habib alias Sikka Khan, who lived in their village. It took two more years though for the brothers to finally meet, overcoming the paperwork.

Granddaughter of BSY found dead in her Bengaluru flat

Bengaluru: A granddaughter of former Karnataka chief minister BSY Yediyurappa was found dead in her apartment in central Bengaluru on Friday morning. Police suspect it is a case of death by suicide. A case of unnatural death has been registered. Police say, Dr Soundarya V, 29, was found hanging in her bedroom around 10 am Friday by her husband, Dr Neeraj S — police said he had rushed back from work on being informed by their household help that Soundarya was not responding despite repeated knocking on the door.

She was declared dead on arrival at the city's Bowring Hospital. Soundarya, daughter of Yediyurappa's second daughter, Padmavathi, worked at a private hospital in Bengaluru. The couple's child is about five months old. Dr K V Sathish, one of the doctors who conducted the autopsy at Bowring Hospital, told the media that there was a mark on her neck. "The report has been submitted to the tehsildar," he added. ENS



Soundarya VV

Mandaviya reviews Covid status in South, urges focus on clusters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

HEALTH MINISTER Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday held a Covid-19 review meeting with five southern states and three Union Territories and emphasised that they should keep a close watch on emerging clusters and hotspots being reported in the third wave of the pandemic. In his meeting with his counterparts from Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep, Mandaviya reiterated that the five strategies of Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate & adherence to COVID-Appropriate Behaviour, coupled with effective surveillance of cases, remain cru-

DCGI allows Bharat Biotech to hold phase-3 trials for nasal Covid vaccine

New Delhi: Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), the drug regulator, Friday granted approval to Bharat Biotech to conduct phase-3 clinical trial of its nasal Covid-19 vaccine. During this, Bharat Biotech will conduct BBV154 nasal vaccine for both two-dose primary schedule as well as the booster dose schedule. BBV154 is a adenovirus vector intranasal Covid-19 vaccine. The intranasal immunisation of BBV154 can create an immune response in the nose. ENS

Karnataka is contributing to 16.25% of the total active cases reported in the country at present. The state's 27 districts are reporting more than 10% positivity rate, while Kerala's 14 districts are reporting more than 10% positivity rate, it said.

The ministry had said Karnataka is contributing to 16.25% of the total active cases reported in the country at present. The state's 27 districts are reporting more than 10% positivity rate, while Kerala's 14 districts are reporting more than 10% positivity rate, it said.

The meeting comes a day after the Health Ministry on Thursday highlighted that Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh are among the top 10 states contributing the maximum number of active cases to the national Covid-19 tally.

The court passed an order taking cognizance of the chargesheet. Inspector Pravintra Kumar Singh, the investigating officer, says they filed the chargesheet as "the stipulated period to file it (90 days) was ending". "We sent a letter to the state government seeking prosecution sanction against the accused after collecting evidence against them..." We attached a photocopy of the letter (with the chargesheet)," the inspector said. Charges were filed against the three under IPC Sections 124-A (sedition), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 505 (1)(B) (with intent to

T20 match: Sanction awaited, cops file charge sheet against Kashmiri students

BASHAAR MASOOD & MANISH SAHU SRINAGAR, LUCKNOW, JANUARY 28

HIS SON phoned in the morning, the one call of a few minutes he is allowed every week, says Mohammad Shaban Ganai. "Shawkat was crying, it felt as if a knife was pierced through my heart."

Showkat Ahmad Ganai and two other Kashmiri students, Arsheed Yusuf and Inayat Alad Sheikh, have now been in Agra District Jail for three months, facing charges of sedition and promoting enmity between groups for allegedly cheering for Pakistan during a T20 World Cup match that India lost. On Tuesday, the Agra police filed a chargesheet in the case before the CJM Court, though sanction for prosecution under sedition and other charges is still awaited. The court passed an order taking cognizance of the chargesheet. Inspector Pravintra Kumar Singh, the investigating officer, says they filed the chargesheet as "the stipulated period to file it (90 days) was ending". "We sent a letter to the state government seeking prosecution sanction against the accused after collecting evidence against them..." We attached a photocopy of the letter (with the chargesheet)," the inspector said. Charges were filed against the three under IPC Sections 124-A (sedition), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 505 (1)(B) (with intent to

cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public, or to any section of the public), Sections 124-A, 153-A and 505 (1)(B) need to be approved by the state government before the charges are accepted in a court of law. The Agra police letter is dated November. Police also sent details of the case to the government to verify. Studying at an Agra engineering college under the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme for J&F students, the three youths had allegedly shared "anti-India" messages on WhatsApp after Pakistan's victory. Ganai said that before every hearing, his son's lawyer says he is very hopeful of bail. But then comes the court order. "We are unable to understand what is happening. We are losing hope for justice... I had to sell my cow to fight for his bail. I have taken a loan of Rs 50,000-Rs 60,000 from neighbours. But there is no outcome."

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NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) N.I.T. No. 17-A-21-22/WE GEM BID No. GEM/2022/B/188186 Name of Work with its Location Hiring of Inspection Vehicle for ADENE-I and ADENE-II under Sr.DEN/Estate for 21 months. Approx cost of work ₹21,11,536/- EMD Amount ₹4,231/- Completion period of work 1 Year(s) 9 Month(s) Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender Closing date of tender on 18.02.2022 at 15:00 hrs. Website particular notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. 128-W/269/OET/21-22/WE/NT/17(A) Dated: 28.01.2022 205/22 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

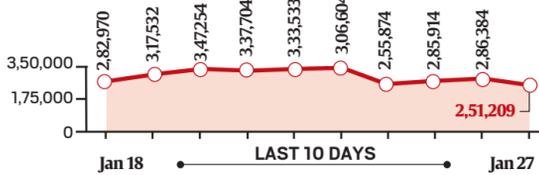
TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

DASHBOARD, AS ON JAN 27

697
DAYS SINCE
PANDEMIC
BEGANNew cases
2,51,209Active cases
21,05,611Deaths
627

Weekly CFR: 0.29% | Overall CFR: 1.35% | Total deaths: 4,92,327

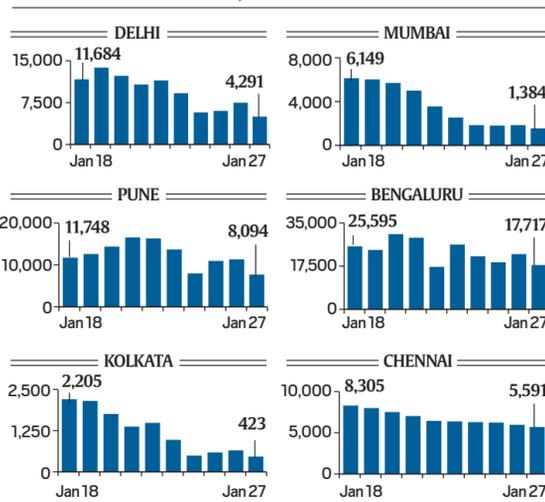
NEW CASES, DAILY



SURGE IN THE STATES

State	ON JANUARY 27			Weekly positivity
	New Cases	Active Cases	Deaths	
Kerala	51,739	3,10,202	153	46.23%
Karnataka	38,083	3,28,741	49	22.71%
Tamil Nadu	28,515	2,13,534	53	19.71%
Maharashtra	25,425	2,87,397	53	20.42%
Andhra Pradesh	13,474	1,09,493	9	30.66%

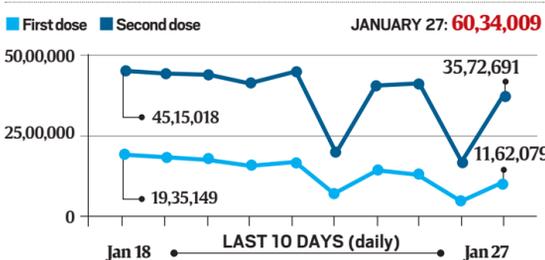
CASES IN THE CITIES, LAST 10 DAYS



TOTAL TESTS	72,37,48,555
TESTS ON JAN 27	15,82,307
WEEKLY POSITIVITY	16.84%
OVERALL POSITIVITY	5.61%

INDIA TOTAL DOSES 164,44,73,216

(Adults 1st dose: 89,09,39,447; adults second dose: 69,88,03,190; 15-18 age group first dose: 4,43,89,137; precautionary doses: 1,03,41,442)



SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Jats and the BJP in UP

What is the history and politics of — and around — the Jat community of Western Uttar Pradesh? Who have been their leaders, how have they voted, and why is this history important in the coming Assembly elections?

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah's outreach to Jayant Chaudhary — which the RLD leader rebuffed saying he was not a 25-paisa coin that would flip — indicated the importance that the BJP attaches to Jats and their main political platform in Western Uttar Pradesh.

The RLD and its partner, the Samajwadi Party (SP), are trying to win back this part of the state where the BJP has done well in recent elections. When the Centre withdrew the three farm laws in November, it had its eyes more on Western UP than anywhere else.

Who are the Jats?

The 1891 census recorded 1,791 different communities of Jats. K S Singh, editor of the *People of India* series, noted "there are Hindu, Muslim and Sikh Jat", and "these divisions regulate their marriage alliances". Jats are a predominantly farming community mostly concentrated in Haryana, UP, Delhi, and Rajasthan.

Jats want to be included among the OBCs in the central list. In UP, Rajasthan, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, they are already categorised as OBC. Jats of Rajasthan — except those in Dholpur and Bharatpur — are also OBC in the central list.

Jats are a politically powerful community, and can influence the results of nearly 40 Lok Sabha seats and around 160 Assembly seats in UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi. In UP, they are concentrated in the western districts, mainly cultivate sugarcane, and are the state's richest farming community.

Who have been their prominent leaders?

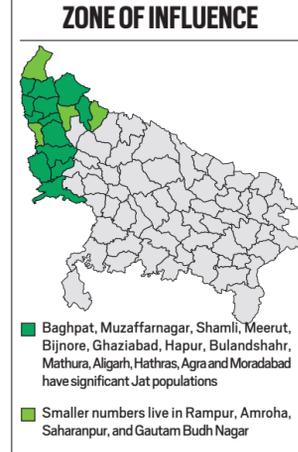
In the 1950s and '60s, Devi Lal and Ranbir Singh Hooda were prominent Jat leaders of (undivided) Punjab. In Rajasthan, there was Nathuram Mirdha, and in UP, Chaudhary Charan Singh.

After the creation of Haryana in 1966, leaders such as Bansi Lal emerged. Jats are more than 25% in Haryana, and have long dominated its politics.

Until his demise in 1987, Charan Singh remained among the tallest Jat leaders of the country, and had a following among other castes too. He was Chief Minister of UP twice, Deputy Prime Minister and, for a little less than six months in 1979-80, Prime Minister.

In UP, Charan Singh led the farmer communities away from both the Congress and Bharatiya Jana Sangh, precursor of the BJP, which had a large number of MLAs from these communities after the elections of 1967.

Charan Singh's legacy was inherited by his son Ajit Singh, but the arrival of Mandal and Hindutva fundamentally changed politics in UP — and the Jats under Ajit Singh made several adjustments to remain relevant over the



next quarter century.

Where is the Jat vote in UP?

The community has significant influence in a dozen Lok Sabha and around 40 Assembly seats in Western UP. They are estimated to comprise 10-15% cent of the population in some 15 districts, but are socially dominant, vocal, and have the capacity to build a political atmosphere. Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Meerut, Bijnore, Ghaziabad, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Mathura, Aligarh, Hathras, Agra and Moradabad have significant Jat populations. Smaller numbers live in Rampur, Amroha, Saharanpur, and Gautam Budh Nagar.

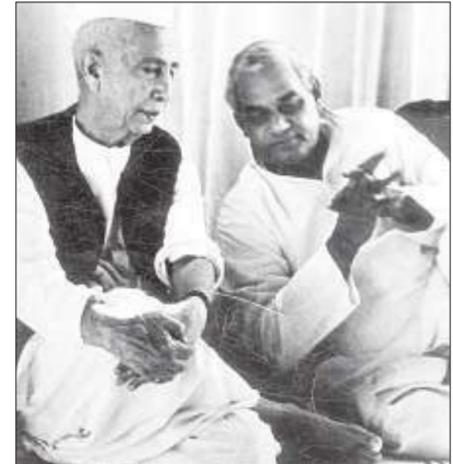
Jats in UP have by and large thrown their lot with the ruling party. The political base created by Charan Singh was harnessed by Mulayam Singh Yadav, and a large section of Jats switched to the BJP during the last decade.

What was Ajit Singh's political career like?

Chaudhary Ajit Singh, the IIT-educated son of Charan Singh, switched sides frequently to remain relevant in national and UP politics.

He joined V P Singh's government, but defected to the Congress in 1995 and joined P V Narasimha Rao's government. In the Lok Sabha election of 1996, he won from Baghpat as a Congress candidate, but resigned from Parliament the following year and formed his own Bharatiya Kisan Kamgar Party (BKMP) and won the by-election from Baghpat. In the Lok Sabha election of 1998, Ajit Singh lost the seat.

In 1999, he formed the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) which won two Lok Sabha seats that year — Baghpat and adjoining Kairana. It retained these seats in 2004. Ajit Singh had been part of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's ministry, and he tried to join the Manmohan Singh government, but



Charan Singh with Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1983. Express Archive

that did not materialise for several years.

The RLD went back to an alliance with the BJP in 2009, contested nine seats, and won five. But in 2011, Ajit Singh joined the ministry of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. In the next two Lok Sabha elections, both Ajit Singh and his son Jayant Chaudhary lost. Ajit Singh passed away after contracting Covid-19 last year.

How did the Jats do in UP in the Mandal-kamandal years?

The BKKP was Ajit Singh's ninth political switch. In the UP elections of 1996, he sought the support of farmer leader Mahendra Singh Tikait, and entered into a seat adjustment with Mulayam Singh's SP. He contested 38 seats but won just eight.

The RLD fought the 2002 elections in alliance with the BJP, and won 14 of the 38 seats it contested. It joined the BJP-BSP government headed by Mayawati, but the RLD's alliance with the BJP broke soon afterward.

When Mulayam took oath in 2003, Ajit Singh's MLAs joined the government. But again, only a few months before the elections of 2007, the RLD pulled out of the government.

Post-2007, the RLD contested 254 seats and won only 10. In 2012, when Ajit Singh was Union Civil Aviation Minister, the RLD fought with the Congress, and won just nine seats.

How has the BJP done among Jat voters?

It was always understood that the BJP transferred its votes to RLD candidates, but the reverse did not happen.

The 'new' BJP of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah decided not to have an alliance with RLD, but instead field its own Jat candidates. The communal riots in Muzaffarnagar in 2013 led

to a strong polarisation, and boosted the Modi wave in the Lok Sabha elections of 2014.

In the 2017 Assembly elections, the out of the 94 seats in Western UP, the RLD, the party of the Jats, won just one seat.

Among the farmer communities, Yadavs are considered anti-BJP, and an SP votebank. The Kurmis are thought to vote for candidates from their community, cutting across party lines. The other big chunk of OBCs — Maurya-Shakya-Saini-Kushwaha — voted solidly for the BJP in 2014, 2017, and 2019, but the recent exodus of powerful leaders from this group has come as a blow for the party.

The Muzaffarnagar violence finally broke the old alliance of Jats and Muslims forged by Charan Singh. However, Jats had been gradually moving closer to the BJP's Brahmin-Bania-Thakur combination for several years prior to that break. The traditional influence of the Arya Samaj over the community was a factor in this.

After V P Singh implemented the Mandal Commission report to counter his powerful Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, the Jats were annoyed. Over the years, the distance between the Jats and other farming communities, who were categorised as OBC, increased.

What is the state of play ahead of the elections that begin on February 10?

In 2017, the BJP fielded 15 Jat candidates; 14 won. This time, the party has fielded 17 candidates from the community. The RLD has fielded 12 Jat candidates, and the SP six.

There is anger in the community over the now withdrawn farm laws, and issues like the payment of sugarcane dues. For Akhilesh-Jayant, the coming back together of Jat and Muslim voters is crucial; the BJP is trying to polarise the election along Hindu-Muslim lines.

Moderna's HIV vaccine: promising, miles to go

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, JANUARY 28

BIOTECH FIRM Moderna has started trials on an mRNA vaccine against HIV. First doses of the experimental HIV vaccine antigens were administered at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington DC this week. Fifty-six individuals will be randomised in four groups and safety/immunogenicity results will be available in 2023.

The technology

Based on the same technology as Moderna's Covid 19 vaccine, the experimental HIV vaccine uses mRNA, or messenger RNA, which teaches the body's cells how to make

proteins that trigger immune response. It uses a novel approach to elicit broadly neutralising HIV-1 antibodies (bNAbs) and eventually target multiple HIV strains. bNAbs are produced by certain types of B cells, which are rare: one in 300,000 B cells have this capability.

The immunogens being tested were developed by teams at the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and Scripps Research, and delivered via Moderna's technology.

"While the proof-of-principle study was encouraging, it used a protein with an adjuvant to induce a response that was as hoped — capable of neutralising and preventing infection with neutralisation of susceptible HIV strains. It did not use mRNA, but there is no reason to suppose that the mRNA that has been designed will not lead to the production of the expected protein and broadly neutralising antibodies," leading virologist Dr Gagandeep Kang said.

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The vaccine challenge

Several vaccine candidates entered clinical trials but failed, said Dr Sanjay Pujari, infectious diseases consultant closely involved in treating HIV patients. Previous vaccine studies in HIV have shown that antibodies produced were either ineffective or partially effective, and contributed to failure of trials.

Over the last decade, studies have narrowed down on bNAbs that are more potent than reactive antibodies produced after HIV infection. In naturally acquired HIV infection, only a small proportion of individuals produces bNAbs. By that time, it is quite late to have any impact on the natural course of HIV infection. So, the key is to use it as treatment (early on

during acute HIV infection) or prevention.

"The closest positive effectiveness was achieved in the THAI (RV144) trial i.e. around 30%. Recently, Johnson & Johnson's vector platform vaccine trial in South Africa (Imbokodo) was stopped due to disappointing results. Hence an mRNA platform to deliver immunogens capable of inducing bNAbs is promising technology that needs to be explored in trials," Dr Pujari said.

However, it's early days yet. "This is a start and we do not know how it will go, but we hope that using good science will move us further along," Dr Kang said.

Dr K Madan Gopal, Senior Consultant-Health, NITI Aayog, said: "mRNA technology has a distinct advantage and the platform can be easily adapted to develop a vaccine against HIV variants... let's hope for the best."

A beautiful secret: Garcia Márquez and the daughter he named Indira

PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

DURING THE course of conversations with his biographer Gerald Martin, whose *Gabriel García Márquez: A Life* (1998) chronicles the extraordinary life and career of the Nobel Prize-winning Colombian writer, Márquez once remarked, "All human beings have three lives: public, private, and secret."

Eight years after his death in April 2014 at the age of 87, Márquez's own secret life came to light recently when the Colombian newspaper *El Universal de Cartagena* published a news report, confirmed to the Associated Press by two relatives of the writer, about a closely guarded family secret — Márquez's child with Mexican writer and journalist Susana Cato, with whom he had an extramarital relationship in the 1990s.

The daughter, Indira Cato, now in her 30s, is a documentary film producer based out of Mexico City. Márquez, who was married to Mercedes Barcha for over 57 years, also had two sons with her, Rodrigo and

Gonzalo García Barcha.

The confirmation

In an article published in *El País*, Gustavo Tatis Guerra, the journalist who broke the identity of Gabo's daughter, wrote, "On the day of Gabriel García Márquez's death, on Maundy Thursday, during that April of brilliant light and omens near the ocean in San Antero, someone alluded to an unconfirmed rumour that the author of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967) had a daughter, and that it was a closely guarded secret... It was a rumour that resurfaced suspiciously during García Márquez's funeral and memorial at the Palacio de las Bellas Artes in Mexico City, and remained in the air like a wind that opens and closes doors, without bringing credible reason or verifiable information."

Guerra went about confirming the news with Márquez's trusted biographers Martin and Dasso Saldívar, and it would be the latter who would offer the proof, courtesy Márquez's long-time friend, Guillermo Angulo.



García Márquez in Mexico City in 1976. *The New York Times*

Yet, when Guerra approached immediate members of the family for confirmation, he was met with a wall of silence. It would only be after the death of Barcha in 2020, that the family would confirm that they knew of and kept in touch with Indira — and had not spoken of it in Barcha's lifetime to spare her the heartbreak.

Who is Susana Cato?

Susana Cato first met Márquez, one of the most significant literary figures of the 20th century and the writer of novels such as *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (1981), *Love in the Time of Cholera* (1985) and *Autumn of the Patriarch* (1975), when she enrolled for the screenwriting workshop that he taught at the International Film and TV School of San Antonio de los Baños in Cuba in the early 1990s.

