



Back HC nod for marital rape trial: Karnataka to top court

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

AT A time when the BJP-led government at the Centre is still to formulate its stand on petitions to recognise and criminalise marital rape, the party's government in Karnataka has come out in support of a state High Court order which gave the go-ahead for prosecution of a man over allegations of rape levelled by his wife.

In an affidavit filed last month in the Supreme Court in response to a plea by the husband who has challenged the HC order, the state said the "High Court of Karnataka has considered all the questions of law involved in the present petition and it does not require any interference by" the Supreme Court.

It said the HC had concluded that the "charge framed against" him "for alleged offence punishable under section 376 of IPC for alleged rape of his wife, in the peculiar facts of this case, does not warrant any interference" and "it is a matter of trial".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE WORLD

**IN U.S., ZELENSKY PROPOSES 10-POINT PEACE FORMULA TO BIDEN** **PAGE 16**

17TH ROUND OF CORPS COMMANDER-LEVEL TALKS

First talks after Tawang clash: India, China agree on stability along the LAC in Ladakh

Frank and in-depth discussion held at Moldo border point: Joint statement**SHUBHAJIT ROY**
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

LESS THAN two weeks after Indian and Chinese troops clashed in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9, military commanders from the two sides held a fresh round of high-level talks on December 20 to try and resolve the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh.

A joint statement issued Thursday said the talks were "frank and in-depth" and "in line with the guidance provided by the leaders of the two countries to work for the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest".

"In the interim, the two sides agreed to maintain the security and stability on the ground in the Western sector," it stated, referring to the eastern Ladakh region.

In September, Indian and Chinese troops disengaged in the

Gogra-Hot Spring area, the last of the acknowledged "friction points" that were discussed over 16 rounds of Corps Commander level talks that began in June 2020, after Chinese incursions at several points weeks earlier.

Tensions in Ladakh continue over the presence of Chinese troops in Depsang, intrusions in Demchok and the rapid Chinese infrastructure build-up, including two bridges over Pangong Tso that will reduce Chinese mo-

bilisation time on the lake's southern bank.

Stating that the 17th round of India-China Corps Commander level meeting was held at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Chinese side on December 20, Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said the two sides exchanged views on the resolution of the relevant issues along the LAC in the Western

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**EXPLAINED****The remaining issues**

THE INDIAN pushback in Tawang came at a time when issues remain to be resolved in Ladakh, where there is tension over the presence of PLA troops in Depsang, intrusion in Demchok and Chinese infra build-up along LAC.

**PM Narendra Modi at the review meeting on Thursday. ANI**

Step up surveillance, use masks, encourage precaution dose: PM at Covid review meet

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

AMID RISING Covid-19 cases in China and some other countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday cautioned against complacency and directed officials to strengthen surveillance measures, especially at international airports.

Modi, who chaired a high-level meeting to review the Covid situation in the country, also urged people to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour, including wearing masks in crowded public places, especially in view of the upcoming festive season. He emphasised the need to encourage people to take the precaution (third) dose, especially the vulnerable and elderly groups.

While over 90% of eligible beneficiaries have received the first two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, the coverage of the precaution dose, which began earlier this year, has remained low. In a statement in Parliament on Thursday, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said only over 25% of eligible beneficiaries had got the third dose. He said the states were being advised to

BUSINESS AS USUAL**By UNNNY****KARNATAKA MAKES MASKS MUST IN CLOSED SPACES****KEJRIWAL: NO CASE OF SUB-VARIANT FOUND IN CAPITAL**
PAGES 3, 6, 9

increase community vigilance and create awareness about the precaution dose.

Mandaviya also told Parliament that officials had restarted random testing of international passengers on arrival. The practice was stopped **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

SIT to probe Salián death, BJP for narco test on Aaditya

ALOK DESHPANDE & VALLABH OZARKAR
NAGPUR, DECEMBER 22

MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who is also the state Home Minister, informed the Assembly Thursday that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) would be formed to conduct a probe into the death of Disha Salián, former manager of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

The issue of Salián's death was raised in the House by MLAs of the BJP and the Eknath Shinde faction of Shiv Sena.

Later in the day, BJP MLA Nitesh Rane demanded that a **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

2 in Pak among 11 named by NIA for killing Udaipur tailor: Bid to create terror

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday filed a chargesheet against 11 persons, including two Pakistani nationals, in connection with the killing of Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor in Udaipur who was hacked to death on June 28 by two men who also released a video clip of the murder.

Kanhaiya Lal was targeted for sharing remarks made by suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma on the Prophet. The two attackers, identified as Mohammad Riyaz Attari and Mohammad Ghose, were ar-

**Kanhaiya Lal was killed on June 28**

rested the same day.

"Today, we have filed a chargesheet against 11 persons, identified as Salman and Abu Ibrahim, who are both in Karachi, and others who are residents of Udaipur — Mohammad Riyaz Attari, Mohammad Ghose, Mohsin Khan, Asif Hussain, Mohammad Mohsin, Vasim Ali, Farhad Mohammad Sheikh, Mohammed Javed, Muslim Khan — before the NIA **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**Retd ACP Madhukar Zende at Goa's O'Coqueiro, where he caught Sobhraj. The cafe has named a dish after him.**

leased Friday.

"A competent court has decided on the issue and I am a very small man to have any opinion on it. I am a mute spectator," Zende, 84, tells *The Indian Express*. But after years of retellings, he **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

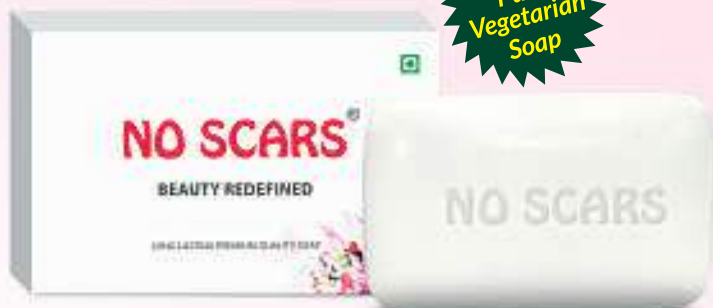
THIS CONVERSATION in April 1986 with "Bikini Killer" Charles Sobhraj has played out in retired ACP Madhukar Zende's mind several times over the years. He was reminded of it again on Wednesday after the Supreme Court of Nepal ordered the French citizen's release within 15 days and deportation to France on "humanitarian grounds". Sobhraj is expected to be re-

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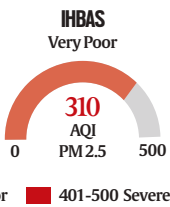
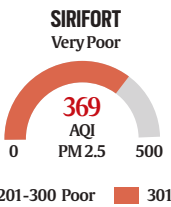
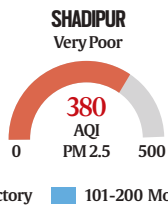
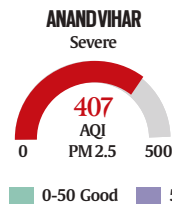
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MIN: 6
1.9°C below normal

HOLDS MEETING WITH HEALTH DEPT

No case of variant that's driving Covid surge in China: CM

ANKITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THERE IS no case of the BF.7 Covid variant, which is driving the surge in cases in China, in the national capital right now, said Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday. The announcement was made after he held a meeting with senior health department officials.

"Not only has this variant not shown up in patients, but also in sewage samples being tested regularly. Over 90% of cases are tied to the XBB variant or its sub-variants. There is no need to worry at present," said Kejriwal.

He also said the health department is conducting genome sequencing of all positive cases being reported in the city. He added that testing capacity and other Covid-related infrastructure have been amplified. "We have the capacity of conducting 1 lakh tests. We have around 8,000 Covid-dedicated beds for now. In the last wave, we had around 25,000 beds and this time, if required, we can procure around 36,000 beds."