Márquez had already won the Nobel Prize by then and was feted the world over for his exposition of magic realism. Over 30 years his junior, Cato was a talented student and aspiring scriptwriter who, according to the *El País* article, worked on the plot for Carlos García Agraz's short film, *El espejo de dos lunas* (*The Two-Moon Mirror*), that had a screenplay by Márquez.

The Nobel laureate also partnered with Cato and Eliseo Alberto Diego to co-write the script of *Con el amor no se juega* (*Don't Play with Love*, 1991), directed by Carlos García Agraz, José Luis García Agraz, and Tomás Gutiérrez Alea.

Guerra writes that Cato also interviewed Márquez for the Mexican magazine *Cambio* in 1996. Even though Márquez never publicly acknowledged his relationship with her or Indira, he kept in touch with the Catos till the end of his life. Now 61, Cato, the author of two books, both published during the pandemic, lives in Mexico City.

Indira, the lost daughter

In his article, Guerra recalls Saldívar speaking of a photograph of Márquez with Indira that he had come across. "The smile of happiness he had with the girl on his knees, I'll never forget it," he had confided in Guerra.

Even though Indira adopted her mother's surname and never mentioned her father, in private, Márquez was deeply invested in his daughter's life. It was he who gave her the name Indira, a tribute to former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, with whom he shared a bond of mutual admiration, and at whose invitation Márquez had accompanied his friend and Cuban President Fidel Castro to the Non-Aligned

summit in New Delhi in 1983.

Guerra writes in the *El País* article, "In choosing a name for her, he ruled out Virginia, which had been on the edges of his conscience since the 1970s, and instead chose Indira, in honour of Indira Gandhi, who he met in 1983 and who was the first head of state to call and congratulate him when he won the Nobel Prize in October 1982."

In studying dramatic literature and theatre at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, Indira Cato shares the creative interests of her parents. After working as a feature writer with an online publication, in 2020, she debuted as a documentary film producer with Arturo González Villaseñor's *Llévate mis amores* (*Take My Love With You*), that looks at Mexican women volunteers who stand by railroads to offer food to migrants across train windows.

The film, for which she had also co-written the screenplay with Villaseñor, won several awards. Indira is now working on another documentary called *Las hijas del maíz* (*Daughters of the Corn*).



The Indian EXPRESS

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BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Recover and rebuild

Meet objectives of growth, jobs by expanding fiscal space, fiscal deficit can be stabilised in medium term



S MAHENDRA DEV

MAKING CONNECTIONS

India-Central Asia Summit focused on overland connectivity, security. Both sides need to turn political will into outcomes

INDIA WAS AMONG the first countries to recognise the Central Asian Republics after the collapse of the Soviet Union three decades ago. Delhi, which had privileged access to Soviet Central Asia thanks to its special relationship with Moscow during the Cold War, hoped for a quick flowering of ties. Despite the much celebrated historical and civilisational relationship between India and Central Asia and the rekindled geopolitical romance, Delhi has struggled to build a productive relationship. India's annual trade with the region has been stuck at around \$2 billion. China's trade with the region in contrast stands at more than \$40 billion. As the US enthusiasm for Central Asia faded within a decade, Russia's deep structural links endured, and a rising China became an important economic partner, India seemed quite marginal to the region. As in other parts of the extended neighbourhood, the gap between India's reach and grasp appeared quite large.

This week's summit — the first ever with the five leaders of Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan — was about overcoming the persistent obstacles to a productive economic relationship and finding a new basis for political engagement and security cooperation. In fact, the five leaders were scheduled to join the Republic Day celebrations this week in a powerful demonstration of the region's collective interest in India. But the pandemic forced the shift to a virtual mode. That the leaders of the five Central Asian states, already part of the so-called Shanghai Cooperation Organisation led by Russia and China — India is also a member — are willing to engage India in a separate format suggests that there is considerable interest in deeper ties. Although Delhi's weight may not match that of Moscow or Beijing in the region, India does figure prominently in Central Asia's strategy of diversifying their regional relations.

As it looked to the revitalisation of ties, the summit's focus was on two important themes. In the first, they addressed the principal constraint on developing deeper ties — lack of connectivity between India and land-locked Central Asian Republics. Pakistan's refusal to give overland trade and transit facilities to India and the political instability in Afghanistan have meant the natural routes between India and Central Asia have remained blocked. The two sides have now set up a joint working group that will intensify the effort to use Iran's Chabahar port to promote "free movement of goods and services between India and Central Asia". Complementing the focus on overland connectivity is the emphasis on security. The return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan has shaken the Central Asian governments, all of whom are vulnerable to the forces of terrorism and religious extremism. The shared interest between India and Central Asia in containing the forces of destabilisation emanating out of Afghanistan is encouraging the two sides to institutionalise political coordination and deepen security cooperation. The challenge now is to turn the proclaimed political will into concrete outcomes on connectivity and security.

FLYING HOME

After almost seven decades, Tatas regain control of Air India. But the sale does little to shore up government's coffers

ALMOST SEVEN DECADES after ceding control of the airline, the Tata group on Thursday regained Air India. Last year, the group had emerged as the winning bidder for the airline, with a bid of Rs 18,000 crore. With this acquisition, the Tatas will gain 100 per cent ownership in Air India, Air India Express, and a 50 per cent stake in the ground handling firm AI-SATS. This sale marks the first major outright privatisation of a public sector entity in recent years. Though there has been criticism of the pace and manner of the government's privatisation programme, the symbolism of this sale is hard to ignore.

The Tatas will now face the arduous task of turning around the airline. This will be challenging, more so at a time when the aviation industry is grappling with the fallout from the pandemic. It will also have to deal with a plethora of legacy issues, ranging from an ageing fleet to human resources. According to the bidding conditions, the Tatas will have to retain all employees for a one-year period. The group must also contend with claims on international assets of Air India by Devas Multimedia and its investors who are trying to enforce its arbitration awards. Reportedly, Air India is seeking an end to the case on grounds that the ownership change prevents any claims of recovery of arbitration awards. Then there is the issue of the group's other competing airlines — Vistara and AirAsia India — to contend with. It is possible that the Tatas will at some point consider integrating their aviation ventures under a single entity.

Though this is a milestone, by itself, it does little to shore up the government's disinvestment proceeds. Of the Rs 18,000 crore winning bid, only Rs 2,700 crore is to be paid to the government, while the group will retain the balance, Rs 15,300 crore, in the form of debt. Data from DIPAM shows that the government's proceeds from disinvestment remain well short of the target — as against a target of Rs 1.75 lakh crore, collections till now had been only Rs 9,330 crore. On its part, the government is hopeful of the LIC IPO culminating by the end of March, though, considering the intricacies of such a transaction, it is not clear if it can be concluded by then. Similarly, the privatisation process of BPCL as well as that of the public sector banks is also expected to spill over into the next year.

TOP OF THE GAME

Charanjit Singh will be remembered for his role in helping India regain its supremacy on the hockey field

WITH THE DEATH of former hockey captain Charanjit Singh, who died at 90 on Thursday at his home in Una, India has lost another member of the golden generation. The crafty midfielder belonged to an era when hockey was one of the key sources of national pride and the players were among the first heroes of post-independence India. In the last few years, many of those stars, Balbir Singh Dossanjh, Balbir Singh Junior and Keshav Datt, have passed away. Many of these players were forgotten, remembered in a snippet or two in once-in-four-years compendiums of Olympic trivia. Charanjit, though, will always be remembered as one of the key men responsible for India regaining its supremacy on the hockey field.

"Padma Shri Sahab", as Charanjit was fondly called in his hometown, started playing for the national team in the early 1950s, fighting his way into a star-studded midfield comprising the likes of Leslie Claudius, Datt and Joe Antics. His absence in the final of the 1960 Olympics, due to an injury, was seen as one of the reasons why India lost to Pakistan, conceding the champion's tag to their arch-rivals. But four years later, Charanjit captained the Indian team that defeated Pakistan to win the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics. They did so with calmness, grace and humility — traits associated with Indian teams of that era.

While a lot needs to be done to preserve the legacy of these legends, it's reassuring that India is clawing its way back to the top of world hockey. Coincidentally, India's resurgence has begun in the same city — Tokyo — where it reclaimed its lost glory under Charanjit. The bronze at the Tokyo Olympics last year has breathed fresh life into the dying sport. But players and administrators recognise that this is just the beginning. For, the revival won't be complete until the team reaches the top of the Olympic podium, as the yesterday stars did, so effortlessly.

THE FIRST ADVANCE estimates released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that GDP in constant prices in FY 22 was 1.26 per cent higher than the pre-Covid year of FY20. In other words, India had a growth rate of 0.63 per cent per annum in the post-Covid period. Although the impact of Omicron is less on the economy, the loss of GDP in the last two years is high. Also note that the pre-Covid year FY20 had a low base with 4 per cent growth of GDP. Therefore, the need to focus on higher growth in the forthcoming budget and in the medium term, that is, beyond India@75, is obvious.

There are several challenges in creating quantity and quality of jobs in the economy: (a) Unemployment rate is high in both rural and urban areas; (b) decline in work participation rates, particularly for women; (c) recovery in employment is still below the levels of the pre-Covid period. According to CMIE, the employment in December 2021 was 2.9 million less compared to that of 2019-20; (d) 85 per cent of the workforce is still in informal sector; (e) less than 5 per cent of India's workforce has formal skill training; (f) manufacturing and services need structural change; (g) focus on MSME sector is needed for higher employment.

There is a need to have policies in the forthcoming budget and in the medium term for achieving higher economic growth and jobs. Some of these policies are discussed below.

First, the last budget has given a push to capital expenditure and infrastructure. This has to be continued in the next budget and in the medium term. The government outlined an infrastructure project pipeline worth more than Rs 102 lakh crore and asset monetisation pipeline of Rs 6 lakh crore to be implemented in the medium term. Continuing focus on infrastructure and capex by the government is important as it is a key driver for the "future of India". Of course, all these plans on infrastructure depend on effective implementation and creating appropriate models of infrastructure and also on generating the required finance.

Second, it is well known that rise in exports is one of the main engines of growth and also important for employment creation. Export growth in India has increased and is expected

There is hardly any disagreement that India needs to aim at the larger growth of the manufacturing sector for higher economic growth and creating more productive jobs. However, the share of manufacturing in GDP and employment has hardly increased over time. Similarly, there are a lot of opportunities for India in the service sector. The top global service brands like Google, Airbnb, Amazon, LinkedIn, McKinsey, Master Card, Visa, Fedex covering hospitality and consulting firms or food and beverages like Starbucks are from the US. Brand and customer centricity are important here. India can also think of more business in the service sector.

to reach \$400 billion by the end of FY22. One worrying aspect of India's export performance is the failure in expanding the share of labour intensive products in the export basket. In the post-Covid situation, there are several opportunities for India to occupy the space vacated by China to boost exports. However, one problem in recent years is that India's trade policy has become more protectionist by increasing import tariffs. India should also join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) for integrating our industries with the value chains in Asia.

Third, there is hardly any disagreement that India needs to aim at the larger growth of the manufacturing sector for higher economic growth and creating more productive jobs. However, the share of manufacturing in GDP and employment has hardly increased over time. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes can improve performance. However, more efforts are required to improve the manufacturing sector. Similarly, there are a lot of opportunities for India in the service sector. The top global service brands like Google, Airbnb, Amazon, LinkedIn, McKinsey, Master Card, Visa, Fedex covering hospitality and consulting firms or food and beverages like Starbucks are from the US. Brand and customer centricity are important here. India can also think of more business in the service sector. Growing startups including unicorns in manufacturing and services is part of this effort.

Fourth, banking reforms are important as bank credit growth is a key indicator of economic growth. In the immediate term, interest rates may rise in India and at the global level due to rise in inflation. This may increase the cost of capital. Credit to GDP ratio in India is only around 55 per cent compared to 100 per cent and 150 per cent in many other countries. Credit should flow to all categories of economic agents like firms, households etc. It is true that bank credit growth increased to 9 per cent in December 2021. But, NPA is still a problem for Scheduled Commercial banks (SCBs) and others. The macro stress tests for credit risk mentioned in the Financial Stability Report released by the RBI "indicate that the gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio of

SCBs may increase from 6.9 per cent in September 2021 to 8.1 per cent by September 2022 under the baseline scenario and to 9.5 per cent under a severe stress scenario. SCBs would, however, have sufficient capital, both at the aggregate and individual levels, even under stress conditions". The bad bank, a key initiative of the last budget, is yet to take shape. The role of fintech companies in the financial sector has increased significantly. They may not be able to replace banks although they are competing on payments. The banks also have to focus now on ESG (environment, social and governance) while giving credit. Big technology and digital push is also needed for banks.

Lastly, the K-shaped recovery of the economy is still continuing. A large part of the corporate sector has been able to manage the pandemic and the stock market is doing well. On the other hand, the informal workers, including daily wage labourers, migrants, MSMEs, the contact intensive sectors etc, have suffered a lot with the loss of incomes and employment. The policies have to focus on giving a push to the MSME sector, increasing investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure, a social sector push including bridging divides in health and education, social protection measures like foodgrain distribution, cash transfers, MGNREGA in rural areas, urban employment guarantee schemes etc. This will also create demand for the economy.

On economic growth and jobs, we have to double our efforts to cover the losses and reach a normal steady growth. The forthcoming budget and medium-term policies should focus on them. The goal of achieving a \$5 trillion dollar economy by 2024-25 may get delayed by one or two years. The monetary policy is already very accommodative and this may not continue as there are headwinds like rising inflation. In the near term, fiscal policy has to play an important role in achieving the objectives of growth and jobs by expanding fiscal space while the fiscal deficit can be stabilised in the medium term. Increase in private investment may take some more time.

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SANJAY KAUL AND UMA MAHADEVAN-DASGUPTA

THE YOUNGEST LEARNERS

Early childhood care and education in anganwadis is necessary and feasible

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION Policy, 2020 has rightly highlighted the importance of early childhood care and education (ECCE), vital for the young child's early cognitive, social, and emotional development. However, the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) finds only 13.6 per cent of children enrolled in pre-primary schools. Therefore, the nearly 1.4 million anganwadis of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) across India must provide ECCE for the millions of young children in low-income households.

Admittedly, with its overriding focus on health and nutrition, ECCE has hitherto been the weakest link of the anganwadi system. Multiple administrative duties have left anganwadi workers with little time for ECCE.

The existing system at best serves the age group of 3-6 years, ignoring infants and toddlers. Nevertheless, a child's early learning begins at birth, initially through stimulation, play, interactions, non-verbal and verbal communication, and gradually through observation and cues from the immediate environment and increasingly structured activities. Unfortunately, due to a lack of parental awareness compounded by the daily stresses of poverty, disadvantaged households are unable to provide an early learning environment.

Many low-income families have begun to send their children to low-cost pre-schools. However, these mostly have a developmentally inappropriate teaching approach.

Some educationists have suggested that owing to the high workload of anganwadi workers, ECCE in anganwadis would remain a

non-starter — and, therefore, all government primary schools should open pre-primary sections, with anganwadis limiting themselves to the 0-3 age group. This proposal has multiple logistical challenges and is fiscally unsustainable. It would require a massive outlay to build over a million classrooms with a million nursery teachers and helpers — even a conservative estimate would put the additional annual outlay at over Rs 30,000 crore. Moreover, with child stunting levels at 35 per cent in India, would children enrolled in pre-schools not require supplementary nutrition and health monitoring? If so, would the nursery teacher not also get overburdened? More critically, experience suggests that existing government pre-schools are mostly a downward extension of primary school, and do not impart age-appropriate ECCE.

A meaningful ECCE programme in anganwadis is not only a more intelligent and cost-effective strategy but is also feasible to implement through seven concerted actions.

First, to design and put in place a meaningful activity-based ECCE framework that recognises the ground realities with autonomy to reflect the local context and setting.

Second, routine tasks of anganwadi workers can be reduced and non-ICDS work, such as surveys, removed altogether. Many anganwadi helpers have studied upto matriculation. With training and an additional incentive, helpers can be redesignated as childcare workers and handle routine work.

Third, anganwadi hours can be extended by at least three hours by providing staff with an in-

crease in their present remuneration, with the additional time devoted for ECCE. Karnataka has already taken the lead; its anganwadi work from 9.30 am to 4 pm. This will have the added benefit of serving as partial daycare, enabling poor mothers to earn a livelihood.

Fourth, ICDS needs a change in policy mindset, both at central and state levels, by prioritising and monitoring ECCE. This will additionally require all ICDS functionaries to be fully trained in ECCE, including assessment through group activities and child observation.

Fifth, anganwadi workers must be re-oriented to closely engage with parents, as they play a crucial role in the cognitive development of young children. Responsive parenting requires both parents to play an active role in ECCE activities at home; therefore, anganwadi workers should be asked to consciously engage with fathers too. Appropriate messaging and low-cost affordable teaching materials can be designed and made accessible to parents.

Sixth, ICDS must supply age-appropriate activity-based play material in adequate quantities regularly, and anganwadi workers encouraged to utilise them in a liberal manner.

Finally, states should invest in research and training to support early childhood education, and ensure that the ECCE programme is not a downward extension of school education.

Kaul is an ex-IAS officer and former secretary, school education, Karnataka. Mahadevan-Dasgupta is an IAS officer and former principal secretary, women and child development, Karnataka



JANUARY 29, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

TALKS WITH PAK

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS of India and Pakistan will meet on January 29 to begin a joint pursuit of a no-war pact, but there are enough indications that the search for such a pact will be long and fairly slow-paced. What is significant is that the two foreign ministers will sit together. The talks will be exploratory in nature. The two ministers may have more rounds of discussions, either in Islamabad or New Delhi, before coming to the brass tacks. This is mainly because of persisting suspicions and varying perceptions of the context in which the talks are taking place. The Indian government which was initially sceptical about Pakistan's sug-

gestion of a no-war pact said that it will approach the "talks with an open mind, serious approach and a positive desire to ensure a satisfactory outcome".

CPM ON CHINA

SHARP CRITICISM BY several state units and individual delegates forced the central leadership of the CPI(M) to modify the strong pro-Soviet and anti-China line taken in its draft resolution at the 11th Party Congress at Vijayawada. The critics succeeded in forcing the steering committee to name both the Soviet Union and China in the list of friendly countries.

RANGA'S PLEA REJECTED

THE SUPREME COURT dismissed the petition of Ranga with severe strictures on the advocate representing him for casting "unfounded insinuation against judges". "The advocate should have known that the case of Billa and Ranga has been given the most careful and sympathetic consideration," they said.

SHETTY NO MORE

SHETTY, STUNTMAN OF Indian films, has died of a heart attack. *Pokkiri Raja*, a Tamil film in which he acted with superstar Rajinikanth, was his last film.

THE IDEAS PAGE

In Northeast, work to be done

Conversations must go beyond the insider-outsider binary.
Laws such as AFSPA must be reviewed



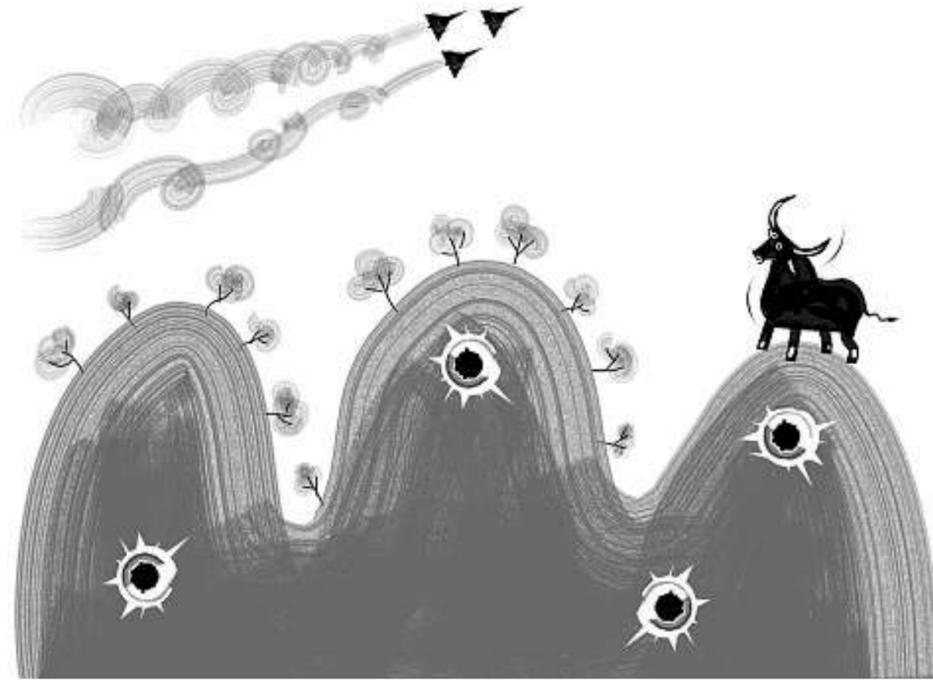
KHAM KHAN SUAN
HAUSING

LIKE EVERY YEAR, the imagery of a powerful and deeply diverse nation was meticulously demonstrated this Republic Day through an impressive military parade, the display of India's air power and the diverse themes exhibited by the states, Union Territories and government departments in their colourful tableaux. Away from New Delhi, the state/UT capitals saw a similar pageantry interspersed by speeches by governors, chief ministers and other dignitaries. Although the themes and content of the pageantry and speeches have changed over time, what remains constant about Republic Day is the display of the state's power and the demonstration of patriotism.