On the oxygen shortage witnessed last year, he said the city now has enough storage capacity for oxygen as well. "Last time, we had an issue with storing oxygen. Now, we have the capacity of storing 928 mt tonne oxygen. We have 6,000 oxygen cylinders in reserve if needed. In 2021, we did not have tankers to procure oxygen from other states. Now we have 15 tankers to procure oxygen," he added.

Kejriwal requested the public

CM ON COVID PREPARATIONS

1 lakh testing capacity

8,000 dedicated Covid beds

928 tonne oxygen storing capacity

6,000 oxygen cylinders in reserve if needed

15 tankers to procure oxygen from other states

380 ambulances

to take the precaution dose, adding that only 24% of people have been vaccinated with it. "First and second doses have been provided to almost 100%. I request people to take the precaution dose. During the meeting, we again discussed another door-to-door campaign to give the precaution dose to people," he said.

He said that currently, the city has around 380 ambulances and an order has been placed for more.

At the meeting with officials, the CM asked them to check and ensure that machines and equipment related to Covid treatment at various Delhi government hospitals are functioning. According to a senior official, as machines and equipment related to Covid treatment have not been in frequent use for more than one-and-

a-half years now, hospitals will have to inform the health department about how many of those are under annual maintenance contract (AMC) and the ones that require an AMC. As the machines go through wear and tear, the official said it has to be checked if they are fully functional.

Officials also need to ensure that liquid oxygen plants remain functional as they have high maintenance and operation cost. "Extra manpower will be kept ready, tenders will be awarded as and when needed. We will see which infrastructure needs to be revamped, including Bipap, liquid concentrators, oxygen cylinders and liquid oxygen tanks," said the official. "We now have enough experience and the CM has asked us to tie up with suppliers of liquid oxygen as soon as possible," the official added.

During the meeting, it was also decided that patients with flu admitted to hospitals will also be tested for Covid. According to a senior official, the health department is mulling over starting RT-PCR testing in remote mohalla clinics as well.

Over the last 24 hours, Delhi recorded 10 cases out of over 2,400 people who were tested. One death was also recorded. According to official data, since October this year, 53% of deaths among those who had Covid were due to the disease, while the remaining were due to co-morbid conditions. While 24% people have taken the precaution dose, the uptake is more among health-care workers — 62% — and those above the age of 60 — 48%.

Advice from city's doctors: No need to panic, wear masks in public places, take booster dose

ANKITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

AMIDST THE spurt in Covid cases across China, doctors in the capital and experts who have been actively involved in tackling the previous waves said there is no need to panic as the BF.7 variant is not lethal and has not been found in Delhi yet.

According to Dr S K Sarin, "There is no hesitation this time and the governments immediately started working as soon as we witnessed the surge in other countries. Action-taken plans have been in place within 24 hours of the alert. The lesson learnt is that we are prepared and know the road ahead."

Doctors are of the view that there is no requirement for restrictions anymore as it has not been fruitful in the past. However, some suggested that wearing masks is advisable.

Dr Jugal Kishore, head of community medicine department at Safdarjung Hospital, said despite restrictions, a chunk of cases was reported in the last two waves of



Over the last 24 hours, Delhi recorded 10 cases out of over 2,400 people that were tested. *Abhinav Saha*

the pandemic. He added that while the mandate on masks is a policy matter, it is advised to use them when one suffers from a cough or shows symptoms. "The government is proactive and its directions are scientific. One should be cautious considering the rise in cases in several countries, but any new variant of omicron is unlikely to cause any major

trouble in India," he added.

Dr Sarin said it is a social responsibility to wear masks if people are infected or have a cough and cold. "With the festive season ahead, we need to be cautious and use masks in public... There is a catchphrase that 'variants may come and go and may probably emerge every day', but if you wear a mask, you may not

get it," he added.

On the other hand, Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, epidemiologist, public policy and health systems expert, said masks now have "limited" use. "The utility of masks, at the current level of transmission in India, is very limited and an individual decision. Government conducting meetings is the right step. When there is a surge in any part of the world, the government needs to analyse the risk. However, there is no need to panic. There is no reason to believe the surge in China will result in a rise in cases in India. We are in a safe zone. Neither has anything changed for India due to China nor will it in the days ahead," said Dr Lahariya.

He added that "we have sufficient infrastructure to face any surge" and was optimistic that a surge might not come. "This is because we have increased vaccine coverage and high natural immunity due to the infection, and also because the BF.7, a sub-variant of omicron, was already detected in India 3 months ago," he added.

Doctors said the preparedness by the government and

other stakeholders is all set. "As (Delhi CM Arvind) Kejriwal announced that there is enough oxygen and bed availability, we can improve capacity for admissions at any time. We know the protocol. Extra beds prepared at various centres are still left and more can be added, however, short the duration is. We have vaccines and now more people should be encouraged to get the booster shots," Dr Kishore added.

Dr Sarin also said the city is well prepared when it comes to bed, oxygen and testing. "The drug and supplies, IT network, and reporting is very well in place."

Dr Rommel Tikko, Director, Internal Medicine at Max Super Speciality Hospital in Saket, emphasised on the importance of booster shots: "Covid is hardly present in India right now, but you never know when a surge might come... I feel it is very unlikely numbers will go up the way it has in the past. However, we have to keep tabs, conduct gene sequencing, and monitor for new strains. So, whoever is eligible for a booster should take it irrespective of the risks, to be on the safer side."

Bishnoi refused to submit voice sample, Delhi Police tells court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE DELHI Police Special Cell Thursday informed a court that gangster Lawrence Bishnoi refused to record his voice sample in connection with a case lodged against him and his gang under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). Bishnoi was brought to Delhi from Punjab, where he was in jail as the main accused in singer Sidhu Moosewala's murder, after police suspected he used phones of jailed Indian Mujahideen operatives to contact his associates. Police had booked Bishnoi and his gang under MCOCA in 2021 for alleged involvement in extortion, robbery and murder cases.

Last month, the Special Cell found that Bishnoi had allegedly used a phone number also used by IM operatives at jail number 8 in Delhi's Tihar jail. Before he was taken to Punjab earlier this year, Bishnoi too was in the same jail. "The said number was being analysed since March — calls and messages were being intercepted after we found jailed IM operatives were using it and we wanted to catch them. It was then found that this number was being shared with Bishnoi, who was in

the same barrack, to contact his associates," claimed a source. "The conversation was mainly with his associates in India and (gangster) Goldy Brar in Canada. One of the intercepted calls was of the gang discussing Moosewala's death. Other calls were vague. The gang runs an extortion racket from inside jail and uses code words," the source claimed.

To confirm this, police approached the court and a judge granted permission to take Bishnoi and his jailed associates Sampat Nehra, Bintu and Deepak to the forensic lab.

Bishnoi and Nehra were taken to CBI's central forensic science lab in Lodhi Colony Wednesday. While Nehra recorded his sample, Bishnoi refused. Bintu gave his sample earlier. The court said, "Once the accused in his discretion opted not to give a voice sample, legal consequences will follow. No further directions are warranted in the facts of the present case."

Bishnoi's counsel Vishal Chopra said, "Delhi Police has been pushing for a voice sample but Bishnoi said no... Police have been basing their claims on intercepted calls but we have never seen the phone. Nothing has come on record. If a phone would have been recovered, that would be evidence."

Police bust 'Messi' gang, 4 held

New Delhi: Police have arrested a 43-year-old man, who is a fan of Argentina football star Lionel Messi, for robbing multiple people in South Delhi.

"Messi gang" is involved in more than 55 cases of phone theft, said police. According to

police, the modus operandi of 'Messi' gang was to commit theft and snatching in crowded areas. "The gang leader is a football fan and is a footballer himself. He often referred to himself as Messi," said police. His three associates have also been arrested. **ENS**

Ashram flyover to be shut for 45 days, Barapullah, ITO to see rush

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

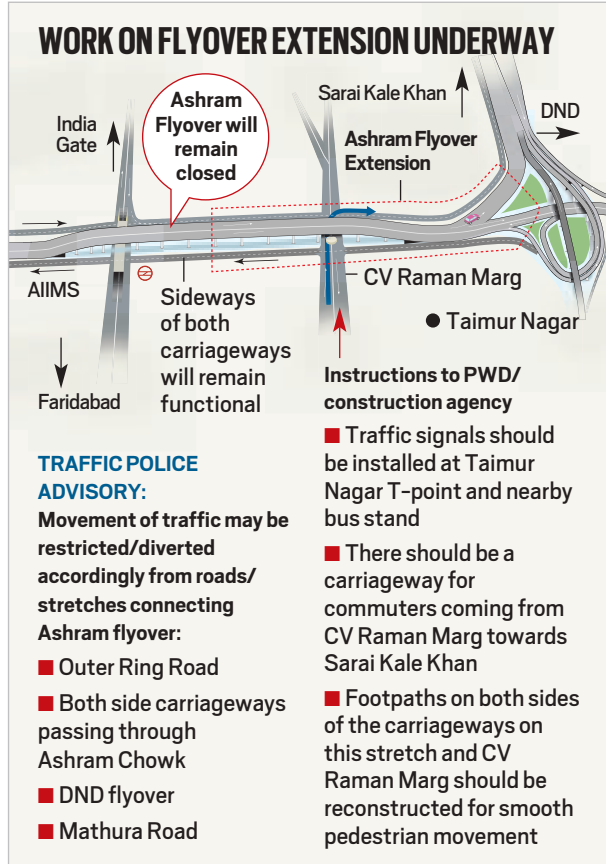
DELHIITES' TROUBLES at Ashram are far from over, with the flyover set to be shut for 45 days soon because of the extension work which is currently underway.

The flyover is one of the busiest sections in the city as Mathura Road and DND Flyway both connect to it. It sees over 3 lakh vehicles, including heavy trucks and lorries, passing through each day. The junction has been at different stages of construction for several years now, with the Delhi Metro, an underpass and now the flyover construction underway at the site over the years. In the current project, the flyover is being extended to connect directly to DND Flyway.

According to PWD officials, the final dates for closure are yet to be decided. "People need not panic as there will be no major change even if the Ashram flyover is closed. The portion below the flyover will remain open for traffic. It is a matter of just 45 days and once the integration work is done, travel between Delhi and Noida, Central, East and Southeast part of Delhi will be smoother," said a senior PWD official.

The extension work was supposed to be completed by the end of December, but the project was delayed. The PWD is yet to confirm the completion date. "We can estimate the completion date only after the flyover is closed and the integration work is completed," said an official.

He added, "Traffic police have given us permission to shut the flyover for 45 days. Initially, the closure was supposed to start



next week but as it is a festive week..., we have not set a final date yet and are trying to avoid inconvenience to commuters. VIP movement and other preparations will also have to be looked at. Dates will be set keeping all these things in mind. The flyover will not be closed in a sudden manner. Advisories, route diversions and signboards on ground will be there to facilitate traffic movement."

PWD will hold a meeting with Delhi traffic police at the end of this week to set the dates.

Officials added that people coming from Noida can take either Barapullah flyover to Pragati Maidan stretch during peak traffic hours. Barapullah flyover, Sarai Kale Khan, ITO, NH-24, Mathura Road and Kalindi Kunj are expected to witness heavy traffic in the coming days.

A senior traffic police officer said, "We've been instructed about temporary closure of Ashram flyover and increased deployment in the area to implement the orders. Diversions have been created and barricades put up."

Infant dies after surgery: Doctors, staff of Greater Noida hospital booked

Greater Noida: A day after a one-and-a-half-year-old baby died at Greater Noida's Yatharth Hospital after plastic surgery, police Tuesday booked nursing staff and doctors for negligence. Hospital officials, however, denied negligence and said the post-mortem report would provide clarity on the cause of death.

In an FIR, the infant's father told police that he took his daughter to the hospital Sunday night as she had a nose injury. He alleged she was later admitted to the paediatric ICU. He said his daughter's condition worsened with her lips turning black Monday evening and alleged that despite informing nursing staff, the doctor was

not called. Officials at Yatharth Hospital said they were not aware of the FIR and there was no negligence on their part, adding that the child died of cardiac arrest.

SHO Anjani Singh at Beta-2 police station said they received the post-mortem report and viscera samples. "Further probe will be carried out," he said. **ENS**

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Want bail plea withdrawn: Aaftab to court

New Delhi: Aaftab Poonawala, accused of allegedly killing his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar, told a Delhi court Thursday he wanted to withdraw his bail application, which his lawyers claimed was moved over a miscommunication.

Poonawala appeared via video conferencing before Additional Sessions Judge Vrinda Kumari and informed the judge he would like to withdraw his bail application. His lawyer, MS Khan, clarified to court that there was a miscommunication between his team and Poonawala. "We spoke to him. We spoke for 50 minutes. It was decided we will withdraw the bail application," Khan said.

Meanwhile, police moved an application seeking permission to obtain his voice samples, sources said. The application is expected to be heard Friday.

On the last hearing, the court was due to take up Poonawala's bail when it was informed he would not like to proceed forward with his application as it was moved erroneously. **ENS**

Better visibility in Delhi as compared to neighbouring states, satellite shows ‘fog hole’

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

AN IMAGE from the INSAT-3DR satellite, on Wednesday morning, showed a blanket of fog lying over a large part of the Indo-Gangetic Plain, save for a hole of sorts over Delhi.

The image from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) could point to what may be a 'fog hole' over Delhi, according to IMD scientist R K Jenamani.

At the IGI Airport Wednesday morning, the lowest visibility was 350 m having improved from around 50 m on Tuesday. Visibility at Safdarjung was even better at around 500 m between 5.30 am and 8.30 am. While fog over Delhi was mostly shallow to moderate on Wednesday, dense to very dense fog was reported over parts of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and northwest Rajasthan.

What brought better visibility to Delhi even as its neighbours were enveloped in dense fog? IMD scientists pointed to in-



The satellite image from INSAT-3DR. Credit: IMD, Delhi

crease in the minimum temperature Wednesday on account of southwesterly winds. The minimum temperature early on Wednesday at Safdarjung station was 7.1 degrees Celsius, a notch higher than Tuesday.

Jenamani said the hole over Delhi in the satellite image points to an 'urban fog hole'.

A 2018 paper published in Geophysical Research Letters, a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by the American

EXPLAINED Days ahead

FOGGY MORNINGS are likely to continue over the next six days. IMD has issued an alert for 'dense' fog in Delhi on Friday and moderate to dense fog over the weekend.

Geophysical Union, attributed such 'holes' in fog to urban heat islands. The paper, titled 'Urban Heat Island Over Delhi Punches Holes in Widespread Fog in the Indo-Gangetic Plains' authored by Ritesh Gautam of Environmental Defense Fund in USA and Manoj K Singh, pointed to 'holes' in fog over major urban centres in Indo-Gangetic Plain. It noted that land surface temperature is higher over cities owing to urban heat island effect, and increased temperature contributes to dissipation of fog. The urban heat island effect is generally seen in densely populated

built-up areas and is also associated with higher nighttime or minimum temperatures in cities.

For the paper, the researchers used 17 years – 2000-2016 – of data from MODIS, an instrument on board a NASA satellite. While the paper noted the occurrence of fog holes over other cities like Amritsar and Ludhiana as well, it added that the "highest frequency of fog holes" in the Indo-Gangetic Plain was found over Delhi. "We found >90 occurrences of fog holes over Delhi based on fog classification during the 17-year winter period from 2000 to 2016, which were confirmed in daily satellite imagery," the paper read. It also explained that the dissipation of fog intensifies as the surface becomes warmer "plausibly leading to satellite-observed holes in fog".