Such exercises are, no doubt, an integral part of state and nation-building. We may, however, ask: Is the extraordinary display of the might and diversity of the country on a few occasions such as Republic Day enough? I contend that while such displays are necessary, they need to be accompanied by an enduring commitment to our constitutional ideals and values in ways that embed the state and the nation in the popular psyche. From the perspective of the country's Northeast, conversations in two areas are in order.

The first is the commitment to the ideal of "equal" and "group-differentiated" citizenship rights. The founding fathers of the country recognised early on that a realistic way to politically integrate the different tribal groups in the Northeast was to reconcile our constitutional commitments to equal citizenship rights with the imperative of accommodating group-differentiated rights. This was a realistic solution to two exigencies: The popular mobilisation for "self-rule" in parts of the Northeast — the 1951 Naga plebiscite, for instance, was reported to have been supported by "99.9 per cent of the Naga population" — and the region being governed by disparate customary laws. Affirmation of the differential rights of tribal groups on land through customary laws and religious practices undergirds the institutional protection enshrined in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution — they apply to tribal areas of several parts of the Northeast today.

However, this institutional arrangement often becomes problematic as it's founded on an unequal two-tiered rights regime that distinguishes tribal "citizens" from non-tribal "denizens" by permanently excluding the latter from *de jure* ownership and acquisition of land/property in tribal areas. The 73rd year of our Republic occasions serious thinking on envisioning institutions that accommodate the distinctive needs of non-tribal "outsiders". It is equally imperative to realise that this problem is no longer restricted to the non-tribals. Thanks to extensive land-grabbing by the dominant tribal elites, often in connivance with the non-tribal "outsiders" who have become the *de facto* landowners, the vast majority of tribals face large-scale landlessness with serious economic consequences. Unless the inherent flaws in the asymmetric institutions are immediately addressed, they can im-



C R Sasikumar

plode and unleash bloody fratricidal conflicts.

It is also imperative to underline that the sons-of-the-soil movements in Assam and Tripura since the 1970s — embers of which are present in the persistent drive to privilege the *khilonjias* (autochthones) over "illegal" immigrants in Assam — are driven by a pervasive sense of insecurity about identity and land-ownership. The situation is made more precarious by the inability of the state to control "illegal" immigration. Such movements become steeped in a majoritarian way of thinking that targets the Bengali Muslims as "illegal" outsiders irrespective of the fact that many of them are indigenous to Assam. The sectarian emotions and sense of insecurity unleashed by the National Register of Citizens and the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 to permanently disenfranchise Muslim "immigrants" is a reminder of this slippery slope where our commitment to fraternity and equal citizenship rights has been severely tested.

The second set of conversations to embed the state into the popular psyche in ways that help consolidate nation-building pertain to renewing our commitment to democracy and constitutionalism. Such a commitment needs to be anchored in daily plebiscitary attempts, not only to promote democratic justice but also to check abuse of state power — a situation exacerbated by the pandemic when the state has invested itself with extraordinary powers. This invariably has to be a mutually reinforcing commitment from the top and bottom.

From the top, the Indian state needs to commit itself to promoting substantive democracy by protecting the rule of law and enlarging democratic settings to leverage power-sharing within and across groups/communities. Institutions should be tailored to give various groups, including women, effective voice and participatory rights not only in democratic deliberations but also in policymaking and implementation. From the bottom, the

From the top, the Indian state needs to commit itself to promoting substantive democracy by protecting the rule of law and enlarging democratic settings to leverage power-sharing within and across groups/communities. Institutions should be tailored to give various groups, including women, effective voice and participatory rights not only in democratic deliberations but also in policymaking and implementation. From the bottom, the onus is on groups like the Nagas and Bodos that enjoy autonomous "self-rule" to be accommodative of, and willing to share power with women, other tribal and non-tribal groups to foster democratic justice.

onus is on groups like the Nagas and Bodos that enjoy autonomous "self-rule" to be accommodative of, and willing to share power with women, other tribal and non-tribal groups to foster democratic justice.

It is also imperative for the state to acknowledge its abuse of power and renew its commitment to constitutionalism. To begin with, labelling human rights activists as anti-nationals and jailing them under draconian laws like UAPA on flimsy grounds such as criticising the government, or other such pretexts should stop. It also needs to accept the fallacy and inefficacy of relying on its "coercive monopoly of power" to crush movements in the region through the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) and dismissing these movements as "law and order" problems. The persistence of the Naga armed movement and the proliferation of other such movements in the Northeast only illustrate the inefficacy of such means. Instead of winning the hearts and minds of the Naga rebels and deepening nation-building, AFSPA has become what the B P Jeevan Reddy Committee (2005) rightly called a major instrument of "oppression" and "alienation" in Northeast India. AFSPA has militarised Indian democracy and is seen as the cause for several human rights violations. The recently botched encounter in Oting in Nagaland's Mon district undertaken by the 21 Para Special Forces, that killed 14 innocent people of the Konyak community, is a case in point. There has been a widespread campaign for the withdrawal of the AFSPA after this incident.

The depiction of state grandeur on Republic Day is mesmerising. It can be made more meaningful by renewing our commitment to the cardinal ideals and values enshrined in the Constitution.

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The US is now attributing both its internal and external problems to China. This is a serious political depravity and a trick that can fool nobody."
— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

The inequality epidemic

Pandemic has bared a system that privileges some, treats others as expendable. New, inclusive social contract is needed



HARSH MANDER

THE PANDEMIC HAS dramatically laid bare the catastrophic public costs of inequality. Thousands of lives could have been saved if much greater investments had been made in public health provisioning. The explosion of mass hunger and joblessness and the dislocation of millions of working poor people could have been averted had labour protection, social security, and wage levels of workers been secured.

"Inequality Kills" is the apt title of a devastating report by Oxfam India released at the time of the World Economic Forum in Davos. For India's super-rich, the pandemic became a time to swell their wealth dizzyingly. The worst year of the pandemic for India was 2021. In this year, the net wealth of just one Indian billionaire, Gautam Adani, multiplied eight times, from \$8.9 billion in 2020 to \$50.5 billion in 2021. The net worth of Mukesh Ambani doubled to \$85.5 billion in 2021, rocketing him from India's to Asia's richest man. In fact, Ambani added Rs 90 crore to his wealth every hour right from March 2020, the start of the pandemic. In 2021, the number of dollar billionaires in India expanded by 39 per cent. India is home today to the largest number of dollar billionaires, after the US and China, with more billionaires than France, Sweden and Switzerland combined. In 2020, 98 families held more wealth than 555 million Indians. India's top 10 per cent owned 45 per cent of the country's wealth. Three-fifths of India's top 100 added \$1 billion or more to their wealth in 2021 over the previous year.

In this same period, as many as 84 per cent Indian households suffered a fall of income, for many into deep and stubborn poverty. The RBI estimated a GDP contraction of minus 8.7 to 7 per cent. 120 million jobs were lost, of which 92 million were in the informal sector. In 2021, FAO reported there were 200 million undernourished people in India and India was home to a quarter of all undernourished people around the world. Pew estimated that the number of poor people in India doubled from 55 million in 2020 to 120 million in 2021. Oxfam reports that daily-wage workers topped the numbers of people who committed suicide in 2020, followed by self-employed and unemployed individuals.

Evaluations in the media do not adequately recognise that the greater part of the grim economic devastation that surrounds us in India today — deaths, joblessness, hunger — is not caused primarily by the Covid-19 virus. They are the consequence of market-led public policies that have fostered unequal life chances. This got exposed more in these times of global calamity.

Imagine a vastly different India. Imagine, for instance, a country that has secured free and quality healthcare for every

citizen, a guarantee of food for all, workers' rights to social security and wage payments to all during lockdowns, and decent housing and clean water. The deaths and unemployment that engulfed a large section of Indians could have been eschewed. If millions of working people had more money in their hands, the greatest contraction of the economy since Independence could have been forestalled. If decent social housing and clean water supply had been secured by governments for all residents, it would have enabled the millions forced into overcrowded shanties to protect themselves by keeping distance in well-ventilated tenements and washing their hands regularly. Millennials might then argue: All of this is unattainable; what, then, is the point of painting scenarios of utopias?

But just as the humanitarian crisis today could have been prevented, the alternative is eminently feasible if people and government commit themselves to the goals of the Constitution. India spends only 3.54 per cent of its budgetary resources on healthcare, much less, as noted by Oxfam, than other middle-income countries like Brazil (9.51), South Africa (8.25) and China (5.35). Income inequalities reduce life chances in India even more for those disadvantaged by caste, gender and religious identities. A Dalit woman, for instance, has 15 years lower life expectancy than an upper-caste woman. Confronted by a broken and starved public health system, even the poor have to rely on private health providers, and 60 per cent of health spending in India is out-of-pocket, among the highest in the world, and a major cause of poverty. In the pandemic, the exclusions were even more spectacular. Oxfam found middle-class families spending Rs 4 lakh a day in private hospitals during the second wave — something a casual worker earns in 1,000 days.

The starting point of our vision of a new India is for the state to assume responsibility to provision quality healthcare, education, food, pension, clean water and housing, free or in affordable ways for all citizens. Economist Prabhat Patnaik, in his contribution to the India Exclusion Report brought out by the Centre for Equity Studies, says that to resource all of this would demand a public resolve to expand taxation of the super-rich. Sufficient to fund all of this, he calculates, is two taxes levied only on the top 1 per cent of the population — a wealth tax of 2 per cent and an inheritance tax of 33 per cent. Our government is doing the opposite; it withdrew the wealth tax in 2015 and reduced the already low levels of corporate tax. The result is regressive taxation burdening the poor and abysmally low public spending.

Those who care for a kinder world must not miss this moment when the pandemic has revealed to us the horror of our moral collapse; of economic and social arrangements that privilege some lives, but treat the rest as expendable. The struggle of our times must be for a new social contract based on solidarity and inclusion.

The writer is a Richard von Weizsacker Fellow and Chairperson of the Centre for Equity Studies

Imagining the republic

Where many different types of people and species live together in harmony



SAMEENA DALWAI

DO WE LIVE in the republic of India? I live in three different spaces, and I can tell they are distinct because of the status that dogs and cows enjoy in each of them.

The first is the elite India that I watch operate on a university campus. It is like the European Union in many ways. A beautiful oasis amidst rough hinterlands, with paved roads, shaded pathways, lush-green lawns and fruit-bearing trees. Just like in Europe, entry is strictly guarded and boundaries demarcated. It is fed by an army of workers from the surrounding areas — guards, cleaners, cooks, carpenters, and plumbers.

Here, dogs have an enviable status. Our students love dogs; they hug, kiss and cuddle them. They fight with guards who try to shoo them away and threaten the administration with media exposure if dogs are treated with cruelty. They buy milk packets, tear them with bare hands and empty them for the dogs to lap up. Merely 200 metres away, infants and toddlers of migrant workers live in huts with no doors and do without milk.

The dogs are overfed and oversized. They have lost their natural alacrity but show their canine streak by barking at all hours. They also understand class. They wave their tails at people wearing shorts and snarl at those in uniforms or with dupattas on their heads.

Pets are a profitable industry in the affluent world, with special foods, clothes, toys

and beauty parlours to cater to them. India is the fastest growing pet care market in the world and is expected to grow at 14 per cent annually to become a \$490 million market by 2022. Some of these pets threaten wildlife; cats kill 2.4 million birds every year and dogs have contributed to the extinction of nearly a dozen wild bird and animal species. The love I see on campus, perhaps, is a kind of possession, just as the Victorian wife, horses, dogs were all subjugated and loved, turned into trophies.

The land surrounding our pristine campus is plagued by *gaurakshaks*, the protectors of cows. This is the space that the RSS extols as Bharat, though the ancient name of the country is not theirs to claim. Here, people worship the cow as a mother and insist that cores of gods live inside it. The protection of cows has little to do with their welfare. When we pass through the towns of north India, the dramatic rise in the number of stray cows, growing thinner over summer months and crowding the roads unattended, is evident.

Gaurakshaks threaten Muslims and Dalits, who they suspect of killing and eating cows. Over 60 incidents of attacks and murders have been reported since 2010 as mobs of *gaurakshaks* have descended upon suspects with terrifying results. The vigilantes are aided by state governments, which have already passed laws banning cow slaughter and

enlisted police units to enforce it.

This "Bharat" is trying to live on its past historical glory, on land ownership, on the slavery of Dalits, on the unpaid "on demand" labour, both domestic and sexual, of women. Here, the identity of the self comes from "not being them", the proof of love comes from hating others. So, love for the cow equals hate for Muslims. Love for the country equals hate for Pakistan, China. Love for women equals hate for anyone who might take them away and panic about love jihad.

But there is a third kind of space that exists in the country — let's call it Hindustan, which survives on agriculture and allied sectors like animal husbandry. Here, cows are important as they give milk and milk products, leading to extra income and stability in lean times. People love their animals like family members and are ready to make many sacrifices for them. In the fodder camps run by Mann Deshi Mahila Bank in rural Maharashtra, thousands of farmers stay out in the open for a few days so that their cattle can get water and fodder. Children and animals are introduced to strangers by their names.

Kids play with dogs here too. They guard the farms at night and keep the farmers company. Shepherd communities travel with their goats and sheep in search of grasslands. Their dogs help them keep the herd intact. Children run along with the dogs to

bring back wandering goats. Life is hard and sparse — the dogs get food that people can spare and kids are as agile as their dogs.

Even under normal circumstances, hunger is common in poor communities. India ranks very low in the Global Hunger Index. Only 15 countries — sub-Saharan African nations such as Congo, Somalia or war-torn Afghanistan and Yemen — are below us. In the past decade, hunger has intensified as income gaps have widened. According to the World Inequality Report 2022, the top 10 per cent of Indians hold 57 per cent of national income, while the bottom 50 per cent's share is 13 per cent.

In this marginalised population, love means giving oneself. Love for the land is experienced by applying oneself to it — by giving labour, care, sacrifice. Love for the country too is shown by the same. There are norms of equity which resonate with socialist idealism — from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs. The members of this Hindustan sat at the Delhi border for a year and forced the mighty government to give in.

What is the idea of a republic but for many different types of people, species to exist together in harmony? Maybe we have a republic after all — perhaps overshadowed by the other two, but it exists.

Dalwai is a writer and a law professor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JOB CRISIS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The missing jobs' (IE, January 28). Major employers in the industry have been complaining that most of the youth in the employable age are not skilled enough to be employed. The question is how an entire generation of youth stepping in the job market is not employable when they are educationally qualified and eligible. The answer lies in the nature of private educational institutions, especially those pertaining to engineering and management ones, that have mushroomed of late. Graduating from such institutions after paying hefty fees, a large section of the youth suddenly realises that the country's economic system doesn't need them.

Pritam Singh, Jaipur

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The missing jobs', (IE, January 28). Reports of unruly protesters resorting to violence against the recently published results of a public recruitment examination signal the widespread desperation among the youths for a job in the public sector. The hooliganism is unacceptable and the right to protest should be practised responsibly. At the same time, the performance of the Railways Recruitment Control Board should be a subject of wider debate, the recent uproar is over the result of a public examination whose notification was released in 2019, the first stage of the examination was conducted in 2020, and the result was published in

2022. The examination was a computerised test, whose result shouldn't take three long years, and the next stage of the process is still not over.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

KERALA'S ERROR

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Watching the watchdog' (IE, January 28). It is surprising that Kerala, which is often held up as a model state with respect to freedom of expression and human development, should stoop to diluting the Lokayukta's powers. It will be a blemish on the state's record if it allows earlier adverse orders by the Lokayukta to cloud its judgment. The Lokayukta must be allowed to perform its duties unhindered. This should be the message for other states as well.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

AT THE FRONTLINES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Stepping up together' (IE, January 28). It's heart warming to read a doctor's account of the pandemic. In the early stages of the outbreak, there were reports of people ostracising physicians and healthcare workers. There have been, no doubt, some errors by the medical community in the past two years. However, these frontline workers have played a big role in boosting our capacity to live with this capricious virus.

Bisakha Maity, Patna

Minor shoots mother, siblings in Pak 'under PUBG influence'

Lahore: A 14-year-old boy shot his entire family, including mother and two minor sisters, allegedly "under the influence" of online game PUBG, police here in the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province said on Friday.

Nahid Mubarak, a 45-year-old health worker, was found dead along with her 22-year-old son Taimur and two daughters aged 17 and 11 in Lahore's Kahna area last week.

Her teenage son who remained unhurt and is the lone survivor turned out to be the murderer, police said.

"The PUBG addict boy confessed to have killed her mother and siblings under the influence of the game. He has developed some psychological issues because of spending long hours of the day playing the online game," police said, adding that "On the day of the incident, Nahid scolded the boy over the matter. Later, the boy took out her pistol from a cupboard and shot her and his three other siblings dead in their sleep."

Next morning, the boy raised an alarm and the neighbours called the police. The boy that time told police that he was on the upper storey of the house and did not know how his family was killed, police added. PTI

As Johnson waits, UK police seek cuts to 'partygate' report

JILL LAWLESS
LONDON, JANUARY 28

DOUBT ABOUT the timing and content of a key report into lockdown-breaching parties within the British government deepened Friday when police said they wanted parts of it to remain unpublished until they finish a criminal investigation.

The Metropolitan Police force said it had asked for civil servant Sue Gray's report to make only "minimal reference" to the events being investigated by detectives, "to avoid any prejudice to our investigation."

The request could further delay the publication of the report, which had been expected this week and whose findings could deliver a major blow to Prime Minister Boris Johnson's fragile grip on power.

The senior civil servant is probing allegations that the Prime Minister and his staff flouted restrictions they imposed on the country in 2020 and 2021 to curb the spread of the coronavirus with "bring your own booze" office parties, birthday celebrations and "wine time Fridays."

The claims have caused pub-

EXPLAINED
E Way ahead for Johnson

TO SLIP out of this tight corner, Johnson needs to avert cabinet resignations and prevent a rush of letters demanding a no-confidence vote. Earlier this month, he appeared to gain some breathing space with an announcement ending Britain's remaining Covid restrictions. He will then hope that Gray's report is diplomatic enough for him to survive, and that the police investigation fades away without producing charges or more revelations.

lic anger, led some Conservative lawmakers to call for Johnson's resignation and triggered intense infighting inside the governing party. Gray is looking into almost 20 incidents. This week police opened an inquiry into an undisclosed smaller number of them found to meet the force's criteria for investigating the "most serious and flagrant" breaches of coronavirus rules. AP

Military forces continued to surround Ukraine en masse. The Pentagon said that in the past 24 hours, more Russian forces were being moved into the region. Meanwhile, the United States and its European allies continued to send arms to Ukraine as NATO stepped up its defensive positions in Eastern Europe.

Meanwhile, in a phone call on Thursday with President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, Biden "reaffirmed the readiness of the United States along with

Lanka to amend controversial anti-terror law

Colombo: Sri Lanka will amend a controversial anti-terror law that gives police sweeping powers to arrest suspects without trial to fully align it with international standards, amid mounting pressure from the EU and the UN Human Rights Council over concerns it violates human rights.

The government issued a gazette notification on Thursday

saying the Prevention of Terrorism Act will be amended. Enacted in 1979, the PTA allows authorities to make warrantless arrests and searches if a person is suspected of involvement in a "terrorist activity."

The move comes ahead of the March session of the UNHRC in Geneva where Sri Lanka's rights and progress accountabil-

ity has come under review.

The bill proposes a number of amendments and ensures the suspects are allowed to approach the Supreme Court on grounds of violation of their fundamental rights and seek relief, officials said. It proposes to allow for legal access to the person in custody and also permits relatives to communicate with the detainee. PTI

SEEKING TO COOL UKRAINE CRISIS

Macron speaks to Putin as Russia hints at possible diplomatic opening

NYT & REUTERS
PARIS, JANUARY 28

IN THE hopes that direct communication could help cool the escalating tensions surrounding Ukraine, President Emmanuel Macron of France held a phone call with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Friday morning, as Russia's foreign minister suggested that there may be room to negotiate with the US.

The foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, said the United States' response to its security demands contained "a kernel of rationality" for a possible compromise on issues like missile deployments and military exercises.

However, Russia has put a much broader set of issues on the table — essentially calling for a re-shaping of the post-Cold War security arrangements in Europe and a retreat of NATO forces from Eastern Europe. That is a nonstarter for the United States and its Western allies.

Lavrov's comments on Friday, while guarded, offered the prospect of room for negotiation on secondary matters related to broader security concerns in Europe. So, the situation remained one of both contradiction and confrontation.

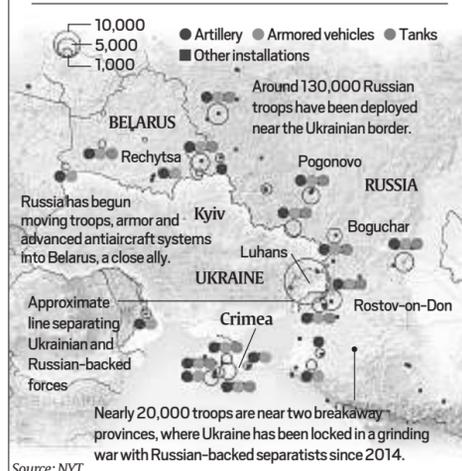
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Ukrainian soldiers trained on Thursday in the Volnovakha district in eastern Ukraine. NYT

ARMS AND TROOPS AROUND UKRAINE



Indian finalist asks students to apply for global prize

London: A talented Indian student from Jharkhand who made it among the top 10 finalists last year urged fellow students on Friday to apply for the \$100,000 Chegg.org Global Student Prize as the 2022 applications open.

Seema Kumari, a teenager who was selected from over 3,500 nominations across 94 countries last year, said making the shortlist of the debut prize last year offered her a great platform to continue her work in the field of empowering girls.

Now in its second year, UK-based Varkey Foundation launched the Chegg.org Global Student Prize as a sister award to the Global Teacher Prize to highlight efforts of extraordinary students making a real impact on learning, the lives of their peers and on society.

"I am so grateful to have been selected as a top 10 finalist for the inaugural Global Student Prize and the platform that comes with it to continue to help change lives in India," said Kumari, who is now studying at Harvard University.

The prize is open to all students who are at least 16 years old and enrolled in an academic institution or training and skills programme. PTI

World tops 10 bn vaccine doses

THE NEW YORK TIMES
JANUARY 28

WHEN PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel rolled up his sleeve in December 2020 to receive a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine, kicking off one of the world's first mass rollouts of Covid shots, he declared that it marked "the beginning of the end" of the pandemic.

Thirteen months later, his prediction has proved far from true, but 10 billion vaccine doses have been administered globally, a milestone that reflects the astonishing speed with which governments and drug companies have mobilized, allowing many nations to envision a near future in which their people coexist with the virus but aren't confined by it.

The milestone, reached on Friday, according to the Our World in Data project at the University of Oxford, has not been arrived at equitably, even though 10 billion doses could theoretically have meant at least one shot for all of the world's 7.9 billion people.

In the wealthiest countries, 77 per cent of people have received at least one dose, whereas in low-income countries the figure is less than 10 per cent. As North America and Europe race to overcome Omicron surges by offering boosters, with some nations even



In the wealthiest countries, 77 per cent of people have received at least one dose. NYT

contemplating a fourth shot, more than one-third of the world's people, many of them in Africa and poor pockets of Asia, are still waiting for a first dose.

"Ten billion doses is a triumph of science but a complete failure of global solidarity," said Madhukar Pai, a professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at McGill University in Montreal.

The consequences of the vaccine gap have been highlighted by Omicron, which was first identified in southern Africa. Low vaccination coverage creates conditions for widespread virus circulation and with that the possibility of new variants emerging.

WHO examining abuse allegations

Tokyo: The World Health Organization said it is looking into allegations a regional director in Asia bullied staff, used racist language and leaked sensitive vaccine data to Japan, accusations the official denies. WHO said in a statement to Reuters on Thursday it "is aware of the allegations and is taking all appropriate steps to follow up on the matter," following a report on the complaints by the AP. Takeshi Kasai, the Manila-based director of the Western Pacific region, acknowledged being "hard on staff" but rejected charges of racism. REUTERS

Experts urge UK to back patent waiver for vaccine parity

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, JANUARY 28

SEVERAL INDIAN-origin scientists are among hundreds of worldwide experts to urge the UK to back a temporary waiver of intellectual property rules for Covid-19 vaccines, tests, and treatments at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to achieve greater vaccine parity worldwide.

India and South Africa had introduced a proposal at the WTO for such a patent waiver for fairer vaccine access for the developing world, but the issue remains deadlocked at the multilateral arena.

Epidemiologists Professor K. Srinath Reddy of the Public Health Foundation of India and Dr Deepti Gurdasani of London's Queen Mary University, Bioengineer Manu Prakash, Associate Professor at Stanford University, Professor Amitava Banerjee of University College London, and Professor Harish Nair of the University of Edinburgh are among 320 scientists calling on technology sharing for global vaccination coverage to boost the fight against variants of concern. PTI

IN 2018, CHINA HAD ALSO HELPED PAKISTAN LAUNCH TWO SATELLITES

China to build space centre, more satellites for Pak

K J M VARMA
BEIJING, JANUARY 28

CHINA ON Friday announced plans to boost space cooperation with Pakistan, including the development of a space centre and launching of more satellites for its all-weather ally.

Pakistan figures many times in a white paper titled "China's Space Programme: A 2021 Perspective", released by the State Council or the Central Cabinet, outlining future expansion plans for China's burgeoning space industry, which has successfully launched missions to the Moon and Mars.

China will "give priority to developing communications satellites for Pakistan and to co-operating on the construction of the Pakistan Space Centre", the white paper said.

China is currently building its own space station, which is expected to be ready by this year.

In 2018, China had helped Pakistan to launch two satellites — Pakistan's first optical remote sensing satellite PRSS-1, and a smaller observation craft PakTES-1A. In 2019, the two countries signed an agreement on space exploration, marking a new phase in space science cooperation between the close allies.

The white paper released on



China is currently building its own space station. Reuters Representation Image

Friday said China completed the in-orbit delivery of the Pakistan Remote-Sensing Satellite (PRSS-1), Venezuelan Remote-Sensing

Satellite (VRSS-2), Sudan Remote-Sensing Satellite (SRSS-1), and the Algerian Communications Satellite (Alcomsat-1).

China has provided satellite carrying or launching services for many countries like Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Argentina, Brazil, Canada and Luxembourg.

China has conducted space product and technology cooperation with countries, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Argentina, Pakistan, and Nigeria, the white paper said.

Beijing will advance the construction and application of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) remote-sensing satellite constellation, it said.

China has signed cooperation agreements for the BRICS Remote-Sensing Satellite Constellation, cooperated with the European Space Agency on earth observation satellite data exchange, and built the China-ASEAN Satellite Information Offshore Service Platform and the Remote-Sensing Satellite Data-Sharing Service Platform, it said.

Releasing the white paper, China's National Space Administration deputy head Wu Yanhua said the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), jointly proposed by China and Russia, is expected to become operational by 2035, the state-run Global Times reported. PTI

TEMPORARY DIVERSION / RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS

In order to upgrade the infrastructure & enhance safety standards, South Western Railway will undertake the Pre-Non-Interlocking Works for activity 6 days from 29.01.2022 to 03.02.2022 & Non-Interlocking Works for 4 days from 04.02.2022 to 07.02.2022 for commissioning of Phase-I Penukonda Yard. To execute this work South Western Railway will take traffic blocks. During this period the following trains will temporarily be affected on the date shown as under:

DIVERSION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Diverted Route	Dates from originating station
22684 Lucknow - Yesvantpur Express	Via Dhone Jn. - Renigunta - Jolarpettai - Krishnarajapuram - Yesvantpur Jn.	03.02.2022
12628 New Delhi - KSR Bengaluru Karnataka Exp.	Via Guntakal Jn. - Renigunta - Jolarpettai - Bengaluru Cantt.	Upto 31.01.2022 & 04.02.2022

RESCHEDULING OF TRAIN

12628 New Delhi - KSR Bengaluru Karnataka Express 29.01.2022 to 02.02.2022 and 06.02.2022 likely to be rescheduled depending upon the arrival at Bengaluru City.

For any kind of information such as timings, composition and stoppages enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 • Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in & download RailMadad app.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

205/2022

CHENNAI BENGALURU INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR-TUMAKURU INDUSTRIAL TOWNSHIP LTD (CBIC-TITL)

5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
Phone No. 22267900, Fax : 22267901 website : www.kiadb.in
email: mdbcic23@gmail.com

No. CBICITL/CF/OE-Auction-03/14219/2021-22 Date: 28.01.2022

PAPER PUBLICATION

This is to inform that Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor-Tumakuru Industrial Township Ltd (CBIC-TITL), intends to invest its Surplus Funds in the short term deposits with Nationalized Bank. The details of the quantum of amount and period to be kept in short term deposits are as under:

Rs. 150.00 Crores.	For 3 Months (91 days) in Nationalized Banks.
Three FDs will be issued each Rs. 50.00 Crores.	For 6 Months (181 days) in Nationalized Banks.

The complete details of the E-Auction can be downloaded from the e-portal of the Government of Karnataka at the below address: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

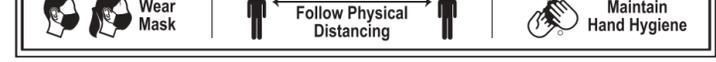
Schedule of Various Events For e-Auction is as below:

- 1) Date of E-Auction can be Downloaded: 29.01.2022
- 2) Last Date to upload the Declaration in Annexure-B in the e-portal: 05.02.2022 on or before 15.30 Hrs.
- 3) Date and time of opening: 08.02.2022 after 16.00 Hrs.
- 4) Live Bidding: 10.02.2022, Commences at 11.00 Hrs. & Concludes at 13.00 Hrs.

Sd/-
Chief Financial Officer, CBIC-TITL, Bengaluru

DIPR/DDU/Zen/R.O:3109/2021-22

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.



SECTOR WATCH
GLOBAL CRUDE

How boiling oil prices impact govt, personal Budgets

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

RISING TENSION between Russia and Ukraine are leading to a fresh flare up in oil prices, with the Brent breaching the \$90 a barrel mark overnight on Thursday, the first time since 2014. Some analysts have started forecasting oil prices to hit \$100-110 per barrel in near future as prospects of supply disruptions and rising demand support prices. Prices have surged sharply from a low of \$65.88 recorded on December 2, 2021. If prices continue to inch up, this will put pressure on both the Centre and state to review taxes.

Why are fuel prices rising?

Crude oil prices have risen sharply since the beginning of the year as the wave of infections caused by the Omicron variant of Covid-19 has not led to lower demand. Key oil producing countries have also kept crude oil supplies on a gradually increasing production schedule despite rising demand. OPEC+ had agreed to sharp cuts in supply in 2020 but the organisation has been slow to boost production since then.

What is the impact on rising oil prices on Budget and inflation?

The Budget for this year has assumed oil prices to average around \$65 per barrel. In October, prices rose to as much as \$86 per barrel, before sliding down again to \$65.86. On Friday, Brent hit a 7-year high of \$91.70, rising 1.25, or 1.4 per cent, to \$90.59 by 11:09 am ET.

Rising prices feed into inflation as well as increase the amount of LPG and kerosene subsidy. On the positive side,



Crude oil pumpjack, Texas. Prices hit a 7-year high of \$91.70, intra-day. Reuters file

government revenues on taxes of oil and oil products has also been rising over the last 2 years. Retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index, has already risen to a five-month high 5.59 per cent in the month of December. Wholesale price index-based inflation rose to 13.56 per cent in December.

High inflation will force the government to cut taxes on oil and oil products, especially since rising prices are a key factor ahead of elections in seven states. "Oil prices are a big factor for budget to be presented next week and overall fiscal math of India that imports more than 85% crude requirements. Oil import bill is already up by more than 70 per cent from last year, it affects the balance of payment adversely. Oil marketing companies haven't increased retail prices for last 80 days due to the upcoming elections and given the under recovery already built in, FM (Finance Minister) may not have the headroom to increase excise duty and rather should build in provision for a cut in case oil goes to three digits," Debashish Mishra, partner at Deloitte India, said. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

EXPLAINED

\$700 MILLION FOR THE STAKE

Google to invest \$1 billion in Airtel, pick up 1.28% stake

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

AIMING TO build 5G specific use-cases and bring affordable smartphone offerings to the market, mobile services firm Bharti Airtel and Google announced a long-term agreement Friday that would entail the American internet giant investing \$700 million for 1.28 per cent stake in the Delhi-based company, in addition to up to \$300 million towards potential multi-year commercial agreements.

"Airtel and Google share the vision to grow India's digital dividend through innovative products. With our future ready network, digital platforms, last mile distribution and payments ecosystem, we look forward to working closely with Google to increase the depth and breadth of India's digital ecosystem," Sunil Bharti Mittal, chairman of Bharti Airtel, said in a statement. Google's biggest investment in India, however, was a \$4.5 billion infusion in Airtel's chief rival Reliance Jio back in 2020 for which it picked 7.73 per cent stake. The deal also involved building of an entry-level 4G smartphone that was launched last year.

Google said it intends to invest up to \$1 billion, as part of its Google for India Digitization Fund, which

GOOGLE'S BIGGEST INDIA INVESTMENT

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includes equity investment as well as a corpus for potential commercial agreements, to be identified and agreed on mutually agreeable terms over the course of the next five years. This will comprise the \$700 million equity investment in Bharti Airtel at a price per share of Rs 734 (the scrip opened trading on Friday at Rs 718 on the BSE), and up to \$300 million that will go towards implementing commercial agreements.

According to a statement, as part of the first commercial agreement, Airtel and Google will work together to build on Airtel's extensive offerings to consumers, that cover a range of Android-enabled devices, via innovative affordability programmes. The companies also said they would work to explore further opportunities to bring down the barriers of owning a smartphone across a range of price points, in partnership with various device manufacturers.

In an analyst call, Airtel's CEO Gopal Vittal clarified that the com-

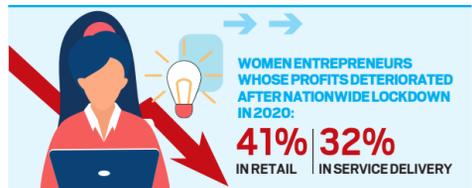
pany does not plan to build its own smartphone on the lines of Jio, but will partner with smartphone makers to bring affordable offerings to the market. "Our strategy is to drive smartphone adoption... but we are not keen on the subsidy game. We want to be competitive in the market. We have developed software to target devices with incentives to minimise the cost," Vittal said.

Airtel is already using Google's 5G-ready Evolved Packet Core & Software Defined Network platforms, and plans to explore scaling up the deployment of Google's network virtualisation solutions to deliver a "superior network experience" to their customers. Under the larger strategic goals of the partnership, both companies will also potentially co-create India-specific network domain use cases for 5G and other standards, with cutting-edge implementations, the statement said, adding that both Airtel and Google will also focus on shaping and growing the

cloud ecosystem in India. Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and Alphabet, said: "Our commercial and equity investment in Airtel is a continuation of our Google for India Digitization Fund's efforts to increase access to smartphones, enhance connectivity to support new business models, and help companies on their digital transformation journey". Analysts pegged that for Google, in addition to potentially hedging its bets by investing in rival telecom operators, the deal could present opportunities to create front-end solutions in accelerating Android adoption in the country, especially in the low-end market that is still dominated by feature phones. "Bharti could leverage Google's tech platform to explore monetisation of digital offerings. It could leverage the opportunity of a large pool (>300m) of feature phone subscribers in the market through Google-enabled affordable devices. It could leverage Google's 5G technology solutions to offer use cases to SMEs/ consumers including cloud services. Over time, it can drive big value via new growth areas. From Google's point of view, it is seeing the advantage of tying up with a large telecom provider to create front-end solutions," said Aliqasr Shakir, telecom analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

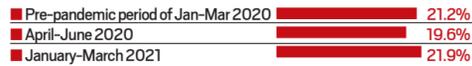
'Disproportionate impact of 2nd wave on women's work'

Sectors employing a high number of women were among the worst hit in the second Covid wave, causing disproportionate impact on women's work, an IWWAGE report said



Data on impact of women workers in these sectors from India remains unavailable largely due to the informal nature of this work, research centre Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE) said

FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION DURING:



>40% women have been affected by the unnatural development of dual workload of domestic care work and paid work as a result of pandemic induced lockdown

11% women-led enterprises were permanently closed during lockdown, which remained the same even after it

>3 in 5 women workers in the informal sector lost livelihood. 65% reduction in their income following the second wave of the pandemic

FIRST ROUND
India, UK engage in 'productive' FTA talksADITIKHANNA
LONDON, JANUARY 28

INDIA AND THE UK Friday announced conclusion of a "productive" first round of free trade agreement talks, held virtually between officials of both governments.

The Department for International Trade (DIT) said during the course of the two-week round, which began earlier this month following the visit of UK Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan, technical experts from

both sides came together for discussions in 32 separate sessions covering 26 policy areas.

The DIT reiterated an end of the year timeline for the negotiations, saying that both teams maintain a "shared ambition" to conclude negotiations by the end of 2022.

The policy areas covered in this round include trade in goods, trade in services including financial services & telecommunications, investment, intellectual property, customs and trade facilitation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, among others. PTI

BRIEFLY

State borrowing

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry gave additional borrowing permission of Rs 5,186 crore to Rajasthan and Rs 2,123 crore to Andhra Pradesh for undertaking stipulated power sector reforms.

PFS issues

New Delhi: PTC India said its board has directed its risk management committee to look into corporate governance issues at PTC India Financial Services (PFS).

SBI Formosa

New Delhi: State Bank of India's recent fundraising of \$300 million by issuing Formosa Bonds is a testimony of the confidence reposed by the overseas investors in India's growth story, Chairman Dinesh Khara said. PTI

SpiceJet dispute

New Delhi: The Supreme Court gave SpiceJet 3 weeks to resolve dispute over \$24.01 million in dues with Credit Suisse AG and stayed the Madras High Court order on the airline's winding up. FE

AUSFB profit

New Delhi: AU Small Finance Bank reported a rise in profit after tax at Rs 302 crore for quarter ended December 2021. Gross non-performing assets fell to 2.6% against 3.2% over a quarter ago. ENS

India, China trade

New Delhi: In 2021, exports to China rose 34% to \$22.9 billion while imports rose 28% to \$87.5 billion and trade deficit widened to \$64.5 billion, as per Commerce Ministry data. PTI

Panel: Private banks lag in crop loan disbursements in Maharashtra

GEORGE MATHEW & SUNNY VERMA
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, JAN 28

PRIVATE SECTOR banks are lagging their state-owned peers in crop loan disbursements in Maharashtra, with lenders even charging high interest rates and bad loans under Self Help Groups (SHGs) remaining at a high level.

At the recent meeting of the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) for Maharashtra, the RBI representative observed that the performance of private sector banks under crop loan disbursement at 35 per cent, is significantly less and need considerable attention by state heads of these banks. The case of ICICI Bank charging "exorbitant" interest rates in the case of government-backed credit schemes was also highlighted at the SLBC meeting. Government sponsored schemes include Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) loans, PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) loans.

The achievement under the annual credit plan (ACP) and crops

BELOW TARGET

■ The achievement under the annual credit plan and crops loans in Maharashtra has fallen below the target set by the State Level Bankers' Committee

loans in Maharashtra has fallen below the target set by the SLBC. The committee, with Bank of Maharashtra as the lead bank, asked banks like Punjab & Sind Bank, Canara Bank, PNB, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank to gear up for improving their performance under crop loan disbursement.

As against the ACP target of Rs 4,61,080 crore under the priority sector, the achievement is 38 per cent for the second quarter, SLBC Maharashtra said. Further, as per the three-year comparative performance under crop loan disbursement as of October 31, 2021 presented to the SLBC, member banks were informed that achievement is 57 per cent of the total FY target. "Member banks were urged to make all out efforts to achieve the set goals during the

remaining period of the financial year," says the minutes of the last SLBC meeting on November 26.

According to SLBC minutes, the meeting was informed on the issue of "exorbitant" rate of interest (ROI) charged by ICICI Bank on the proposals of government-sponsored schemes (GSS). "The Convenor SLBC Maharashtra appealed ICICI Bank to redress the issue. ICICI Bank to relook into the matter to reduce ROI applicable on GSS," it said.

"Representative of ICICI Bank informed house that at present two per cent ROI is reduced by bank on GSS and assured once again to relook into the issue," SLBC minutes said.