In 2016, NASA's Earth Observatory also mentioned these 'holes' coinciding with cities in North India including Delhi, surmising that fog was burning off faster over cities since they tend to be warmer.

MHA suspends former Delhi prisons head

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE MINISTRY of Home Affairs (MHA) has suspended former Director-General (Prisons) Sandeep Goel, days after a three-member panel formed by L-G V K Saxena recommended departmental proceedings against him for allegedly extending VIP treatment to jailed AAP leader Satyendar Jain.

Sources said the MHA's order was issued Wednesday evening and conveyed to the Delhi Police headquarters later in the night. The order, issued on December 21, by under-secretary Rakesh Kumar Singh states, "Whereas departmental proceedings against Goel are contemplated; now therefore, the President of India, in exercise of powers conferred under rule 3 of All India Services (discipline and appeal) rules, 1969, hereby places Sandeep Goel, IPS of 1989 batch AGMUT-cadre, under suspension with immediate effect."

Kumar further states, "It is further ordered that during the period for which this order shall remain in force, headquarters of Goel shall be Delhi and he will not leave headquarters without obtaining prior permission of competent authority. It is also ordered that Goel, during the period of suspension, would be entitled to a subsistence allowance at an amount equal to leave salary which a member of service would have drawn if he had been on leave on half-average pay or on half pay... in addition, dearness allowance, admissible on basis of such leave salary, under 4 (1)(a), subject to furnishing of certificate to effect that he has not been employed in any business, profession, or vocation for a profit/remuneration salary." The L-G issued an order on

November 11 asking Goel to report to Delhi Police HQ till further orders and appointed Sanjay Beniwal as new DG (Prisons).

Before Goel's transfer, alleged common Sukesh Chandrasekhar, an accused in a Rs 200-crore extortion case, accused the officer of allegedly taking money from him for his safety in prison.

The report by the committee, comprising principal secretaries of Delhi government's Home, Law and Vigilance departments, has noted "collusion" on part of then DG (Prisons) Goel with Jain, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering case on May 31.

In its inquiry, it found that after scanning video footage provided by the ED, Goel was seen talking to Jain in his cell on October 6 for around 50 minutes (from 6.39 pm to 7.29 pm). "This reflects Goel was quite close to Jain and exhibited his unbecoming conduct at the cost of decorum. Goel also submitted his comments to the home department and had tried to project as if nothing was amiss in jail. He also tried to give colour to massage being done to Jain as if it was his health/medical necessity. Departmental proceedings are also recommended against him for lapses leading to preferential treatment to Jain," the committee has found.

It found that alleged repeated entry of Jain's family members into the *deadthi* (checking area) of jail no 7 without any order of competent authority was a blatant and serious violation of Delhi Prison Rules, 2018. "*Deadthi* is not a place earmarked for purpose of *mulakat* of prisoners but is considered to be a very secure place owing to inward and outward movements of inmates by jail authorities. Therefore, strict discipline has to be maintained, otherwise it poses a threat to jail security. The fact that this happened cannot be without support of jail administration, particularly jail superintendent and DG (Prisons)," it found.

BRIEFLY

Noida Police seize over 4,500 litres of liquor

Noida: The Gautam Buddha Nagar police said they busted an alleged interstate "liquor smuggling gang" Thursday, with the seizure of around 4,500 litres of liquor. While three accused were arrested, five are absconding, police said. Police said they have also seized four vehicles, several mobile phones, and Rs 40,300 cash.

Child porn: 105 cases filed, 36 held since Nov 1

New Delhi: Delhi Police cyber cell registered more than 105 cases and arrested 36 people involved in child pornography in Delhi since November 1, according to a statement issued Thursday. Under Operation Masoom (mitigation of adolescent sexually-offensive online material), police, with help of US-based National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, screened all cyber-tipline reports on the National Crime Records Bureau. **ENS**

MCD's Central Library shifted from Town Hall to Civic Centre

New Delhi: The Central Library of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi set up in 1958 at the Town Hall in the walled city, has been shifted to the Civic Centre, officials said Thursday. The 1860s-era Town Hall in Chandni Chowk served as the MCD headquarters from the time of its inception till it was moved to the Civic Centre. **PTI**

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



MAJ HPS SANDHU, SC
04 JUN 1963 – 23 DEC 1993

We pay homage to Maj HPS Sandhu, SC (Posthumous), who was killed in action while fighting the enemy in OP RAKSHAK, J&K in the year 1993. His dauntless courage and sacrifice will forever inspire the organisation.

CO and All Ranks 6th Battalion Brigade of The GUARDS. BRAVEHEARTS OF 5/1 GORKHA RIFLES 23 DEC



Rfn Khyam Bahadur Thapa



Rfn Resham Bahadur Sijapati

On this day 5046585F Rfn Khyam Bahadur Thapa, 5048212X Rfn Chura Bahadur Gurung and 5048365F Rfn Resham Bahadur Sijapati of 5/1 Gorkha Rifles made the supreme sacrifice during 'OP RAKSHAK' on 23 Dec 2004 in a true act of valour. The brave soldiers will always be remembered for their enthusiasm. To these brave hearts we pledge that we shall always be guided by their immortal spirit and make their name proud.

CO AND ALL RANKS, 5/1 GORKHA RIFLES

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

अल्पकालीन ई- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/KHUNTI/32/2022-23

कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :-

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	खूँटी जिला के खूँटी प्रखण्ड में सिल्डा कालामाटी पथ पर उर्वरि मसना के पास काँची नदी पर उच्चस्तरिय पुल निर्माण।	4,00,87,700 /—	8,02,000 /—	10,000 /—	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 30 / 12 / 2022

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय – 16 / 01 / 2023 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक

4. ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी / मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रखेत्र, एफ० एफ० पी० मवन, धुर्वा, राँची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रघन की राशि, Bank Credit Certificate एवं Affidavit (Section X) जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय 17 / 01 / 2023 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक

5. निविदा खोलने का स्थान – मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रखेत्र, एफ० एफ० पी० मवन, धुर्वा, राँची

6. तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 18 / 01 / 2023 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे

7. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी।


8. ई-निविदा प्रक्रोक्ष का दूरमास सं० – 62024026505

9. निविदा शुल्क राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निर्गत ड्राफ्ट या बैकर्स चेक जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी के पदनाम से देय हो देना होगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

PR 285676 Rural Development (22-23)_D

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी



Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank

Regional Office : Patna

Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI Act, 2002

Auction Sale of immovable Property mortgaged to the Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act- 2002 read with rules 5,6,7,8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement rules,2002), Possession of the following property has been taken over by the Authorized Officer, pursuant to the Notice issued U/s 13 (2), 13 (4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act- 2002 in the borrowers accounts mentioned below with a right to sell the same on **"AS IS WHERE IS" AND "AS IS WHAT IS"** basis for realization of the Bank's Dues on **30.01.2023 started from 11 A.M.**

S. No.	Branch	Borrower's Name / Guarantor's Name	Details Of Property (Name Of Mortgagor)	(A) Demand Notice -13(2) (B) Possession Notice-13(4) (C) Balance-Rs + Future Intt & charges	(A) Reserve Price Rs. (B) EMD (C) Incremental Bid Amount
1.	KAB	M/S Smriti RiceMill , Prop.- Ramashraya Sharma , S/O- Sri Gopal Sharma (73171B00000029, 731787000000301)	Mortgagor- Ramashray Sharma s/o sri.Gopal sharma, Vill+ P.O.-Kab,P.S.- Rani Talab,Dulhin Bazar,Dist- Patna.801104, Land Details- 7.81 Dismil, Deed no-4357 Dtd-12.08.2009, Mauza -Lathar kab, khata no-1384,1638 & 1425, Thana No.-42, Plot no-3865, 3866, 4485 & 12159 situated at Rani Talab, within the Registration subdistrict office –Bihta, Patna. Boundary- North- Road, South- Manorma Devi, East- Harish kumar, West- Self.	A) 18-04-2016 B) 30-05-2017 C) ₹1527705/- + Intt.	(A) ₹13,40,000/- (B) ₹1,34,000/- (C) ₹10,000/-
2.	Phulwarisarif	Maa Sherawali Enterprises, Prop-Sri Kunal Singh S/O-Sri Vishwanath Singh(74118700000842& 7411jh00001413) , At- Mahammadpur ,P.O.- Sampaptchak , P.S. Malsalami , Dist.- Patna	Mortgager-Sri Mukesh Kumar (Guarantor in Loan A.C., Borrower name- Sri Kunal Singh, S/O- Sri Vishwananth Singh. At-Mahammadpur, District-Patna, Land details-Deed No-18491-dtd-210.09.2018.& Mortgage Deed no-4918 dtd-06.06.2019Area--12.05 Dismil, Mauza-Mahammadpur Baratpur, Thana No-35, Tauzi No.-17, Khata No-146, Plot No-689, Dist- Patna. Boundary-North-Sri Manohar Singh,South-20 Ft Wide Rasta, , East-Kallu Singh,West- Kunal Singh	A) 07.06.2022 B) 30-08-2022 C) ₹2910943.26 + Intt	(A) ₹84,20,000/- (B) ₹8,42,000/- (C) ₹100000/-
3.	Dulhin Bazar	Sri Jai Ram Prasad, S/O- Late Ram Ayodhya Prasad (7314AB000005322), At- Singhara ,P.O.-Dulhin Bazaar, Dist.- Patna	Mortgager-Sri Jai Ram Prasad, S/O-Late Ram Ayodhya Prasad, At Singhara, At-Singhara, P.O- Dulhin Bazar, Dist-PatnaLand Details- Deed No-6367 (Reg.Mortgage Deed), Dtd-03.10.2017, Area-84 Dismil,Mauza- Singhara, Thana No-235, Khata No-136.281, Tauzi No-4567, Plot No.- 176.509. Boundary-North-Akhildeo Mahto & Others, South-Chandra Deep Pandit & Others , East- Aahar & Others , West- Chandra Deep Mahto	A) 02.06.2022 B) 26 -08-2022 C) ₹2177714/-	(A) ₹42,80,000/- (B) ₹4,28,000/- (C) ₹10,000/-
4.	Masaurhi	Mrs. Madhumala Kumari, W/O-Manoj Kumar (7318JH00006261), At- Kansar,P.O-Masaurhi, Dist- Patna	Mortgager-Mr. Manoj Kumar, S/O- Ashok Kumar Sharma & Mrs. Usha Devi, W/O-Ashok Kumar Sharma At-Kansara , Ghorahuan, Dist.-Patna. Land Details- Deed No-170 Dtd-16.01.2013, Area-10 dhur(680 Sq. Ft.),Mauza-Sonukura, Tauzi No-1618, Khata No-49, Khesra No-163,Thana No-153. Boundary- North-Akhilesh Sharma, South- Rasta 12 Ft.,East-Amrendra Sharma, West-Pintu Kumar	A) 22.10.2021 B) 15.03.2022 C) ₹1106477/-	(A) ₹22,30,000/- (B) ₹2,23,000/- (C) ₹100000/-
5.	BYAPUR	Mr. Sunil Kumar, S/O-Sri Hirawan Choudhary (7483NC00000041), At & P.O.-Byapur, P.S.MANER, Dist.- Patna	Mortgager-Mr. Sunil Kumar, S/O-Sri Hirawan Choudhary,Mohalla-Gola Road,Jhakhari Mahadeo, P.S.-Danapur , Dist-Patna. Land Details-Deed No-8652 Dtd-05.10.2012. Area-1.24 Dismil (540.5 Sq. Ft), Mauza-Danapur Shahajadpur,Khata No-514, Plot No.-724, Thana No-21. Boundary-North-Nij, South- Rajesh Kumar, East-10 Ft. Rasta, West- Parmeshwar Singh.	A) 26.07.2022 B) 26.09.2022 C) ₹1442915.25	(A) ₹22,30,000/- (A) ₹2,23,000/- (C) ₹100000/-
6.	Anandpur	Pintu Sweets ,Prop.- Randhir Kumar, S/O-Late Vijay Saw (73088700003169), At-Deokuli, P.O-Musepur, Dist.-Patna	Mortgager-Mrs. Dharmshila Devi, W/O- Late Vijay Saw At-Deokuli, P.S.- Bihta, Dist-Patna-Land Details-Deed No-936 , Dtd.-12.02.2001, Area-01 Katha, Khata No-58, Plot No-1508, Tauzi No-2854,THANA No-55, Boudinary-North-Aerodram Rd., South-Pattidar Suga Choudhary, East-Rajnath Singh, West-Road.	A) 10.06.2022 B) 29.08.2022 C) ₹737677.40	(A) ₹18,90,000/- (A) ₹1,89,000/- (C) ₹100000/-
7.	Danapur Nasirganj	M/S K.D. Leathers, Prop.- Komal Devi W/O-Vijay Kumar Das (74638700000130), At- Nasirganj Near Vaishali Flour Mill) , ESI Colony , P.O. Digha , DIST- Patna	Mortgagor- Mrs. Shakunti Devi, W/O-Kali Das, At-Nasirganj, Near Vaishali Flour Mill, ESI Colony, Danapur, Dist- Patna. Land Details-Deed No-6032, dtd-18.06.2003, Area-10 Dhur, Khata No.-1854, Tauzi No-5723, Khesra No-687, Mauza- Digha, Thana No-01, P.s. Digha, Patna, Boundary-North- Abdul Karim, South- Jamun Ram, East- Nagarpalka Gali West- Mala Devi & Asha Devi	A)18.11.2021 B) 03.03.2022 C) ₹1287978/-+ Intt	(A) ₹20,30,000/- (A) ₹2,03,000/- (C) ₹100000/-

Date of Auction 30.01.2023, Venue – Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank, Regional Office, PATNA

1. For participation in the Auction, each intending bidder has to make a refundable deposit (EMD) by way of Pay Order/ Demand Draft, in favour of Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank, Payable at Patna. The said EMD will have to be deposited with the Authorized Officer by **30-01-2023** till 11 A.M.The said deposit shall be adjusted in case of successful bidders.

2. The authorized Officer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bid/offer or adjure/postpone / cancel the auction Sale without assigning any reason thereof.

3. The aforesaid property shall not be sold below the reserve price mentioned.

4. If the Bid/ Offer is accepted by the Authorized Officer, the successful Bidder who has offered the highest sale price in the bid has to pay a Deposit of 25% of the Bid Amount (inclusive of EMD) of the Sale Price immediately on the same day to the Authorized Officer, failing which the Earnest Money Deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall forthwith be sold again.

5. The successful Bidder shall pay the remaining 75% of the bid amount on or before the 15th Day of confirmation of Auction Sale by means of Pay Order/ DD favoring Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank payable at Patna.

6. In default of payment of balance amount 75% of bid amount within the stipulated period i.e. 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, The deposit amount (25% of bid amount inclusive of EMD) shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold.

7. On confirmation of sale by the bank and if the terms of payment have been complied with, the authorized officer exercising the power of sale shall issue a sale certificate for immovable property/ certificate of sale for moveable property, as the case may be, in favour of the purchaser in the specified format of the bank as per the rules under Securitization Act 2002.

8. The property is being sold "AS IS WHERE IS" AND "AS IS WHAT IS" basis and subjects to the condition prescribed in the Securitization Act 2002.

9. The interested parties / Bidders may inspect the property put up for the Auction Sale during the working hours of the bank for which they may contact our Branch Manager/ Regional Officer with a written request accompanied by the copy of acknowledgment of EMD as aforesaid.

10. The successful Bidder shall bear exclusively all the charges payable for physical possession, Registration Fee, Stamp Duty, Taxes, Statutory dues etc. as applicable.