Indicating that private banks are lagging behind, the SLBC said, "private sector banks should focus on achievement of targets under the priority sector lending." It asked member banks to make further efforts to achieve or surpass the set target under ACP 2021-22. Although crop loan disbursement achievement as of September 30, 2021 is more as compared to last year, absolute growth is less, according to SLBC minutes.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

34 US states, DC say Apple stifles competition

Oakland: Apple is stifling competition through its mobile app store, attorneys general for 34 US states and the District of Columbia said Thursday, as they appealed against a ruling that let it continue some restrictive practices.

Thursday's remarks, led by the state of Utah and joined by Colorado, Indiana, Texas and others, came in a lawsuit in an appeals court against app store fees and payment tools between "Fortnite" videogame maker Epic Games and

Apple. "Apple's conduct has harmed and is harming mobile app-developers and millions of citizens," the states said. "Apple continues to monopolize app distribution and in-app payment solutions for iPhones, stifle competition, and amass supra-competitive profits within the almost trillion-dollar-a-year smartphone industry."

Apple's first-quarter revenue was \$123.9 billion, 11 per cent up from last year and profit was \$34.6 billion. REUTERS

'HELPED IN CHARTING A DIFFERENT COURSE'

Accommodative policy has served us well: RBI Deputy Guv

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 28

INDIA HELD its ground and is among a few countries that have retained an accommodative monetary policy that "has served us well" despite some views that "we have fallen behind the curve", Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael D Patra said on Friday.

This is at a time when "several emerging market economies (EMEs) were jumping on to the bandwagon of tightening monetary policy and advanced economies (AEs) were announcing normalisation or joining their EMEs in raising policy rates," he added.

"Only time will tell whether or not India has got it right but so far, this approach has served us well and helped in charting a course into the future which is different from the world," Patra said, addressing the CD Deshmukh Memorial Lecture organised by the Council for Social Development, Hyderabad. He said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) remains committed to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward.

He also said the RBI's measures have contributed significantly in engineering the turnaround in the economy, supported by rising financial inclusion and digitalisation. "We are on course to becoming among the fastest growing economies of the world, but there is far to go. Private consumption and investment are still work in progress. The restoration of livelihoods and revival of MSMEs is a formidable task that lies ahead."

According to Patra, employment has yet to recover fully though, and labour participation remains low. Bank credit has begun to gain

'COMMITTED TO REVIVE GROWTH'



■ RBI Deputy Governor Michael D Patra said the central bank is committed to reviving and sustaining growth on a durable basis

pace, helped by easing of stress in banks' balance sheets. "Inflation has eased from pandemic highs to more tolerable levels in recent months, although it remains elevated amidst high commodity prices, including of crude," he said.

"The RBI's measures brought down borrowing costs to their lowest in 17 years and narrowed spreads across rating categories on corporate bonds, commercial paper and debentures to pre-pandemic levels," Patra said.

By engendering congenial financing conditions, the RBI supported the recovery. Governments of various levels and corporates utilised this opportunity to raise a record volume of resources from financial markets, the RBI Deputy Governor said.

In the corporate sector, deleveraging was facilitated and high-cost debt could be replaced, reducing vulnerabilities and preparing the sector to participate in the ongoing recovery.

Abundant liquidity and the RBI's measures enabled a quick and full transmission of policy rate cuts to deposit and lending rates, easing the cost of funds for bank clientele, Patra said.

'Telcos, stakeholders agree on 5Gi, 5G merger'

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

TELECOM SERVICE providers and other stakeholders across the board on Friday agreed on an action plan merge to 5Gi, the global standard on 5G, the Telecommunications Development Society of India (TSDSI) said.

"With the broad support from many TSDSI member companies, as well as global cellular vendors and multiple operators, the key requirements and the next steps that will culminate in the merger of 5Gi into 5G, was endorsed as part of the 3GPP 5G standards," the society said in a statement.

5Gi, an initiative of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) was planned as an indigenous technology that was to be developed jointly by the Indian



5Gi, an initiative of the DoT was planned as an indigenous technology. File

Institutes of Technology at Madras and Hyderabad.

Private telecom service providers had, however, opposed the plan and said it would be difficult to adopt a separate India standard for the technology as it would inflate their costs. The telcos had in their objections also said that adopting a separate 5G standard just for India would also result in increased costs of devices.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No. : 65/2021-22/KWA/PHC/D1/TVM(RT1) & 47/2021-22/KWA/PHC/D2/TVM(RT2). Jal Jeevan Mission (2021-2024)-Thiruvananthapuram District - Providing Functional Household Tap Connections in Mudakkal and Venganoor Grama panchayaths including pipe line works. EMD : Rs. 2,00,000/- Each. Tender fee : Rs. 10,000/- Each. Last date for submitting Tender : 18-02-2022 03:00 pm. Phone : 0471-2322303. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in. Superintending Engineer PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

MALABAR CEMENTS LIMITED

(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
An ISO 9001:2015, 14001:2015 Company. Vengaloor Post, Palakkad-678624, Kerala
Email - malarials@malabaracemts.com / bulksales@malabaracemts.com

TENDER NOTICE
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in for Online Submission of Bids for:
• Engagement of JCB/Bakhoe Loader for Material handling operation in CGU, Pallipuram, Chertthala. • Construction of Retaining wall and DR packing in approach road between tower no.9 and tower no.10 in ropeway at mines. • Miscellaneous Civil work at Plant. • Contract for stock transfer of 1000 MT of bulk cement from Malabar Cements Ltd, Walyar, Palakkad to MCL Cements Grinding Unit, Pallipuram, Chertthala, Alappuzha Dt. • Repair of Klink feed building at Plant. • Supply of Reactive power compensation system. • Supply of Erection and Commissioning of Solid Flow meter 30 TPH. • Design, Engineering, Manufacturing and Supply of Cement Mill 1" Chamber. • Bottles, Shell Line Plates with High Chrome Metallurgy. • Disposal of Scrap, Thru - MSTC. • Disposal of MS and Chrome Steel Scrap at Plant. 2. Disposal of Old Vehicle Honda City and Mahindra Bolero. 3. Disposal of Obsolete and Non Operational Heavy equipments at Plant.
For Details, pls visit www.mstcindia.co.in Sd/-, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Deience Electronics and beyond

BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Defence)
(CIN: L32309KA1954GOI000787)

Bharat Electronics Limited, Bengaluru Complex, Jalahalli Post, Bengaluru - 560 013, invites applications for Engagement of reputed and experienced agencies for carrying out the work of "Engagement of Contract Workers for Carrying Out Miscellaneous Works in BE-BG". The approximate cost of the each work Rs. 1100 Lakhs per annum.
For pre-qualification criteria and further details visit website <https://eprocurebel.co.in>. All Corrigendum / Amendments / Changes, if any will be issued and made available on Website <https://eprocurebel.co.in>. No Corrigendum / Amendments / Changes will be issued in Newspapers. Hence, prospective agencies are advised to keep visiting the Website <https://eprocurebel.co.in> on regular basis.
Sd/-
DY. GEN. MANAGER (CONTRACTS & MM) ENGINEERING SERVICES
DATE: 29.01.2022
"Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam"

E-TENDER NOTICE DAHOD SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED

Dahod Smart City Development Limited (DSCDL) invites online E-Tenders for "Design, Engineering, Procurement, Construction of New Library Building & Refurbishment of Existing Atal Library at Dahod on Design Build and Operate basis including Operation and Maintenance of entire facility for period Five Years". Tender ID: 503204

Tender Enquiry No. / Work Description	Estimated Cost/EMD (Rs.)	Availability of Bid Document	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date and time of Opening of bids
TPDDL/INS/ENQ/200001374/21-22 Tailormade Group Mediclaim Insurance	NIL	29.01.2022	14.02.2022:1400 Hrs / 14.02.2022:1530 Hrs

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-dtl.com → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents
Contracts - 011-66112222

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: (1) The tender document for this work can be downloaded from website www.nprocure.com. (2) Other Details of NIT shall be seen on website. (3) Copy of Technical Bid including all drawings, data sheets and duly filled up formats excluding the Financial Bid along with original Tender Fee and Bid Security to be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer (DSCDL), Jilla Sewa Sadan, Chhapri, Dahod-389151, by RPAD/ speed post only on or before Date: 15-02-2022 up to 17.30 Hrs. Chief Executive Officer, DSCDL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. This Tender notice shall form a part of contract document.
Tender No. 02 of 2021-22 Chief Executive Officer Email:dahodsmartcity20@gmail.com

CANCELLATION/RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS DUE TO TRAFFIC-CUM-POWER BLOCK

In order to upgrade the existing infrastructure and enhanced the safety standards, Railways will undertake the maintenance work of Level Crossing gates BK-6 between Uslapur-Ghutku stations on UP & DN line of Bilaspur Division in South East Central Railway. To execute this work, traffic-cum-power block will be taken for the duration of 06:00 hrs. on 30.01.2022 (Sunday). During this period the following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
15231 Barauni Jn. - Varanasi Jn.- Gondia Jn. Express	29.01.2022
15232 Gondia Jn. - Varanasi Jn. - Barauni Jn. Express	30.01.2022

RESCHEDULING OF TRAIN

Train No. 18477 Puri-Yog Nagari Rishikesh Utkal Express will be rescheduled at 22.45 hrs instead of 20.45 hrs on 29.01.2022.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

RailMadad Helpline No. **139** Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad App

NORTHERN RAILWAY Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 200/2022

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda
www.bankofbaroda.in

NOTICE FOR RECRUITMENT OF INTERNAL OMBUDSMAN IN BANK OF BARODA

Bank of Baroda invites online applications for appointment of 'Internal Ombudsman' on contract basis from retired (superannuated) or serving officers, not below the rank of Deputy General Manager, or equivalent of another Bank/ Financial Sector Regulatory Body.

Eligibility criteria (age, qualification & experience), requisite fees and other details are available on Bank's website. Interested candidates are advised to visit the Bank's website www.bankofbaroda.in -> Career Page -> Current Opportunities -> Recruitment of Internal Ombudsman on Contract Basis, for further details.

Candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement for ensuring their eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees.

Any addendum/ corrigendum/ modification shall be notified only on the Bank's website

Date for filling Online Application & Payment of Fee: 29.01.2022 to 18.02.2022 (23:59 hours).

Place: Mumbai
Date: 29.01.2022 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HRM)

MPL MATTHON POWER LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Tata Power & DVC)
Corporate Center, 34 Sant Tukaram Road, Carnac Bunder, Mumbai 400 009, Maharashtra, India. Tel: +91 22 - 67171233
Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U74899MH2000PLC287297. Website: www.tatapower.com/mpl

Extract of Financial Results for the Quarter Ended 31st December 2021

Particulars	Quarter ended on		Year ended on
	31.12.2021	31.12.2020	31.03.2021
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1 Total Income from operations	671.35	659.63	2,503.38
2 Net Profit for the period before tax	36.62	79.71	316.48
3 Net Profit for the period after tax	31.85	63.56	311.02
4 Total comprehensive income for the period	31.85	63.56	311.96
5 Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of ₹ 10 each)	1,508.92	1,508.92	1,508.92
6 Reserve (Excluding Revaluation Reserve)	770.78	446.43	562.42
7 Net worth	2,279.70	1,955.35	2,071.34
8 Outstanding debt	1,674.60	2,229.98	1,778.41
9 Debt equity ratio *	0.73	1.14	0.86
10 Earnings per share (EPS) (of ₹ 10 each)			
Basic (₹) *	0.21	0.42	2.06
Diluted (₹) *	0.21	0.42	2.06
11 Debenture redemption reserve	129.05	129.05	129.05
12 Debt service coverage ratio *	0.33	0.41	0.48
13 Interest service coverage ratio *	2.04	3.05	2.99

*Quarterly ratio is not annualised

Notes:
1 The financial results and extracts have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 28th January 2022.
2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results is available on the website of stock exchange www.nseindia.com and Company's website www.tatapower.com/mpl.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Place : Mumbai
Date : 28th January 2022
Vijay Namjoshi
Chairman

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

In order to further strengthen the infrastructure, Railways will undertake the Non-Interlocking work at Singrauli, Karaila Road, Churki and Mahdeiya stations over Dhanbad Division from 29.01.2022 to 15.02.2022 in connection with Doubling, Yard Remodelling and Commissioning of Electronic Interlocking. Consequently the following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
22167 Singrauli - Hazrat Nizamuddin Superfast Exp.	30.01.2022 to 13.02.2022
22168 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Singrauli Superfast Exp.	31.01.2022 to 14.02.2022

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19, may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

RailMadad Helpline No. **139** Visit RailMadad Website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad App

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

ADVERTISEMENT No. CPRI/02/2022 RECRUITMENT

CPRI invites application for the following post:

Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Level & Pay in 7th CPC Pay Matrix
Engineering Officer Grade 1 (UR-5, EWS-2, OBC-4, SC-1, ST-2)	14	Level - 7 Rs. 44,900/-

UR - Unreserved, EWS - Economically Weaker Section, OBC - Other Backward Class, SC - Scheduled Castes, ST - Scheduled Tribes, Note: The number of vacancies are tentative & provisional and may vary depending upon requirement.

The Candidates interested to apply for the above post are advised to visit CPRI website <https://cpri.res.in> at Career page for further details regarding eligibility criteria, educational qualification and for submission of online application etc. The online application format will be hosted in the CPRI web-site from **10.00 AM on 31.01.2022 to 5.00 PM on 21.02.2022** Chief Administrative Officer

ON-LINE APPLICATIONS COMPLETED IN ALL RESPECT ONLY WILL BE CONSIDERED

राष्ट्रीय कोशिका विज्ञान केन्द्र, पुणे
National Centre For Cell Science, Pune
An Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India
NCCS Complex, S. P. Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune - 411 007.
Website: www.nccs.res.in Email: admindept@nccs.res.in Ph: 020 25780000

Advertisement No. 05/2021

DBT-National Centre for Cell Science, Pune is a premier Autonomous Institution established by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, for Research, Development & Training.

The Institute invites applications from Indian nationals for the post of Officer 'C'(Administration) (UR-1) possessing excellent academic records and relevant work experience.

For detailed advertisement, prescribed application format, relevant terms and conditions & last date for receipt of application please see our website <https://www.nccs.res.in/index.php/careers/staff> (Under staff in career tab). The soft copy of application along with all the necessary certificates including payment receipt mentioning clearly name of the candidate, post applied for and category should be sent to nccscareers@nccs.res.in before as mentioned in detailed advertisement.

DIRECTOR

Office of the Commandant, 49th Bn Indo Tibetan Border Police Force MHA/ Govt. of India Po- Basar, Distt- Lepa Rada (Arunachal Pradesh) PIN 791101.

Notice

Regtl No. 120190135 CT(GD) Pura Mal S/O Sh. Hazari Lal of 49th Bn, ITBP, vill-Budhwal, Post- Budhwal, Teh- Narnaul, Police Station- Narnaul Chaudhary, District-Mohindergarh, State- Haryana- 12023 of this unit is hereby informed that you proceeded on 04 weeks Medical leave from Base Hospital, Delhi, w.e.f. 15.06.2021 to 12.07.2021, but not reported back till date. You are absenting yourself without prior permission of competent authority. You were directed to report for duty vide this office letter No-2158 dated 24.07.21 & No. 2606 dated 11.09.2021 but you did not report so far. You were declared "Deserter" from this Force w.e.f. 12.07.21(AN) vide this office order No. 3360 dated- 12.12.2021.

04. No. 120190135 CT(GD) Pura Mal S/O Sh. Hazari Lal is hereby informed that you are absenting from leave without prior permission of Competent Authority from 12.07.2021 (AN) which is a punishable offence under section 21 (b) of ITBPF Act 1992. Therefore, you are directed again through this Notice to report on duty within 30 days from the date of issuance of this Notice, failing which it will be presumed that you are not interested to serve in this organization and your retention in service will not be in the interest of the Force and your service will be "Terminated" as per the provisions contained in ITBPF Act. - 1992 & Rule 1994.

Sd/-
(Buta Suman)
Commandant
49th Bn ITB Police
davp 19112/11/0186/2122

SBI State Bank of India
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch
2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna - 800001
Ph. No. (Office) : 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax: 0612-2219385, E-mail : sbi.05176@sbi.co.in

Publication of Notice regarding Possession of Property u/s13 (4) of SARFAESI Act 2002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said act on the dates mentioned against each account.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount and interest thereon.

The Borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act. In respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Account/ Borrower & address	Name of Owner of property	Description of the property mortgaged/ charged	Date of Demand Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
1. Mr. Arun Kumar S/o Late Bhola Giri & Mrs. Snehlata W/o Mr. Arun Kumar	Mrs. Snehlata W/o Mr. Arun Kumar	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land, building & structures as per details hereunder: 1. Equitable mortgage of all that part and parcel of the property in the name of Kumari Sneh Lata W/o Sri Arun Kumar vide Deed No. 4316 dated 20/03/2013 situated at Mauza-Mirzapur, Thana No-139, Thana- Sasaram, Old Ward No.6(A), New Ward No.34, Municipal Khata No. 576, Survey Khata No.40, Municipal Plot No. 1651, Survey Plot No. 249, Sasaram, Rohas, Area: 03 Decimal. Boundary:- North: Rasta 4 feet, South: Nasrulla Khan, East: Manju Devi, West: Usha Devi.	18.02.2020 25.01.2022	₹ 16,60,173.00 (Rs. Sixteen lacs Sixty Thousand One Hundred Seventy Three Only) as on 13.02.2020 plus accrued interest, Charges, other miscellaneous expenses etc.
2. Sri Prayag Sharma S/o Sri Munshi Sharma & Smt. Lalita Devi W/o Sri Prayag Sharma	Smt. Lalita Devi W/o Sri Prayag Sharma	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land, building & structures as per details hereunder: 1. Equitable mortgage of all that part and parcel of the property measuring 2 decimal. in the name of Smt. Lalita Devi W/o Sri Prayag Sharma, under Mauza- Muradabad Kala, Thana- Sasaram. Thana No. 152, Halka No.05, Khata No. 37, Plot No.822, Distt- Sasaram of Deed No. 14659 dated 03/11/2012. Boundary:- North: Kachha Rasta, South: Sarju Sah, East: Hari Govind Sharma, West: Shiv Nath Rai.	25.08.2021 25.01.2022	₹ 17,35,001.66 (Rs. Seventeen lacs Thirty Five thousand one and paise sixty six) as on 13.08.2021 plus accrued interest, Charges, other miscellaneous expenses etc.

Date : 25.01.2022
Place : Sasaram (Authorized Officer)
State Bank of India, SARB, Patna

Form No. 15
Before The Debts Recovery Tribunal
Wing A, B & F (2nd Floor), Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Kamchari Parishad (GPOA), Near Rajiv Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna 800 025.
O.A. No.- 141 OF 2019

Indian Bank, SAM Branch, PatnaAPPLICANT
M/s Shri Balaji Iron & Others.DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS

ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.

To,
4(a) Masomat Sushila Devi W/o Late Parikchha Sah, R/o Yakopur, P.S Janipur, Sorampur, Dist-Patna 801505
4(b) Sabita Kumari Sah D/o Late Parikchha Sah, R/o Yakopur, P.S- Janipur, Sorampur, Dist-Patna.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the Defendants for the Recovery of a Sum of Rs. 2,38,09,503.00 (Two Crore thirty eight lacs nine thousand five hundred thirty three only).

The above mentioned Defendants are, therefore, hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in Person or through an Advocate or duly authorised Agent in support of their defence to Show Cause within 30 days from the date of Publication or on 01/03/2022, 10.30 A.M. (Forenoon) as to why Reliefs prayed for by the Applicant should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the Proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal on this 13 day of January, 2022.
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Patna

PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN
No. A-35011/02/22-Adm New Delhi- 110004

SHORT NOTICE

Subject: Filling up the post of "Comptroller, President's Household" in President's Secretariat on deputation basis.

Applications are invited for filling up one post of "Comptroller, President's Household" in President's Secretariat in Level-12 (Rs. 78800-209200) of the Pay matrix from amongst the officers of equivalent grades in Public Sector Undertakings as Manager in Hotel Establishment with 5 years experience in Catering.

2. The details regarding the vacancies, qualification and experience required are available at the President's Secretariat website <http://rashtrapatisachivalaya.gov.in> under the caption "Circular for vacancies". The application should reach President's Secretariat within 6 (six) weeks of issue of this notice.

Sd/-
(S.M. Sami)
Under Secretary (Adm)

davp 56101/11/0003/2122

ICICI Bank Registered office: Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodra 390 007.
Corporate office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai 400 051.