11. The sale/ auction is subject to confirmation by the bank.

12. The authorized officer will not be held responsible for any charge, Lien, Encumbrances, Property tax or any other dues to the government or anybody in respect of the property proposed to be auction.

13. This is also a notice to the borrower / Guarantor of the aforesaid loan about holding of auction sale on above mentioned dated if their dues are not repaid in full.

Place : Patna
Date : 21.12.2022

Authorised Officer
Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Corrigendum Notice for Empanelment of Advertising Agencies

No.: ECR-HQ0GMO/GMSC/321/2020 Date : 22.12.2022

Name of Work: Empanelment of INS Accredited Advertising Agencies in East Central Railway. **Revised Schedule of Rates as Annexure – E** of the Empanelment Document has been uploaded on website as Corrigendum. All applicant agencies should use this Revised Schedule of Rates as Annexure – E. Rest information will be same as per document uploaded on 15.12.2022.

Chief Public Relations Officer/ ECR/ Hajipur
PR/01744HQ/C22-23/20

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

Open Tender Notice No. SRDEE-TRD-BSB-2022-23-121 Date: 20.12.2022, Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD, North Eastern Railway, Varanasi for and on behalf of President of India, invites sealed "OPEN" E-Tender for the following work:

Name of work : 25 KV Electrification Work in connection with development of Train set maintenance facilities in Coaching depot BSBS of N. E. Railway, Varanasi Division, Tender reference no: SRDEE-TRD-BSB-2022 -23-121, Approx. Cost (in Rs) - ₹ 7508289.40, Earnest money (in Rs) : ₹ 150200/-, Cost of tender documents (in Rs): Nil, E-Tender closing date and Time : 12.01.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs, Completion period : 6 Months.

- E-Tender Online will be submitted upto 15:00 Hrs on date : 12.01.2023
- For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the Official website of Indian railway i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/ CPRO/E. - 152 N. E. Railway, Varanasi

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

"Never travel on roof and foot boards"



IRCON INTERNATIONAL LTD.

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Web: www.ircon.org, CIN-L45203DL1976GOI008171

e-Procurement Notice (National Competitive Bidding)

e-Tenders are invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the following works:

e-Tender No.: IRCON/ELECT/MAINT/SAKET/4VOL-VI Dated: 21.12.2022

Day to day Operation & Maintenance of IRCON's Corporate office building with complete sub-station including HT/LT Electric Panels, DB's Circuit Breakers, Fresh Air & Cool air fans, Transformers, UPS's complete electrical installation and electrical equipment's PLC, 3 nos. DG sets, Eason with BSES with the help of 4 nos. site engineers and 3 nos. technicians, round the dock at the 24x7 days of week & BSES's residential Flats.

Estimated cost of the work : Rs. 2,32,63,773/-

Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission : 10.01.2023 upto 15.00 Hrs.

For further details, visit website <https://tenders.gov.in/e-procure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

Chief General Manager/Electrical, C-4 District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017



Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited

Regd. and Corp. Office: GRSE Bhabani, 61, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata - 700 026

पञ्चमहालक्ष्मी, 61, गार्डन रीच रोड, कोलकाता - 700 026

Web: www.grsec.in, CIN: L35310WB1982SO0037843

GEM-TENDER NOTICE FOR ONLINE BIDDING

GEM BID REF. NO. GEM/2022/B/2860225 DTD 15-Dec-22

NIT SLA No.: SCC/KC/Gem/OT(P)/ARC DOCK BLOCK PREPARATION/GRSE KPDD/213

Sub: "Annual Rate Contract for Dock Block Preparation and Arrangement at GRSE KPDD"

Tender Submission Due date: 14-Jan-23

1. Details available in GEM portal <https://gem.gov.in>


2. Any addendum/corrigendum to this tender enquiry will be published in above websites only.

"To pursuit of Excellence and Quality in Shipbuilding"

Visit us at : www.grsec.in

Regional Office :

Krishna Honda Building,
Akharghat Road,
Muzaffarpur-842001



बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा

Bank of Baroda

बिहार
VIJAYA

आर. टी. डी.
BOOK

POSSESSION NOTICE

(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s)/Guarantor to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act with rule 8 of the said rules.

The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for the amount and further interest there of the contractual rate plus, charge and expenses till date of payment.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch/ Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Outstanding Amount
Bank of Baroda (E-Vijaya) Muzaffarpur Branch Borrower : Mr. Anjeet Kumar, S/o Sunil Kumar, Guarantor : Mr. Adarsh Kumar, both are at Vill.+Post- Chhapra Megh, Mushari Dist.- Muzaffarpur Bihar	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property situated at Anchal Mushari, Thana No.278, Dist.-Muzaffarpur bearing sale deed no. 22495, dated 28-09-2011 consisting Property 1: Khata No. 207, Khesra No. 487, Area- 16 decimal. Boundaries N: Khesra No. 482 & 486, S: Rajeev Kumar hall Khairiddaar, E: Khesra No. 482, W: Nij Manmokir Property 2: Khata No. Ajiyejan, Khesra No. 490, Area-04 decimal. Boundaries N: Khesra No. 520, S: Khesra No. 488, E: Nij Manmokir, W: Nij Manmokir. Property 3: Hypothecation of vehicle Mahindra Traco Blazo	11-10-2022 / 19-12-2022	Rs.18,39,566.86/- as on 11.10.2022 together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all cost charges & expenses till date payments
Place : Muzaffarpur Date : 22.12.2022		Authorised Officer Bank Of Baroda	



Prioritise farmers’ welfare to strengthen India’s agrarian economy

Kisan Divas offers the most effective platform every year to sow the seeds of collective action aimed at ensuring the well-being of the farming community while boosting growth in the agricultural sector. This will accelerate socio-economic progress and foster national security



AGAINST THE backdrop of Kisan Divas’ observance on 23 December, the historic slogan of India’s second Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri - “Jai Jawan Jai Kisan”, which translates into “Hail the soldier, hail the farmer”, highlights the overarching role of food security as more than a factor determining the country’s socio-economic growth, by serving as an important pillar of national security. Drawing parallels between a soldier, as the protector of his motherland, and a farmer, who tills that very land for providing one of the necessities of life-food; the well-known slogan emphasizes the pivotal role of farmers as a force to reckon with, for any nation’s sustained development and for peace and stability to prevail within its borders. The observance of National Farmers’ Day, celebrated as Kisan Divas in India, is an annual tribute to the country’s unsung heroes- the community of farmers, the strength of which in rural India, based on a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, stands at a whopping 70 percent.

With India, being primarily an agriculture-based country and the agricultural sector contributing nearly 14% of the country’s total GDP while a major portion of India’s population consistently relying on agriculture as a primary source of its livelihood, the observance of Kisan Divas becomes especially significant for drawing attention to and bolstering the future of India’s agrarian economy.

The annual observance of Kisan Divas in India

on December 23 every year, centres on the nation’s farming community and celebrates its valuable contribution to our country’s socio-economic growth, alongside promoting awareness of the importance of farmers as well as farming in a rapidly changing world. The date of this annual celebration coincides with the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh, who, as a farmer’s leader, introduced a slew of policies aimed at improving the lives of the poverty-stricken Indian farmers. Frequently referred to as the ‘Champion of India’s peasants’, Choudhary Charan Singh, born on 23 December 1902, remained actively associated with many causes dear to the country’s farming community, throughout his adult life.

As a day dedicated to farmers, Kisan Divas celebrations across the country are replete with a spectrum of campaigns and drives aimed at raising awareness of not only the indispensable role of farmers and their contributions to the society but also of the challenges they face and their pressing needs. The focus of the day remains largely on organizing various programs, workshops, seminars, discussions, functions and exhibitions, which ensure that farmers keep abreast of the latest technology and advancements in agricultural science to reap the most benefit and increase their yield. Driving the observance’s message home, the whole gamut of events that take place on Kisan Divas acknowledge and appreciate farmers’ contributions while simultaneously calling attention to the urgent need for prioritizing their social and economic betterment and overall well-being.

In light of the unequivocal and undeniable reality that unhindered physical and economic access to food is inextricably intertwined with national security and that any population’s access



Farming, being the backbone of the global agricultural powerhouse – India, needs to be strengthened proactively. The cumulative FDI inflow of USD 2,600.70 million from April 2000 to June 2022, marking a sharp increase in investments in the Indian agricultural sector, indicates a positive phase for the farming community

to sufficient quantity of safe and nutritious food is a core state interest, the role of farmers becomes pronounced in ensuring the same and driving socio-economic growth while upholding political stability. Emphasizing the same, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize to the World Food Programme for “its efforts to combat hunger”, “its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas” and for it “acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict”. This once again bears testimony to the global recognition

of food’s role as going beyond being a source of sustenance, and playing an instrumental part in ensuring national security, political stability, economic growth and the peaceful coexistence of the members of a society.

Evidences abound from antiquity until recent times reflecting the indisputable importance of the cultivation of food grain in human history and its impact on the evolutionary journey of human civilization through various ages.

Agriculture has been a key development milestone in the rise of sedentary human civilization by facilitating human population’s exponential growth. The transition to an agrarian society from one relying on hunting and gathering came about gradually and independently in different parts of the world, with a common trend toward higher population densities and larger settlements emerging as a demographic consequence.

The history of agriculture in India dates back to 7000 BC, with archaeological evidence indicating the use of an animal-drawn plough in the Indus valley Civilization as early as 2,500 BC. India’s agricultural sector has come a long way since then and has made noteworthy progress over the centuries. A report by the World Trade Organization (WTO) ranked India 9th among the top 10 agricultural produce exporters in 2019. The India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) established by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, mentions, “India has captured nearly 50% of the world market for rice in FY 2022.” Additionally, IBEF, while referring to the 30% year-over-year increase in the export of India’s agricultural and processed food products states that it “stood at USD 9,598 million in FY 2022-23.”

Although the Indian agricultural sector has attained grain self-sufficiency and the forecast by IBEF proclaims, “the Indian agricultural sector is predicted to increase to USD 24 billion by 2025”, the sector is plagued by issues, amidst resource-intensive, cereal centric and regionally biased production. The farming community in the country regularly encounters challenges that stem from owning small and fragmented land-holdings, lack of access to quality seeds and mechanization at affordable prices, soil erosion of fertile land, dearth of irrigation systems, scarcity of capital and low productivity resulting from soil exhaustion.

Recognizing the correlation between food

security and political stability, socio-economic growth alongside the well-being of the population, and to redress the issues affecting the farming community, the government of India keeps launching laudable schemes from time to time. In the Union Budget 2022-23, USD 15.9 billion had been allocated to the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers’ Welfare while USD 1.1 billion went to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education. Moreover, the government has set up not only a network of 729 Krishi Vigyan Kendra at the district level across the country but also initiated the noteworthy Digital Agriculture Mission for 2021-25. The need to promote agricultural start-ups and the development of irrigation sources have been taken into account while planning new schemes. The year 2022 has witnessed the launch of Kisan Drones to facilitate crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients as well as PM Modi releasing PM-KISAN funds worth USD 1.93 billion to ensure a brighter future for the farmers and the agricultural sector.

From the dawn of the Neolithic Revolution—also referred to as the Agricultural Revolution—to the current Information Age, a lot has changed, barring the significance of life-sustaining food, which has retained its constancy and supremacy as an irreplaceable resource in an ever-changing world marked by chequered interests and priorities. Kisan Divas, with its focus on farmers, who are responsible for ensuring that there is always food on our tables, provides food for thought concerning how well our country’s farmers’ needs are being addressed and what more needs to be done for the amelioration of the farming community that continues to cultivate life-sustaining food incessantly and unconditionally.



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6 IN PARLIAMENT WINTER SESSION

If my statement hurt anyone, I withdraw it: Goyal on his Bihar remark

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

UNION MINISTER and Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, Piyush Goyal, on Thursday said that his reference to Bihar earlier in the week was not intended to insult the people of the state, and that he would "immediately withdraw that statement" if it hurt anybody.

He was referring to his remark on Tuesday that if RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha had his way, he "would turn the whole country into Bihar". After the Opposition, including Jha, demanded an apology from Goyal in the House, the minister said, "There was no intention of either insulting Bihar or the people of Bihar. If at all it has hurt anybody, I will immediately withdraw that statement. It was not made with any malice towards anybody at all." He, however, stopped short of apologising.

The Opposition continued its protests over the issue as well as its demand for a discussion on the India-China border situation.

Bill to decriminalise minor offences in 42 laws introduced in Lok Sabha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

THE GOVERNMENT on Thursday introduced a Bill in Lok Sabha to amend certain enactments to decriminalise minor offences.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal introduced the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill in Lok Sabha and sought the House's permission for it to be sent to a joint committee of Parliament.

Through the proposed Bill, Goyal said, the government intends to decriminalise 182 provisions of 42 laws across 19 ministries. "We believe winning the trust of people and the business class is of utmost importance. That is why it has been named Jan Vishwas Amendment Bill, 2022," Goyal said.

The Bill also proposes to increase the minimum amount of fine — or penalty — every three years after it becomes law. "The cornerstone of democratic governance lies in the government trusting its own people and institutions. A web of outdated rules and regulations causes trust deficit. It has been the endeavour of the government to achieve the principle of



Piyush Goyal in Rajya Sabha on Thursday. *ANI*

EXPLAINED
E Aiming to cut clutter

THE BILL has been brought in to shed the baggage of antiquated laws that adversely affect developmental trajectory, as well as to increase ease of doing business and ease of living, according to the government.

'Minimum Government Maximum Governance', redefining the regulatory landscape of the country under Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business reforms," the Bill states in its state-

ment of objects and reasons.

Goyal said, "There are many laws in our country under which people are punished, or have to make rounds of courts for very minor offences.... Generally, ordinary people and businessmen want an honest system, run their businesses honestly, and live an honest life. Sometimes they commit mistakes, too. In such situations, we believe they must not be prosecuted for small offences."

He added, "We want to bring in a system that has provisions for compounding of such offences by way of fines."

Goyal said that since 2014, the Centre has taken multiple decisions to make life easy for people, and counted decisions such as self-attestation of documents and introduction of GST to reform the taxation system among such measures.

"All these have impacted ease of doing business and ease of living," he said. "We want to give foreign investors the red carpet, and not red tape. We jumped from 141th position on the index of ease of doing business to 63. We have repealed 1,500 obsolete laws, simplified 39,000 compliances, and brought 3,500 such provisions that have decriminalized minor offences."

'Discuss China': Opp disrupts both Houses

New Delhi: Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha saw vociferous protests by opposition parties on Thursday over their demand for a detailed discussion on the India-China border conflict. In a first in the ongoing winter session, the Lok Sabha was repeatedly adjourned by disruptions as opposition parties demanded the Prime Minister's presence in the House to answer questions on China's incursions across the LAC.

The Lower House saw five adjournments and was finally adjourned for the day at 4.45 pm.

In Rajya Sabha, the Opposition boycotted the day's proceedings after their demand for a discussion was disallowed. Repeated pleas by the Chairman to the protesting members maintain decorum and take their seats went unheeded.

The Opposition later staged a walkout, boycotting the day's proceedings. Among parties that boycotted the proceedings were the Congress, NCP, TMC, DMK, CPI, CPI(M), SP, JMM, RJD, JD(U) and AAP.

ENS & PTI

Raise Covid vigilance: Mandaviya to states

'If needed, will make testing must for international arrivals'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

IN VIEW of rising cases of Covid-19 in China and some other countries, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday urged states to increase community vigilance and increase administration of precaution doses of coronavirus vaccine.