GOLD AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE

The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notice to pay off their outstanding amount towards the facility against gold ornaments ("Facility") availed by them from ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank"). We are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold ornaments on Feb 08, 2022 as they have failed to repay the dues. ICICI Bank has the authority to remove account/change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online <https://jewel-auction.procuretiger.com> between 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website. In case of deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs.

Loan A/C No.	Customer Name	Loan A/C No.	Customer Name	Loan A/C No.	Customer Name
254605001510	Komal Bharti	071005002350	Anand Kumar Tiwari	752105000011	Deepak Kumar
062205002193	Sunil Kumar Singh	071005003831	Mohammad Arif	752105000322	Md Saqueelain Ansari
062205003572	Shashi Shekhar Pandey	071005002512	Prashant Kumar Tiwari	752105000330	Md Saqueelain Ansari
062205004220	Deepak Kumar Singh	071005003710	Vishnu Ji Pandey	259405001576	Nisha Devi
748005000114	Dinesh Kumar	071005003707	Vivek Kuvvar		Branch Name: Patna
132505001390	Manita Devi	133905001171	Santosh Sahni	625905051532	Md Atatab Alam
230405000977	Suresh Prasad Singh	133905003341	Deepak Kumar	Branch Name: Patna - Digha, Bihar	
230405000983	Shashi Kumari	133905003378	Ravi Kumar	248505000977	Anil Singh
043005000671	Mamta Kumari	748005000114	Dinesh Kumar	248505000999	Anil Singh
071105000698	Ranjit Kumar	Branch Name: Jehanabad		Branch Name: Patna - Hanuman Nagar	
071105001067	Reena Choudhary	257305001059	Sunil Kumar	735405000226	Nikesh Kumar
071105001214	Arun Rao	257305001064	Blal Kumar	Branch Name: Patna - Kumbhar	
071105002350	Himal Prasad	Branch Name: Jhunjharpur-Meerakunj		329705000798	Anil Kumar Gupta
071105002387	Kiran Devi	213405000637	Pankaj Kumar	Branch Name: Patna - Meethapur	
071105002688	Deepak Kumar	071340500123	Gopal Krishna	334305001122	Priya Kumari
071105003747	Ram Prakash Yadav	Branch Name: Kahalgoin, Bihar		34305001264	Rajesh Kumar Gupta
Branch Name: Bahuba		370705000807	Sonu Pandey	238305000914	Seema Devi
Branch Name: Bitta, Bihar		Branch Name: Katihar		Branch Name: Patna - Phulwari Sarif	
370805000688	Alta Kumar	132805002208	Ranjit Kumar	401205000790	Mohammad Falz Ahmad
Branch Name: Danapur		Branch Name: Khagaria		Branch Name: Patna-Ansabad	
243605000508	Mohammad Iftelque	163305002288	Ameresh Kumar	133305001519	Ajay Kumar
243605000880	Parvati Devi	Branch Name: Kishanganj		133305002343	Md Aatif Hussain
Branch Name: Darbhanga		181005000776	Gulechhehara Gulechhehara	Branch Name: Patna-Boingroad	
092405001907	Sunil Kumar Jha	Branch Name: Madhepura		040405009177	Tej Prakash Mishra
Branch Name: Darbhanga - Laheriaasari		258405003989	Surya Prakash	Branch Name: Patna - Rajabari	
243705000375	Narendra Kumar	258405001293	Gopal Krishna	040405009180	Ravi Ranjan
Branch Name: Dehri		258405001302	Sumit Anand	040405009190	Lalit Kumar Mishra
243905001282	Manoj Kumar Singh	Branch Name: Patna-Patalroad		040405009199	Rangbahadur Singh
243905001287	Jitendra Kumar Singh	Branch Name: Madhubani		Branch Name: Patna-Bcfraserroad	
243905001571	Anup Kumar Singh	132805002793	Vinila Devi	057905003936	Shamshad Khan
Branch Name: Gaya - Shaheed Road		132805002802	Kishor Kumar Yadav	Branch Name: Patna - Rajabari City	
180905001881	Babita Kumari	415905000610	Kajal Devi	061605002272	Gaya Prasad Yadav
180905001831	Babita Kumari	Branch Name: Mothari		Branch Name: Purnia - Gulab Bagh	
Branch Name: Gaya-Tokart Road		133405002005	Surendra Prasad	197505000136	Mukesh Kumar
248605000544	Sharda Devi	133405002769	Bipul Kumar	Branch Name: Rosera	
248605001055	Md Rijwan Khan	133405003106	Arun Kumar Singh	256905001584	Anita Devi
Branch Name: Gintjas		133405004019	Anil Kumar	Branch Name: Saharsa	
402505000168	Chandan Kumar Singh	Branch Name: Muzaffarpur		181105001335	Lalita Devi
Branch Name: Gopalganj		030605009086	Rajesh Kumar Singh	181105001390	Madan Kumar Singh
071005001355	Vivek Kumar Singh	030605010290	Kunjal Kumar	181105001405	Suraj Kumar
071005001728	Vikas Kumar Ray	030605010323	Sanjay Kumar Singh	181105001405	Suraj Kumar
071005003709	Dinesh Kumar Singh	030605010358	Nitesh Kumar	181105001938	Rajesh Kumar Singh
Branch Name: Narkatiaganj (Nagar Parishad)		Branch Name: Muzaffarpur - Zero Mile		Branch Name: Sasaram	
		334505001860	Manish Kumar	133505002090	Vinda Devi
		334505001751	Md Shabbir Akhtar Khan	133505002209	Chameli Devi
		Branch Name: Muzaffarpur-Civilcourt		133505003104	Priyanka Narayan Singh
		133005002905	Sarita Devi	Branch Name: Sheikhpura	
		133005002910	Raushan Kumar	401805000369	Vikash Kumar
		133005002915	Munna Kumar Jha	Branch Name: Sheikhpura	
		Branch Name: Muzaffarpur-Subpatni		256305000634	Nagendra Raut
		250705000846	Somnath Kumar Raj	256305000641	Sonu Kumar
		250705000849	Md Shakil Hussain	256305000642	Rahul Kumar
		Branch Name: Narkatiaganj (Nagar Parishad)		256305000645	Dharmendar Kumar
				133805002699	Srinran Pravin

Place : 29.01.2022
Place : Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Darbhanga(Pat), Gaya, Gopalganj, Jehanabad, Kaimur, Katihar, Khagaria Kishanganj, Madhepura, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Paschim Champaran, Patna, Purni Champaran, Purnia, Rohas, Saharsa, Samastipur, Sheikhpura, Sheohar, Siwan, Vaishali, Araria, Arwal, Aurangabad, Begusarai

Sd/
Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Limited

EIH Associated Hotels Limited
A MEMBER OF THE OBEROI GROUP

CIN : L92490TN1983PLC009903
Registered Office: 1/24, G.S.T. Road, Meenambakkam, Chennai - 600 027
Ph.: +91-44-2234 4747 Fax: +91-44-2234 6699
Website: www.eihassociatedhotels.in

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2021

	(Rs. in Lakhs)		
	3 months ended 31.12.2021 UNAUDITED	9 months ended 31.12.2021 UNAUDITED	3 months ended 31.12.2020 UNAUDITED
1 Total Income from operations	7,732.91	13,634.07	3,710.85
2 Net Profit / (Loss) before tax (before Exceptional Items)	2,299.63	890.86	38.82

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान बरहमपुर
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Berhampur
Established by the Ministry of Education, Government of India

e-Tender Notice

ISER Berhampur invites e-Tenders for the below-mentioned goods/services:

NIT No. & Date	Detail of Goods	Last Date of Submission
ISERBpr/S&P/GTE/2021-22/31 dated 28-01-2022	Casy Cell Counter TT with Consumables and accessories	February 17, 2022 (15:00 Hrs)
ISERBpr/S&P/GTE/2021-22/32 dated 28-01-2022	Odyssey DLX System	February 17, 2022 (15:00 Hrs)

For participation, please visit the website i.e. <https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISERBP>. Complete details of specification of goods and services, and tender documents are available on the Institute website i.e. <http://www.iserbpr.ac.in/tender.php> and <https://eprocure.gov.in>. Any corrigendum etc will be notified on the above websites only.

प्रत्येक एवं भण्डार अधिकारी
Stores and Purchase Officer

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Radha** along with three children (1) Roshan 4 Yrs (2) Gaurav 2 Yrs (3) Gulabo 1 Yrs 6 Months, W/o: Ashok, R/o: H.No. E-57/B-256, Jhuggi Sunder Nagri, Delhi has been missing since 08.01.2022 from her house. In this regard DD No. 54 A dated 09.01.2022 has been lodged in Police Station Nand Nagri, Delhi. The description of missing lady is as under:

Name: Radha, Age: 28 Years, Height: 4'8", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Red Colour Saree and Chappal in Feet.

If anyone has any information about this missing lady please inform P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station, Nand Nagri, Delhi
DP/1320/NE/2022 Ph: 011-22137761, 8750870733

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NOTICE No. AGC-ELG-T-17-2021-22 Date: 24.01.2022

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N. C. Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	AGC-ELG-T-17-2021-22
1.	Name of work with its location & Completion Period	Electrification work for under floor lathe at coaching depot Agra Cantt. Completion period 06 months.
2.	Approx. Cost of the work	Rs. 1444010.89

For Full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway Website www.ireps.gov.in. Tenders can only be submitted through web portal www.ireps.gov.in upto 16:00 hrs. on 16.02.2022.

94/22(AN)
North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in | @ CPNCR

भारत सरकार, रक्षा मंत्रालय
(Govt. of India, Ministry of Defence)

रक्षा सम्पदा कार्यालय
DEFENCE ESTATES OFFICE

दिल्ली मण्डल, दिल्ली छावनी (DELHI CIRCLE, DELHI CANTT.)
दूरभा. 011-25686971, 25684006, फैक्स: 011-25684005, ई-मेल: deodeth-stats@nic.in

E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Defence Estates Officer Delhi Circle, Delhi Cantt invites online bids through E-Auction from interested & eligible contractor/bidders/firms etc. for Disposal of different kinds of 248 Nos of Standing/fallen trees located at 54 ASP, Air Force Station, Gurugram, (Haryana).

The terms & conditions of e-auction, details of trees and other requisite details will be available at <https://eauction.gov.in> from 29/01/2022 at 10:00 hrs. The e-auction will be start on 21/02/2022 at 10:00 hrs and end on same day at 17:00 hrs.

For any other enquiry regarding e-auction call on 011-25684006, Monday to Friday during working hours i.e. 10:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs

Note: Trees may be shown on site on 07/02/2022 at 11:00 hrs on production of valid identity proof.

No. 3/175/DEO/54 ASP/Tree board/IGLOOS/FMS-7461
Dated: 28/01/2022

Sd/-
Vinit B. Lote
Defence Estates Officer
Delhi Circle, Delhi Cantt

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male namely **Unknown**, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found dead on 23.01.2022 at Bus Stop, Bhavbhuti Marg, Minto Road, Kamla Market, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 33-A dated 23.01.2022 has been lodged at Police Station, Kamla Market, Delhi. Dead body has been preserved in MAMC mortuary for 72 Hrs for identification. Identification of unidentified dead body is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: About 40-45 Years, Height: 3', Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Face: Long, Wearing: White and Blue Colour Sweater.

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

SHO
Police Station Kamla Market, Delhi
DP/1223/CD/2022 Ph.: 011-22230623, 8750870424

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
IRRIGATION DIVISION, DUMKA

e-Tender Ref. No:- WRD/IRR.DIV.,DUMKA/TURNKEY- 01/2021-22 Dated:- 28.01.2022

LOCAL/NATIONAL TURNKEY COMPETITIVE BIDDING
(Complete Job with Five Years OM&M)

NAME OF WORK	ESTIMATED COST (Rs.)	TIME OF COMPLETION	PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF BIDDING DOCUMENTATION WEBSITE	TIME AND DATE OF PRE BID CONFERENCE (PHYSICAL AS WELL AS ONLINE)	PERIOD OF ONLINE SUBMISSION OF BIDS	LAST DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF EMD AND COST OF BOQ OF BIDS IN THE OFFICE OF EE, IRRIGATION DIVISION, DUMKA	DATE AND TIME OF OPENING PRE QUALIFICATION BID	DATE AND TIME OF OPENING OF TECHNICAL BIDS	DATE AND TIME OF OPENING OF FINANCIAL BIDS	PLACE OF OPENING OF BIDS	OFFICER INVITING BIDS	HELP LINE NO. OF E-PROCUREMENT CELL
Masalia Kanishwar Megalini Irrigation Scheme on Turnkey basis with 5 (Five) years Operation, Maintenance and Management (OM&M) (complete job).	1198,91,61,371 Crores (Rupees one thousand one hundred and ninety eight crore ninety one lakh sixty one thousand three hundred seventy one) only.	3 Years (Three Years)	FROM - 01.02.2022 at 5:00 PM to 11.03.2022 upto 5:00 PM	Date-08.02.2022 Time- 02:00PM at 1 st Floor, Conference Hall, Nepal House, Doranda, Ranchi (Jharkhand)	Date-01.02.2022 at 5:00 PM to Date-11.03.2022 upto 5:00 PM	Date- 14.03.2022 upto 5:00PM	Date- 15.03.2022, 2:00 PM	To be Announced after Pre-qualification Bid	To be Announced after Technical Bid	Chief Engineer office, WRD, Deoghar Executive Engineer Irrigation Division, Dumka Mob. No. +919801476699 Email ID- eedmkr@gmail.com +919155826458, +918789068351 Email ID- wrdceda@gmail.com	Executive Engineer Irrigation Division, Dumka	PR 262615 Water Resource(21-22)D

झारखण्ड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, खूंटी।

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (चतुर्थ कॉल)

T. Reference No. :- DWSD/KH-08(CLUS/SVS)/2021-22, Date 28.01.2022

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Lakh)	Bid Security (Lakh)	Cost of BOQ (Rs)	Time of Completion
A)	Construction of Solar based Mini Pipe Water Supply Scheme (SVS) in different Block comprising of suitable R.C.C./Framed Structure ESR distribution line sources (as required) and FHTC all complete job in the different blocks of District- Khunti under D.W. & S. Division, Khunti.				
1	1 (A) Torpa	811.83	8.12	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
2	1 (B) Torpa	789.71	7.90	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
3	3 (A) Arki	969.18	9.70	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
4	3 (B) Arki	927.79	9.28	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
5	4 (A) Arki	873.66	8.74	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
6	4 (B) Arki	914.42	9.15	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
7	5 (B) Karra	642.69	6.43	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
8	6 (A) Karra	646.73	6.47	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
9	6 (B) Karra	708.34	7.09	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
10	7 (A) Karra	958.88	9.59	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
11	7 (B) Karra	836.92	8.37	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
12	13 Murhu	973.14	9.74	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
13	14 (B) Murhu	667.26	6.68	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
14	15 (B) Murhu	570.96	5.71	10,000.00	9 Months + 1 Month (Trial & Run)
B)	Date of Tender Uploading on Website	02.02.2022/05.00 PM.			
C)	Document Download Start Date from Website	02.02.2022/05.00 PM.			
E)	Bid Submission Start Date	02.02.2022/05.00 PM.			
F)	Bid Submission End Date	09.02.2022/05.00 PM.			
G)	Last date of Submission of Cost of BOQ and EMD (Hard Copy)	10.02.2022/02.00 PM.			
H)	Date of Opening of Tender	11.02.2022/05.00 PM.			
I)	Name & Address of Office Inviting Tender	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Khunti.			
J)	Name & Address of Opening Officer	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Khunti.			
K)	Contact No. of Procurement Office	06528-299928			
L)	Helpline No. of e-procurement cell	Mo. No.- 7717776462			

नोट:- विशेष जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट- <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।
कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, खूंटी।
PR 262682 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22)D

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER,
PWD, BUILDING, ASSAM, CHANDMARI GUWAHATI-3.

No CE/TB-III 83 2021 17

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings) Health & Education Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids for the following works under P.W.D. (Bldg), Assam from registered contractors having requisite experience in similai nature of work. Details may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in

Sl. No	State/Package	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (2% for General, and 1% for Reserved category) to be drawn in favour of	Cost of Bid (Rs)
1.	GMCH/200/ICU/Gr-A	Construction of 200 bedded Covid ICU at 2 storied Parking at GMCH, Bhangagarh, Guwahati (Including electrical works)	1210.07		12.5 00/-
2.	GMCH/200/ICU/Gr-B	Construction of 200 bedded Covid ICU at 2 storied Parking at GMCH, Bhangagarh, Guwahati (Including electrical works)	1602.20		12.5 00/-
3.	GMCH/ICU-56	Establishment of 56 BEDDED PICU WARD at 2nd floor of existing Trauma ward of new emergency building. Installation of Gas manifold, Providing of HVAC System. Connection of Medical Gas Pipe Line to the existing gas manifold from 80 KL LMO Tank at GMCH, Dispur, Guwahati-32	146.06	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Dispur & Guwahati East Territorial Building Division, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati-1	2,920/-
4.	GMCH/ICU-40	Establishment of Paediatric centre unit (ii) 10 Bedded/ 30 Bedded ICU at GMCH (at 3rd Floor Emergency Block), Guwahati, Assam (Under ECRP-II)	100.44		2,010/-
5.	GMCH/COE-12	Establishment of Paediatric centre of Excellences(COE) at Gauhati Medical College & Hospital step-down (at 3rd floor of Emergency BLDG) (8+4) ICU in Guwahati, Assam	49.20		990/-
6.	SMCH/ICU-42	Construction of 30 PICU beds and 12 HDU Beds at First floor of South Block & 16 steps down Beds at 2nd floor of North Block and Other ancillary works at Silchar Medical College & Hospital, Silchar	68.44	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Silchar, Sonai, & Dholai Territorial Building Division, Silchar, Assam	1,370/-
7.	SMCH/ICU-100 to 140	Civil & Electrical provisions for augmentation of existing 100 Bedded ICU to 140 Bedded ICU including installation of Medical Oxygen Gas pipeline system and ancillary works at 3rd floor of South Block of Silchar Medical College and Hospital, Silchar	364.32		12,500/-
8.	AMCH/OGP-1	Installation of OGP from GOVT. OF INDIA under PM-Care Fund	161.30	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Dibrugarh, Moran, Lahowal & Tingkhong Territorial Building Division, Assam	3230/-
9.	AMCH/ICU-40	18 bedded PICU & 22 Bedded step down (40 Bedded) at AMCH, Dibrugarh	330.06		6,600/-
10.	TMCH/ICU-30	Setting up of 30 bedded (15-ICU, 15 Step Down Beds) Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) in view of increasing Covid cases at TMC&H, Tezpur at Bihaguri, Tezpur.	415.21	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Sonitpur District Territorial Building Division, Sonitpur.	12,500/-
11.	FAAMCH/ICU/1	Construction of 23 bedded PICU at 3rd floor Hospital Building of FAAMCH, Barpeta, for COVID-19 Patients	270.54	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Barpeta District Territorial Building Division, Barpeta	12,500/-
12.	JMCH/ICU-30	15 bedded PICU & 15 Bedded step down (30 Bedded) at JMCH, Jorhat	117.11	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Jorhat District Territorial Building Division, Jorhat	12,500/-

Note :-

- NIT value may be changed during uploading of tender in the website, which may be seen in Detailed NIT of the bid document.
- The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building)
Health & Education Assam,
Chandmari, Guwahati-3.
Janasanyog / C /11126/21

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे

खुली ई-निविदा सूचना

मुख्य शिक्षा अधिकारी, बीकानेर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति एवं उनकी ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दो पैकेट सिस्टम के अंतर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्र में दिनांक 21.02.2022 को 15.00 बजे तक खुली ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य का नाम: उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे बीकानेर मंडल की बीकानेर एवं लालाड स्थित रेलवे कोलोनीयों की सफाई का कार्य एवं मेकनाइज्ड ट्रॉली से कचरे के निस्तारण का कार्य। कार्य की अवधि: दो वर्ष, निविदा फॉर्म शुल्क: ₹10,000/-, घोषित राशि: 2,68,000/- अनुमानित लागत: ₹2,35,94,094/- प्रस्ताव का वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करना एवं खुलाना: प्रस्ताव का दिनांक 21.02.2022 को 15.00 बजे तक वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करना एवं ई-निविदा का 21.02.2022 को 15.30 बजे खुलना। वेबसाइट का विवरण: <https://ireps.gov.in/> 08-PR/22

ई-निविदा पोर्टल: www.ireps.gov.in/ | www.nwrailways.gov.in/

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Open Tender Notice No.:- SPJ-ST-S-02-2022

DRM (S&T)/Samastipur invites open e-tenders on behalf of president of India for following work.

- Name of work with its location : Hiring of Pickup truck for transportation of S&T materials and road based maintenance in S&T department (DBG, SMI, BMKI, NKE Section) of SPJ division for three years.
- Approx. cost of the work : Rs. 1,48,22,585/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Eight Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Five Only).
- Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 2,24,100/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Four Thousand One Hundred Only).
- Date & Time for Submission of tender & opening of tender : 15/02/2022 up to 16:00 Hrs. 15/02/2022 at 16:30 Hrs.
- Particulars of website where full details of tender may be seen : www.ireps.gov.in

Note :- For any corrigendum (if any) in above tender the details will be uploaded/available on website. For further details please visit the website www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Rail Manager (S&T)
E. C. Railway, Samastipur
PR/01580/SPJS&T/21-22/32

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/General, North Western Railway, Bikaner for & on behalf of the President of India, invites/re-invites E-tenders for the following work. 1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No. : <http://www.ireps.gov.in> 2. Date & time of closing of e-tenders : 23.02.2022 at 15.00 hours. 3. Date & time of opening of e-tenders : After 15.00 Hrs on 23.02.2022. **Tender Notice No. :- 34-Ele-BKN-E-TENDER-21-22.** Name of Work: Electrical work in connection with Raising of passenger platform as high level Hansiyawa, Hadyal, Udhassar, Melusar, Suratpura, Depalsar & Juharpura stations over Bikaner Division, Approx Cost of the work: Rs 72,47,157.00, EMD/SD (Rupees): Rs 1,45,000.00, Tender Notice No. 35-Ele-BKN-E-TENDER-21-22. Name of Work: Electrical work in connection with provision of FOB at Sadulpur, Satnali, Rajaldesar and Gogamer stations over Bikaner Division, Approx Cost of the work: Rs 23,56,432.00, EMD/SD (Rupees): Rs 47,200.00. 07-PR/22

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S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

e-Tender Notice No. :- e-Tender/BR/2022/02, dated 25.01.2022. e-Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E.Railway, Kharagpur-721301 for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against item and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. **Sl. No. & Tender No. ; Description of work; Tender Value; Earnest Money ; (1) E-KGP-Bridge-02-2022;** Provision of Pathways on Bridge No. 57 UP (2x30.5m + 7x91.5m + 2x30.5m) between Deult-Kolaghat and 51 UP (7x 30.5m) (Kulgachia-Bagan) in Howrah-Kharagpur section in the jurisdiction of SSE/Bridge/Kolaghat under AXEN/BR/L/Kharagpur; ₹ 2,01,68,894.10; ₹ 2,50,900/- **(2) E-KGP-Bridge-03-2022;** Kharagpur Division : Replacement of bearing for 25 ton axle load in the section of SSE/Br./KGP/II under AXEN/BR/L/Kharagpur; ₹ 2,11,80,841.37; ₹ 2,55,900/- **Cost of Tender Document :** 0.00 for both. **Completion Period of the work :** 12 (twelve) months for both. **Date of Opening :** 03.03.2022 for both. **Bidding Start Date :** From 17.02.2022 and upto 15.00 hrs. of 03.03.2022 for both. Interested Tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to participate in all tenders. (PR-583)

Office of Executive Engineer
Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribag

Very Short Tender e-Procurement Notice
(1st Call)

Tender reference:- HZB/JJM/Khargu_Chobe/25/2021-22(1st call) Date :- 27.01.2022

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Value of work (Rs in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs)	Cost of Tender Paper (Rs)	Time of Completion
1.	Detailed survey, designing and drawing. Construction of R.C.C. Intake Well cum Pump House with Infiltration Gallery, R.C.C. Gangway 50 M long and 3.00 M wide, 1.5 MLD Capacity Unconventional Water Treatment Plant, RCC Elevated Service Reservoir 1- 390 KiloLitre capacity Staging height- 18 m, Staff Quarter, Compound wall, Supplying and laying Raw and Clear Water rising main and Distribution Network, House Connection, Supplying and Installation of VT and Centrifugal pump motor and Five years operation & maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for Khargu-Chaube & adjoining village Rural pipe Water Supply Scheme under D.W. & S. Division Hazaribagh on turnkey basis."	1088.95	10.89	10,000.00	24 Months + 03 Months (Trial and run)
2.	Date of Tender uploading in website	Date:- 31.01.2022 up to 02:00 PM			
3.	Date of Pre-bid Meeting	Date:- 04.02.2022 at 12:30 PM in the office of Engineer-in-Chief, D. W. & S. Department Jharkhand Ranchi			
4.	Last date receipt of Bid	Date:- 11.02.2022 upto 05:00 PM			
5.	Last date submission cost of BOQ and EMD (in hard copy)	Date:- 12.02.2022 upto 04:00 PM in the office of the 1. Executive Engineer, D. W. & S. Division, Hazaribag 2. Superintending Engineer, D.W. & S. Circle, Hazaribag 3. Regional Chief Engineer, D.W. & S. Department Ranchi Zone, Ranchi			
6.	Date of opening tender	Date:- 14.02.2022 upto 03:00 PM			
7.	Name and address of office inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribag			
8.	Name and address of tender opening officer	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribag			
9.	Contact no of e-procurement office	06546-262291			
10.	Helpline No. of e-procurement cell	0651-2480345			

i) Estimated Cost & EMD Cost may be changed.
ii) Only Registered contractor in this department participate in said tender.
iii) Further details can be seen on website- <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer
D.W. & S. Division, Hazaribag
PR 262549 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22)D

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SPITI B&R DIVISION HP.PWD., KAZA
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
11TH CIRCLE, HP.PWD. RAMPUR -172001, 01782-233044
[On the Letterhead of the employer]

DATE: 31 January 2022

INVITATION FOR BIDS NO. : PWD/07/R9/2021-22

LOAN NO. AND TITLE: Loan No. 3573 IND/ Himachal Pradesh Skill Development Project.

CONTRACT PACKAGE NO. AND TITLE: PWD/07/R9/; Detailed Design and Construction of Model Career Centre (MCC) building (pre-engineered) at Kaza district Lahual and Spiti. H.P. (C/O Main building shall be pre-engineered, Site Development, Site Development i.e. retaining structure, WS & SI, EI, septic tank, rain water harvesting tank & underground water recharging tank/ pit, boundary wall and gate, Air conditioning in selected area as, CCTV, indoor/ outdoor transformer, HT & LT panels, Cabling, DG Set, Solar system, Fire-fighting and yard lighting system, fire alarm system, Land scaping, environment management, safety measures and other miscellaneous item etc.) as per scope of work.

Deadline for Submission of Bids 03 March 2022 at 11:00 hrs (IST)

- The India has received the financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of "Himachal Pradesh Skill Development Project". Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract Package named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB.
- The "Public Works Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh, represented by Superintending Engineer, 11th Circle HPPWD, Rampur ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the Detailed Design and Construction of Model Career Centre (MCC) building (pre-engineered) at Kaza district Lahual and Spiti. H.P. (C/O Main building shall be pre-engineered, Site Development, Site Development i.e. retaining structure, WS & SI, EI, septic tank, rain water harvesting tank & underground water recharging tank/ pit, boundary wall and gate, Air conditioning in selected area as, CCTV, indoor/ outdoor transformer, HT & LT panels, Cabling, DG Set, Solar system, Fire-fighting and yard lighting system, fire alarm system, Land scaping, environment management, safety measures and other miscellaneous item etc.) as per scope of work in all respect ("the Works").
- National competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-stage: Two-Envelope procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
- Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
 - Participation in at least one contract that has been successfully or substantially completed within the last five years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds INR23 million (INR 2.3Crore); Construction Experience in Key Activities as follows-
 - Participation as contractor in at least 1 contract within in the last five years, that has been successfully or are substantially completed, and that include Detailed Design and Construction of Building Works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds INR 16.0 million. The contractor should have design experience for designing of a building a similar nature of atleast 275 Sq. Mtr.
 - Participation as contractor in at least 1 contract within in the last five years, that has been successfully or are substantially completed, and that include pre-engineered material, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds INR 7.0 million.
 - Minimum average annual construction turnover of INR74 million (INR 7.4 Crore), calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last three (3) years
 - Meets other Personnel and Equipment requirements as stipulated in the Bidding Document.

However for complete eligibility and qualification requirements, bid document should be referred.

To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:

Attention: Er. Tashi Giamchho
Executive Engineer, Kaza
Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department (HPPWD)
Himachal Pradesh India
Phone number-9459038791
Landline-01906-22252E-mail ID - hp-isp1@nic.in

To purchase the bidding documents in English language, eligible Bidders should write or visit at the office of the Employer at address stated above and pay a nonrefundable fee of INR 5,000 towards the cost of bidding document in the form of Bank Demand Draft.

In case of written request, the document will be sent by post/ courier and no liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.

The Bidders who wish to receive the bidding document by post/courier shall have to pay an additional amount of INR 3,000 for delivery within India, or USD 250 for delivery outside India. The method of payment will be through bank demand draft payable at Kaza, Himachal Pradesh, India.

The eligible bidders may otherwise download the bidding document in English language from the www.hppwd.gov.in, such bidders shall be required to submit INR 5,000 with their bid in the form of Bank demand draft towards cost of bidding document.

Deliver your bid

- to the address above
- on or before the deadline: 03 March 2022 at 11:00 hrs (IST)
- together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.

Bids will be opened on 03 March 2022 at 11:30 hrs (IST) in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

Executive Engineer,
Spiti B&R Division HP.PWD., Kaza.
For and on behalf of
Superintending Engineer,
11th Circle, Public Works
Department, Rampur Government
of Himachal Pradesh India.
6520/HP

Cricket scam: Former India Blue woman player arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SURAT, JANUARY 28

THE ECONOMIC Offences Wing (EOW) of Surat Police has arrested cricketer Sapna Randhawa, who played three matches for India Blue Women at the Women's Twenty20 Challenger Trophy back in 2010 for allegedly duping a male cricketer from Surat of Rs 27.10 lakh.

As per the allegation, Sapna took money from Bhavik Patel by promising him opportunities at national-level tournaments. Sapna was arrested on January 26 from Himachal Pradesh. Police informed that Patel, a cricketer who plays for Lalbhai Cricket Academy in Surat, lodged a complaint with the city police crime branch on January 20. Patel alleged that he played only one Ranji Trophy match for Nagaland against Jharkhand in Hyderabad in 2019. As per his complaint, Sapna took Rs 27.10 lakh from him, promising his selection in the Ranji Trophy, a T20 game, three one-day matches and two Tests. After playing one Ranji Trophy fixture, when he asked Sapna about other matches, the latter allegedly gave different excuses before she stopped taking his phone calls.

Speaking on the matter, Surat police commissioner Ajay Kumar Tomar said: "Bhavik Patel was introduced to Sapna Randhawa by one Ram Chauhan, who had organised a cricket tournament at Hathras in Uttar Pradesh in 2018. Patel played in that tournament. Sapna told Patel to fork out cash to play in national-level cricket tournaments. Sapna and others had prepared fake documents for Bhavik Patel to allow him to represent the Nagaland Cricket Association in a Ranji trophy match, against Jharkhand at Hyderabad." He added: "We have sought help from the BCCI to get more details in this case. There are a few more people in this gang, presently absconding. But we will arrest them soon. This gang has duped around 20 young people from different states of Rs 75 lakh in the same way."

Sapna, 32, had a very short career at national level, playing just three Women's T20 Challenger Trophy games 12 years ago. Mainly a left-arm medium bowler, she didn't get a single wicket in those matches. The India Blue Women of the 2010 vintage had Mithali Raj and Snehal Pradhan in their ranks. Reema Malhotra was the captain. A lot of players, discards in their own states, have switched bases to play first-class cricket after the Committee of Administrators (CoA) allowed the associate and affiliate members of the BCCI to participate in all domestic tournaments.

ICC bans Taylor for corruption

Banned for 3 and a half years for not reporting approach to ICC on time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, JANUARY 28

FORMER ZIMBABWE captain Brendan Taylor was on Friday banned for three and a half years by the ICC for failing to report a 2019 spot-fixing approach by an Indian businessman on time and was also handed a one month suspension for failing a dope test which was linked to his intake of cocaine during the episode.

In a statement, the ICC said Taylor admitted to being in breach of the provisions of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code (Articles 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4 and 2.4.7). "Former Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor has been banned from all cricket for three and a half years after he accepted breaching four charges of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code and, separately, one charge of the ICC Anti-Doping Code," the ICC said. On January 24, Taylor made a stunning disclosure that he was blackmailed after "foolishly" taking cocaine during his meeting with an Indian businessman.

Taylor had claimed that he was invited by the businessman to India to discuss "sponsorships" and potential launch of a T20 event in Zimbabwe besides an offer of USD 15,000 in October 2019. He did not name the businessman in question and the ICC also identified him as merely Mr. S.

The 35-year-old, who played 205 ODIs, 34 Tests and 45 T20s before retiring last year, said he was also given a part payment to spot fix matches, which, according to him, he never did. He tested positive for stimulant Benzoylcocaine, a cocaine metabolite, which is specified as a Substance of Abuse under the Code. The in-competition test was conducted on Taylor on September 8, 2021 Zimbabwe's match against Ireland. "This one-month suspension will run concurrently with the suspension of three and a half years under the ICC Anti-Corruption Code. Mr Taylor will be free to resume his involvement in the game on 28 July 2025," the ICC stated. "Taylor's period of ineligibility was reduced to one month because he was able to establish that he had ingested the substance out of competition, that it was unrelated to sport performance, and because he is currently undergoing a rehabilitation treatment programme." Taylor will be free to resume the game on July 28, 2025.

ICC said the decision is final. In a heavily redacted report, ICC said Taylor reported the corrupt approach to its Anti-Corruption Unit on March 31, 2020, which happened the previous November.

In or around September 2019, Taylor was contacted by the businessman to ask if he would be interested in playing in the 2019 edition of the Afghanistan Premier League (the 2019 edition of which ultimately did not take place).

\$15k, clothes, new phone and compromising video

The official publication of the proceedings of the hearing between the International Cricket Council and Brendan Taylor brings to light that the former Zimbabwe captain wasn't upfront about his meeting with the Indian businessman when he made a delayed admission about the approach.

Taylor not forthcoming

ON MARCH 31, 2020 Taylor reported an approach from an Indian businessman (Mr S) which happened in November 2019. However, when he first disclosed the approach, Taylor made no mention of him getting a request from the businessman about fixing matches before he accepted \$15,000. Taylor did mention that he received the money but first said it was as part of an appearance fee. "In subsequent interviews, however, Mr Taylor changed his story and accepted that while he had initially travelled to India believing that he would be paid an appearance fee of US\$15,000, at the end of his trip when the payment was actually made to him, it followed a discussion around corruption and a request for him to be involved in corrupting matches in exchange for payment," the report said.

Agent's warning

During the course of interviews, Taylor said when Mr S first contacted him, he referred him to his agent. A red flag was raised by the agent when he told Taylor not to waste his time as he has a bad feeling about Mr S. The businessman had first called Taylor to enquire if he was keen to play in the Afghanistan Premier League. But a month later (after the agent had warned him), Taylor got another call and this time he travelled to India. This time, Mr S told Taylor he wanted to discuss starting a T20 tournament in Zimbabwe and would pay him \$15,000 for his time.

New phone, clothes

On reaching India, Taylor was given a new Samsung S10 phone. Taylor claims, in interviews, that he took the phone because his phone was 'busted up'. Mr S also paid for new clothes for Taylor.

Looking for another player

At the end of the trip, Taylor met Mr S and his associates and this time there was a discussion about spot-fixing in international games. Mr S told Taylor he could make \$35,000 for engaging in spot-fixing. Mr S also told Taylor that he wanted to rope in one more player to fix



Former Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor during 2015 WC. File

international matches.

Compromising video

Taylor said that he had initially refused to be involved in fixing but accepted the money because Mr S told him that he had a compromising video which he would release to the media and Mr Taylor's wife. Taylor, in his post on Twitter earlier this week, had said he had consumed cocaine during the trip to India.

Call during B'desh series

Taylor next heard from Mr S in mid-March 2020, while he was on tour with Zimbabwe in Bangladesh. Mr S called him and said that while he had not worked for him before that point, now was the time to do so. Taylor stated that he refused to do any work for Mr S. Taylor then received a message from the businessman saying that he would release the compromising video.

\$15k unreturned

Taylor, according to the official publication, still has the US\$ 15,000 which he said is being looked after safely by a friend. Taylor said he was clear that neither he, nor his family nor his friends can benefit from this money (whether directly or indirectly) in any way.

During the hearing, it was agreed that Taylor's return to participation in cricket, following the expiry of his period of ineligibility, is conditional upon him demonstrating, to the ICC's satisfaction, that nobody close to him has benefited from the money. Source: ACU publication

India beat China 2-0 to win consolation bronze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUSCAT, JANUARY 28

LAST EDITION champions India defeated China 2-0 to register a consolation third place finish at the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Friday. The Indians left behind the disappointment of their semifinal defeat to Korea and controlled the proceedings in the first two quarters, scoring two goals in the process, to go into half time with a 2-0 lead against China.

They, however, failed to score any more goals in the second half. The Indians started brightly and earned a couple of penalty corners and from one such situation, Sharmila Devi gave her side the lead in the 13th minute, scoring from a rebound after Gurjit Kaur's initial flick was saved by the Chinese defence. India continued in the same vein in the second quarter and had the better share of chances. The Indians kept up the pressure on the Chinese defence with relentless raids and secured another penalty corner in the 19th minute which was converted by Gurjit with a superb drag-flick to make the scoreline 2-0.

China responded swiftly, securing a penalty corner which was brilliantly kept away by India captain and goalkeeper Savita Punia. Down by two goals, China came out with more intent after the change of ends and tried to put pressure on the Indian defence but to no avail. The Indians kept up the pressure on the Chinese defence at the start of the fourth and final quarter but failed to create any clear cut chances.

China earned a penalty corner 10 minutes before time but the Indians deflected in numbers to thwart any danger to their

citadel. Towards the end of the match, China pressed hard and secured three consecutive penalty corners with two minutes left in the clock but lacked in final execution as the chances went wasted.

Lack of match practice due to the COVID-19 pandemic after finishing a historic fourth at the Tokyo Olympics, cost defending champions India dearly as they produced inconsistent performances in crucial matches to crash out of the title race. After thrashing lowly Malaysia 9-0 in their opener, India suffered a 0-2 defeat against Asian Games champions Japan before beating Singapore 9-1 to qualify for the semifinals. But in the semifinals, some sloppy defending and poor penalty corner conversions put paid to India's hopes as they were beaten 2-3 by Korea. Japan emerged champions after beating Korea 4-2 in the summit clash later on Friday.

Reid confident

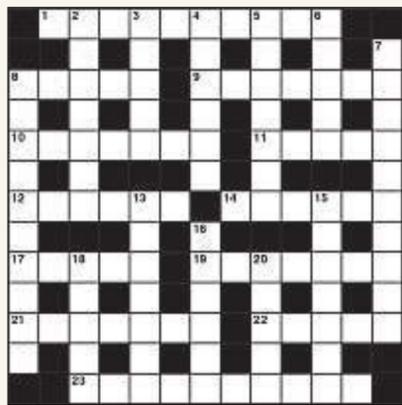
Still smarting from the semifinal exit at the Asia Champions Trophy, Indian men's hockey team chief coach Graham Reid on Friday said the setback came as a reality check for the Tokyo Olympic bronze medal winners ahead of a busy calendar year.

Defending champions India were stunned 3-5 by Japan in the semifinal of the ACT in Dhaka last month. "It's always difficult. You have to be put in situations. Everybody including myself hated that semifinal loss to Japan in ACT. No one likes to experience something like that. But sometimes you have to experience that to learn from it," Reid said in a virtual press conference. India will start the year with back-to-back Pro League ties against South Africa and France in Potchefstroom from February 8 to 13.



Sharmila Devi and Gurjit Kaur scored one goal each as India scored a 2-0 win over China in women's Asia Cup in Muscat on Friday. Hockey India

CROSSWORD 4650



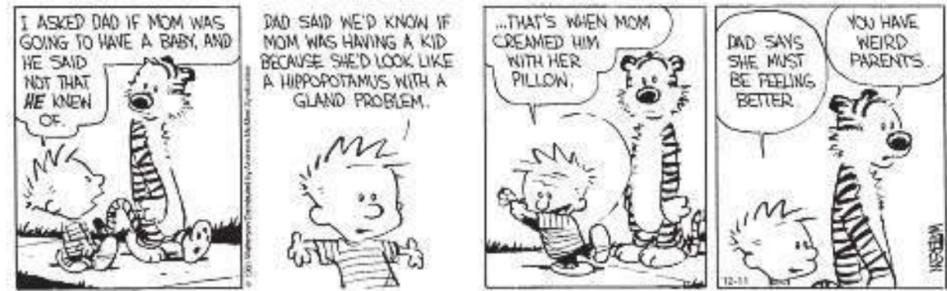
- ACROSS**
1 Called from the cinders? (10)
8 Goes on green (5)
9 Change of raiment for a girl (7)
10 She is given two articles set in a case (7)
11 Patent feature of a hover train (5)
12 Prompt delivery (6)
14 Mike's love turns out to be from the North (6)
17 Nerve broken? Not at all (5)
19 Knight sent back fish and meat dish (7)
21 Not unwilling to try a tea break (7)
22 Is taken aback? (5)
23 Acts as a dismantler? (5,5)
- DOWN**
2 Sign of fever perhaps and rash (7)
3 Not flush but accepted by the social clique (5)
4 Even when frayed it should be kept (6)
5 Apprehensive over bursting into sunrise (7)
6 Doctor, I have reduced energy (5)
7 Seagoing vandals (6)
8 Asian poets can be so ardent (10)
13 It may have a standing charge for motorists (3,4)
15 Tide description of a monk? (2,5)
16 Cleans down (6)
18 Call on half-a-dozen to take a seat (5)
20 Refuse to fight (5)

Solutions Crossword 4649: Across: 1 Such as, 4 Lieder, 9 Aspirin, 10 Dikes, 11 Oddly, 12 On and on, 13 Reading lamp, 18 Fiancee, 20 State, 22 Outdo, 23 Eclipse, 24 Tidy, 25 Spines. Down: 1 Seadog, 2 Coped, 3 Arrayed, 5 India, 6 Dukedom, 7 Rising, 8 Encountered, 14 Enacted, 15 Last lap, 16 Afloat, 17 Sewers, 19 Close, 21 Aspen.

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.

No complaint... is more common than that of a... - Adam Smith (8,2,5)



Answer: No complaint... is more common than that of a scarcity of money. - Adam Smith

SUDOKU 4729

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 4728



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Dreams, imagination and intuition are important at the moment and are vital to any solution to practical problems, but you can't get away without hard, practical work. You may also look closely at domestic questions to see if they can be solved by an unusual approach.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

It's a serious moment, yet one when you can consider strange new options. You may be taking responsibility for group affairs, yet be careful not to over-commit yourself. Recent delays in communication should be lifted and long-awaited news could arrive soon.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

If you're following up career proposals, then you might usefully spend the next few days planning interviews, making applications and plotting your next great move. Directness and honesty about your thoughts and feelings will be appreciated by those closest to you.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Venus, ruler of love and affection, makes a temporary withdrawal from stressful relationships, hopefully easing some of the tensions which are bedeviling personal and professional relationships. If you have offended anyone, then you might be wise to apologise now, not next week.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

One reason for hold-ups has been your doubt about a particular course of action. However, over the coming days the sheer speed of developments may take you by surprise. Secret information may cause a change of plan, but if you do change your mind, you'd better let other people know about it.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You may have been shouldering more than your fair share of responsibility for acquaintances or colleagues. The current period presents you with a chance to redress the balance and set the record straight. If you do this now, you'll no doubt avoid unnecessary hassles some way down the line.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Your lunar alignments encourage an independent point of view. You may also, as it happens, devote as much time as is necessary to sorting out domestic problems. A few days engaged in consulting family and friends and implementing overdue improvements will save trouble later.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Powerful planetary patterns continue, as does the uncertainty about where current developments are leading. Changes over the coming few days may at first be so subtle that their meaning will not be clear until next week. Mind you, that's not too long to wait.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

The financial situation remains critical, and you may be tempted to sit on the fence, waiting for a resolution. However, if you are too passive, you must expect to risk making a loss. Perhaps the central issue is your willingness to spend money on relationships or subsidise a loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

The simultaneous movements of the Sun and Uranus are about to have an effect on your emotional life that will be as dramatic as it is difficult to control. A breath of fresh air could revitalise an old partnership, and can only add to your quality of life.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

The Moon is on your side, so it's only to be expected that family members and people you live with should be backing you to the hilt. Not for the first time your planets show the possibility of dramatic financial dealings and agreements. Yet illusions you hold so fondly now, may be rudely shattered before long.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Plans for domestic change which were initiated earlier in the year but were never completed should be brought to a successful conclusion soon. The only things required are a little determination and a large dose of confidence. Above all, you should believe in yourself.

Raf & tough

Nadal beats Berrettini in four sets, will face Medvedev for a record 21st career Grand Slam title

CHRISTOPHER CLAREY
MELBOURNE, JANUARY 28

RAFAEL NADAL moved within one match of a record-breaking 21st Grand Slam men's singles title by defeating Matteo Berrettini of Italy, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, in the semifinals of the Australian Open.

Nadal, the 35-year-old Spanish star, is tied with his longtime rivals Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic for the men's record.

But neither Federer nor Djokovic played in this year's tournament. Federer is still recovering from knee surgery and Djokovic, a nine-time Australian Open champion, was deported on the eve of the tournament after his visa was revoked by the Australian government and his appeal was rejected.

Nadal, the only member of the Big Three in Melbourne, has carried the torch surprisingly well after missing most of the second half of the 2021 season with a chronic foot problem that he said threatened his career. When he did return to action in late December for an exhibition in Abu Dhabi, he contracted Covid-19 and developed symptoms at home in Majorca, Spain before making the long trip to Australia.

But he won a warm-up tournament at Melbourne Park before the main event and has now swept through six more matches to reach his sixth and most unexpected Australian Open final. He has won this title just once, beating Federer for the title in 2009. Since then, he has experienced plenty of tennis heartache in Rod Laver Arena: losing a five-hour-and-53-minute final in 2012 to Djokovic and another marathon to Federer in 2017 despite holding a 3-1 lead in the fifth set.

Now, he has a chance to set himself apart. "For me it's all about the Australian Open more than anything else," he said when asked about the prospect of winning No. 21. "I was lucky to win in 2009 but never thought about another chance in 2022."

On Sunday, Nadal will face No. 2 Daniil Medvedev, who defeated No. 4 Stefanos Tsitsipas. Nadal has a winning record against both younger men and now has a 2-0 record against Berrettini, the strapping 25-year-old Italian who has a big serve and heavy forehand and plenty of charisma, but also has a comparatively weak backhand that Nadal exploited repeatedly. Djokovic did the same when he defeated Berrettini in last year's Wimbledon final, and for the first two hours of Friday's match, Berrettini looked frustrated and increasingly forlorn as Nadal kept him off balance and out of sorts with a barrage of crisply sliced serves and high-bouncing forehands.

"I think I started the match playing great," Nadal said. "The first two sets have been the best so far since a long time."

Berrettini had no break points on Nadal's serve until the eighth game of the third set, but with Nadal serving at 3-4, Berrettini sprinted to his right and hit a forehand passing shot winner down the line that appeared to surprise both men. Nadal was soon serving at 0-40 and two points later, Berrettini was able to break him for the first time, slapping a forehand winner. He then served out third set, baring his teeth to his support team as he strutted past Nadal to his chair before the fourth set.

"He's a very solid player, very dangerous," Nadal said. "And in the third, I knew at some

COMEBACK MAN

The win ensured Nadal:

6 Reached his sixth Australian Open final

29 Entered his 29th Grand Slam final

500 Recorded his 500th win on hard court

We need to suffer, and we need to fight. That's the only way I am where I am today. Honestly it means a lot to me to be in the final again here.

RAFAEL NADAL

point he is going to go for the shots. I didn't play a good game with my serve at 3-4, but he played some great shots. The passing shot down the line was unbelievable."

But the patterns of play were still in Nadal's favor as he continued to focus his attacks on Berrettini's backhand. The Italian did hit a two-handed winner to get to 15-30 on Nadal's serve in the opening game of the fourth set, but Nadal won a cat-and-mouse exchange on the next point as Berrettini missed a backhand slice off a good drop shot.

Though Berrettini kept hustling and ripping through his forehands, he could not sustain his comeback, losing his serve in the eighth game of what turned out to be the final set. "We need to suffer, and we need to fight," Nadal said, summing up his philosophy over his nearly 20-year career. "That's the only way I am where I am today. Honestly it means a lot to me to be in the final again here."

Both Federer and Djokovic have taken aim at No. 21 in a Grand Slam final and missed. Federer had two match points on his serve against Djokovic in the 2019 Wimbledon final and failed to convert. Djokovic faced Medvedev in last year's U.S. Open final and lost in straight sets.

Now it is Nadal's turn, even as he continues to say that finishing ahead of Federer and Nadal in the Grand Slam chase is not his obsession or priority. "I will sleep just as well after I retire whether it happens or does not happen," he once said in an interview.

But a second Australian Open title would certainly be most welcome. **NYT**

Barty aims to end Aus drought

Reuters adds: Ash Barty will carry the weight of a nation on her shoulders when she faces big-hitting American Danielle Collins in Saturday's Australian Open final, as she seeks to end her country's 44-year wait for a home champion. The world number one has lost just 21 games to reach her maiden final at Melbourne Park and is primed to become the first local since Chris O'Neil in 1978 to win the Australian Open. Barty, who won the 2019 French Open and is the reigning Wimbledon champion, is also unbeaten in 10 matches this season.



Rafael Nadal celebrates after defeating Matteo Berrettini 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in the semifinal. AP

Medvedev's rant at umpire, & 'sting operation' that caught Tsitsipas for illegal coaching

GAURAV BHATT
JANUARY 28

DURING HIS 7-6(5), 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 win in the Australian Open semifinal over Stefanos Tsitsipas, Daniil Medvedev went on a belligerent rant. The Russian lost his temper late in the second set, berating the chair umpire and accusing his opponent of being coached illegally by his father-coach Apostolos from the sidelines. The meltdown seemingly prompted a 'sting operation' to catch Tsitsipas.

Medvedev's meltdown

Deep in the second set — after serving a pair of double faults that handed Tsitsipas a crucial break — Medvedev received a code violation for an audible obscenity. He then launched into a tirade. "Bro, are you mad? Bro, are you mad? For what? His father can coach every point? Are you stupid?" Medvedev launched at chair umpire Jaume Campistol. "His father can talk every point! His father can talk every point! His father can talk every point! Will you answer my question? Can you answer my question? Can you answer my question, please? Can his father talk every point? Oh my God, you are so bad, man. How can you be so bad in a semi-final of a Grand Slam? Look at me! I'm talking to you!"

Tsitsipas capitalised on the break to serve out the set, and Medvedev continued to berate the umpire, asking for Tsitsipas to get a code violation for on-court coaching. "Next time it should be a code violation. If you don't do it, you are — how can I say it — a small cat," seemingly alluding to the term "pussy".



Daniil Medvedev argues with chair umpire Jaume Campistol. AP

'Sting operation'

Almost an hour later, Tsitsipas was caught receiving on-court coaching. Medvedev's outburst had prompted an official — Greek umpire Eva Asderaki-Moore — to position herself in the tunnel below the Tsitsipas box to potentially catch the father-son duo in the act. *Channel Nine's* cameras picked up Asderaki-Moore signalling for a code violation, drawing a laugh from Tsitsipas. In the commentary booth, Sam Groth and Jim Courier termed it a "sting operation". Co-commentator Todd Woodbridge questioned Tsitsipas senior's actions, wondering what purpose they served. Medvedev won five straight games afterwards to seal the match.

Tsitsipas' coaching episodes

Tsitsipas had already been given code vio-

lations for coaching in his third-round and fourth-round matches against Benoit Paire and Taylor Fritz respectively. During the Fritz match, chair umpire Damien Dumusois warned Tsitsipas, after which the 23-year-old was seen motioning to his father to calm him down.

In the post-match press conference on Friday, Tsitsipas said that he feels he is unfairly targeted by officials. "I'm used to it. They've been targeting me already a long time. I feel like I've gotten a few in the past, and the umpires are always paying attention to my box, never paying attention to the opponent's box. I feel I have been a victim of that for a long time now."

He added he had spent "countless hours trying to figure it out with" his father. "My father, he's a person that when he gets into something when there is a lot of action, his medicine is to talk, and you can't stop it. It's something that he does from nature," the 2021 French Open finalist said. "That was also one of the reasons last year I went out publicly on one of my social media platforms and said that I think coaching should be allowed, simply because coaches do it anyway."

Coaching rules

While on-court coaching is an offence on the ATP Tour, the WTA Tour has allowed on-court coaching since 2008. According to WTA rules, a player can request her coach for advice once each set. However, on-court coaching is forbidden at Grand Slams for both men and women. On the men's side, the only exception for on-court coaching is team events such as Davis Cup and Laver Cup where team captains are on court with the players.

BRIEFLY

Djokovic felicitated amid fresh Covid-19 test doubts

Budva (Montenegro): Tennis star Novak Djokovic received honors at a small Adriatic Sea resort in Montenegro on Friday even as doubts re-emerged about the positive COVID-19 test he used to try to compete in the Australian Open. The BBC on Friday reported discrepancies in the serial numbers of tests Serbian authorities administered to Djokovic in the days prior to his trip to Australia, suggesting possible irregularities in the way they were issued. Senior Serbian health officials have previously said that Djokovic's test was valid and issued by a relevant institution.

ATK Mohun Bagan favourites in derby

Margao: ATK Mohun Bagan will start as favourites against a struggling SC East Bengal in their second derby of the ongoing Indian Super League season here on Saturday. The first derby this season was a walk in the park for the Mariners (3-0) who have since then not had a great season so far but for their rivals, the plane never took off as it took two head coach changes to win their first game, after 11 unsuccessful attempts. East Bengal got the better of Mohun Bagan the last time on January 27 in 2019, making it a long wait for their voracious fans for a taste of victory.

Odisha Open: George stuns 3rd seed Dey

Cuttack: Kiran George upset third seed Subhankar Dey 21-16 10-21 21-19 to advance to the men's singles semifinals while in-form shuttler Malvika Bansod also cruised to the last round in the women's event at the Odisha Open badminton tournament. The 21-year-old Indian will meet compatriot Ansal Yadav, who beat qualifier Tharun Manneppalli 21-15 23-21, in the semifinals on Saturday. Malvika registered a 21-13 16-21 21-17 victory over fellow Indian Tanya Hemanth in a gruelling 58-minute quarterfinal contest.

Aditi off to a flying start at LPGA event

Boca Rio (US): Indian golfer Aditi Ashok got off to a flying start at the Gainbridge LPGA with a superb 6-under 66 to be tied-third and three short of leader Lydia Ko (63) here. Aditi, who missed the cut last time she played here at this course, was in sparkling form, finding the first 17 green in regulation. She faltered only once on the 18th and it ended in a bogey. Another Indian, the LPGA debutant Nishtha Madan, who is playing on an invite, had a struggle with 5-over 77 that began with a birdie but then had five bogeys and a double against one more birdie on 12th.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Women allowed into stadium as Iran seal WC spot

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN, JANUARY 28

MEHDI TAREMI scored from close range to lead Iran's national soccer team to a 1-0 victory over Iraq and seal the Islamic Republic's third straight World Cup berth.

Taremi, the FC Porto striker, scored the only goal of the game in the 48th minute in the second half. He scored from inside the penalty box on a pass from midfielder Ali Reza Jahanbakhsh. Iran's win came in Group A of the Asia region. The win at Tehran Azadi stadium was Iran's earliest jump into the qualifiers. It marked the sixth time Iran has earned a spot in the World Cup in the nation's history.

Despite the fast spread of the aggressive omicron variant of the coronavirus in Iran, the government Wednesday approved the presence of some 10,000 spectators in the 100,000-seat stadium. More than 2,000 were women. It was the second major soccer event that Iranian women have watched in the stadium. In 2019, for the first time in decades, hundreds of Iranian women were allowed to watch Persepolis play the Kashima Antlers of Japan in the Asian Champions League final.

FIFA had long demanded that Iran provide assurances that women will be allowed to attend 2022 World Cup qualifiers. Women have been mainly prohibited from attending men's games and other sports events in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Ecuador one win away

Sao Paulo: Ecuador is one win away from returning to the World Cup after a 1-1 home draw with South American qualifying leader Brazil. Coach Gustavo Alfaro's team will qualify to play in Qatar if it beats Peru next week.

Uruguay rose back to contention after a 1-0 win at Paraguay, with a goal by veteran Luis



Due to Covid restrictions, the Iranian government allowed 10,000 spectators in the 100,000-seat Azadi stadium in Tehran, including more than 2,000 women. AP

Suárez. It was the team's first win for new coach Diego Alonso, who took over after veteran Oscar Tabárez was fired due to poor results. Brazil (36 points) and Argentina (32) have already qualified for the World Cup. Ecuador has 24 points, five ahead of Uruguay. Colombia and Peru, which will clash in Barranquilla, Colombia, on Friday, are at 17 points. Chile has 16 and could be overtaken by Bolivia (15), which will travel to Venezuela — the only team in the region out of contention for a spot.

South America has four direct World Cup spots, and the fifth-place team will play an international playoff for a berth.

Messi rested but Argentina win
Argentina were without Lionel Messi but

goals from Angel Di Maria and Lautaro Martinez gave the visitors all three points against Chile. Argentina, who have already qualified for Qatar, opted to rest Messi after his COVID-19 infection but his Paris Saint Germain team mate Di Maria stepped up to give them the lead with a trademark curling shot from outside the box after 10 minutes.

Chile's English-born striker Ben Brereton equalised just over 10 minutes later when he sent a fine looping header over goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez. Argentina then took advantage of an injury to Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo to seal the win 11 minutes before half time.

Bravo was preparing to be substituted when Rodrigo de Paul fired in a fierce drive

It was the second major soccer event that Iranian women have watched in the stadium. In 2019, for the first time in decades, hundreds of Iranian women were allowed to watch Persepolis play the Kashima Antlers of Japan in the Asian Champions League final

from 30 metres, and with the goalkeeper only able to parry the shot Lautaro Martinez followed up to slot home the rebound.

"We knew it was going to be difficult at high altitude and after a long flight," said Di Maria. "The important thing is that we come away with a win. Everything is always much easier when Leo is here. The important thing is that we keep working like we've been doing and bringing joy to Argentines."

The result, which was also achieved without the presence of talismanic coach Lionel Scaloni, who was isolating at home due to COVID-19, marks Argentina's 28th game without defeat.

Brereton's goal was the first against Argentina in seven qualifiers. "Today we were without the best in the world and our coach as well but we got the victory and this is also for them," said Di Maria.

The result was a huge blow to Chile's hopes of qualifying for Qatar. They are seventh, on 16 points, in the 10-team South American qualifying group with only three matches to play.

The top four qualify automatically and the fifth-placed team goes into a playoff with a side from the Asian confederation.

India U-19 skipper Dhull, five others recover from Covid

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JANUARY 28

SIX INDIAN under 19 players who missed out on league games of ICC under 19 World Cup due to Covid-19 outbreak have been cleared to participate in the quarter-finals match against Bangladesh. However, one under-19 player who flew to the Caribbean as a backup player has also tested positive and is undergoing an isolation period.

Last week, before the second league game against Ireland, six Indian players, out of the 17-member squad, were ruled out of selection. The six players were Sidharth Yadav, Manav Parakh, Vasu Vats, captain Yash Dhull, SK Rasheed and Aaradhya Yadav missed out on two league games. Among the infected, it was reported that Dhull had the worst symptoms.

The Indian board had sent five players as a backup for players who missed out due to the Covid-19 break in the Indian dressing room. These players were Uday Saharan, Abhishek Porel, Rishith Reddy, Ansh Gosai and Pushpendra Singh Rathore.

It is learnt that one player tested positive while others will be available for selection. "All six players who had missed out will be available for selection."

They even did practice in the West Indies. However, one player who tested after reaching the West Indies has been isolated, a BCCI official said.

It was reported that the players caught the virus from a support staff member. After winning the Under-19 Asia Cup in the UAE, the Indian team had travelled to the Caribbean via Amsterdam.

A support staff member, who is fine

9 Canada players test positive

Tarouba (Trinidad): Two Plate competition matches of the ICC Under-19 men's Cricket World Cup, involving Canada were on Friday cancelled after nine players from the team tested positive for COVID-19.

The matches — Canada vs Scotland and Canada vs either of Uganda or PNG — were to be played on Saturday and Sunday at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy here. The players will now undertake a period of isolation where their welfare will be monitored by the event medical team, the ICC said in a statement.

Because of the COVID-positive cases, the Canadian team has insufficient available players to be able to take any further part in the event.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
U-19 World Cup: Playing tonight, India vs Bangladesh, 7.30pm, Live on Star Sports Network

now, had tested and caught the infection in transit and it was believed the players contracted the virus from him. The entire squad had sequestered for five-day hard quarantine in Guyana. They had three RT-PCR tests taken in that period but the reports took as long as 48 hours and the third test report was only made available on the seventh day.

The BCCI has been in constant touch with management and the coaching staff.