In a statement in Lok Sabha, Mandaviya said: "The government is keeping a watch and taking steps to meet the challenges in the healthcare sector due to the pandemic. The states are being advised to increase community vigilance and control Covid. States have been advised to conduct genome sequencing for all positive cases. This will help identify the new variant and take strong steps to deal with it."

He stated, "Keeping in mind coming festivities, states should spread awareness about Covid-appropriate behaviour such as wearing of masks and hygiene..."

In Rajya Sabha, Mandaviya said India has started 2 per cent random sampling of interna-



Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in Rajya Sabha, Thursday. *PTI*

tional travellers coming to the country. That percentage, he said, could be increased in the coming days, and "if necessary, we will make it mandatory for everyone coming to India".

Replying to a query from AAP member Raghav Chadha on whether the government will ban direct flights from China, the minister said, "We are constantly monitoring the situation. There are no direct flights between China and India but people come via other routes." Stating that the government will "continue to manage the

pandemic through trace-track-treat (method) and Covid-appropriate behaviour", Mandaviya stated in Lok Sabha, "I want assistance from all parties and members in dealing with the pandemic. Members must spread awareness in their constituencies."

The Health Minister said India is reporting 153 new cases on an average every day, while the rest of the world "5.87 lakh Covid cases are being recorded". He also said Japan, South Korea, USA, France, Greece and Italy are witnessing a "sustained rise in both cases of Covid and deaths due to it, (and) in the past few days media reports suggest a sharp rise in Covid cases in China".

In Rajya Sabha, Mandaviya assured members that all oxygen plants were running and a review had been done about availability of medicines. "We are prepared and ready to provide the requirement of medicines and vaccines in the country," he said.

He informed MPs that an expert committee has given approval to nasal vaccine to combat the virus, doing away with the requirements of jabs.

Masks make return to Parliament, MPs cautioned on Covid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

AMID CONCERNS over rising cases of Covid-19 in many countries, including neighbouring China, masks were back in Parliament on Thursday.

A large number of members were seen wearing masks inside the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. Those who hadn't come with a mask were handed out one by the Parliament staff.

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya made a statement on the rising cases of Covid across the world and the precautions needed to be taken to stay safe. The Speaker and Chairman of the two Houses, respectively, appealed to the members to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour. Speaker Om Birla, in fact, entered the Lok Sabha wearing a mask.

Addressing the House, he said, "Members, I wish to attract your attention towards the Covid-19 pandemic becoming active in many countries across the world. Given the past experience with it, we need to remain alert and vigilant. Taking

timely steps, the government too has advised to follow necessary safety measures. I urge all members to follow these measures and wear mask. You must also contribute to spreading awareness on the issue. I am confident that the way the country scored victory over the pandemic through collective efforts, we will do so in future as well," he said, adding that masks for all members were available at the gate (of the House).

While papers were being laid on the table in the morning, Mandaviya read his speech while wearing the mask.

In Rajya Sabha too, several members were seen wearing the mask although almost all had one with them. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and many on the treasury benches had their masks on when the day's proceedings began at 11 am.

Addressing Rajya Sabha before taking up the listed business of the day, Dhankhar said: "I urge all the honourable members to be extra cautious about the surging Covid cases in the world. It is our ardent duty to set example before our countrymen..."



(Clockwise from the top) Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other MPs, many of them wearing masks, in Rajya Sabha on Thursday. An official distributes masks at the Parliament House complex. Parliament security personnel have also masked up. *PTI*

Sonia's remarks not right, far from my reflections: Dhankhar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

RAJYA SABHA Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday termed as inappropriate the remarks by Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi that the government is seeking to delegitimise the judiciary and urged political leaders not to subject high constitutional offices to partisan stances.

Speaking in the Upper House, Dhankhar said, "The observations are severely inappropriate, indicating a lack of faith in democracy, making this exceptional response unavoidable."

"The statement imparted by the chairperson of the UPA is far distanced from my reflections. Delegitimising the judiciary is beyond my contemplation. It is a pillar of democracy. I would urge and expect leaders across the political spectrum to bear in mind not to subject high constitutional offices to partisan stances," Dhankhar said.

He also said, "Parliamentary sovereignty is quintessential to democracy and is non-negotiable. Subscribing to this is not optional



Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in Rajya Sabha, Thursday. *ANI*

if democracy has to sustain and blossom. I had emphasised that democracy blossoms and flourishes when its three facets — the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive — scrupulously adhere to their respective domains. The sublimity of the doctrine of separation of powers is realised when the Legislature, Judiciary and the Executive optimally function in tandem and togetherness, meticulously ensuring scrupulous adherence to respective jurisdictional domains.

"Further I had indicated that this House is eminently positioned to take affirmative steps to bring out congeniality amongst these wings of governance."

Cases like Ankita murder affect tourism: minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

INCIDENTS LIKE the recent murder of a hotel employee in Uttarakhand affect India's image and the inflow of tourists to the country, Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

The minister was answering a question asked by DMK member M Mohamed Abdulla about the issues faced by women in the hospitality sector when BJP MP Anil Baluni posed a supplementary question. Baluni, who is from Uttarakhand, cited the murder of Ankita, though he did not name her, and asked the minister what steps the government was taking for the security of women who work in the hospitality sector.

Reddy said the matter pertained to the state government as it was an issue of law and order. Terming it an "isolated incident", Reddy said, "There should be no such incident. It hurts the image of India and affects the tourists coming to India."

Ankita was working as a receptionist at a resort in Rishikesh, owned by the son of a BJP leader, when she was murdered in September this year.

FROM THE GALLERY

FROM THE CHAIR RAJYA SABHA

"What you've done today, each of you, by coming to the well, this will haunt you for ages. The oath which you have taken on this solemn platform is being torn to pieces by you."

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR
Chairman, to Opposition MPs agitating for a discussion on China

LOK SABHA

"I request you all to take your seat. Members are raising very serious issues. You are all very senior members. This does not suit your stature."

KIRIT SOLANKI, who was chairing proceedings, to Opposition MPs who were shouting slogans in the Well of the House

YouTube takes down channels charged with spreading fake news

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

A DAY after the government asked YouTube to remove three channels for spreading fake news, the streaming giant has taken them down, it said.

On Wednesday, the I&B Ministry had directed YouTube to take down Aaj Tak Live, News Headlines and Sarkari Updates, in view of them being declared by the Press Information Bureau's (PIB) Fact Check Unit as peddlers of fake news.

The three channels were flagged for spreading fake news pertaining to the government, its various schemes and even about the Election Commission. The channels had nearly 33 lakh subscribers, and recorded over 30 crore views, the government had said. While News Headlines has 9.67 lakh regular subscribers, Sarkari Update and Aaj Tak Live have 22.6 lakh and over 65,000 subscribers, respectively.

"The YouTube channels were observed to be using fake and sensational thumbnails with logos of TV channels and images of their news anchors to mislead the viewers to believe that the news was authentic," the I&B Ministry had said, adding that these channels were also found to be displaying



I&B Minister Anurag Thakur in Rajya Sabha. *PTI*

advertisements on their videos, thus monetising misinformation.

Meanwhile, Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday that the government blocked 104 YouTube channels and 45 YouTube videos for providing "false" and "misleading" information that could lead to rumours or fear-mongering. He was responding to a question on the spread of "fake news" circulating through digital platforms posed by BJP MP Jugalsinh Lokhandwala. "We have taken action against the channels that have attempted to mislead and create fear and divisions in society under Section 69A of the IT Act," Thakur said.

The minister added that, "We have also banned four Facebook accounts and two posts, three accounts on Instagram, five Twitter accounts, and three podcasts..."

RS passes Bill to grant ST status to two communities in Tamil Nadu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

RAJYA SABHA on Thursday passed a Bill that seeks to grant Scheduled Tribe status to Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran communities in Tamil Nadu. The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022 was passed through a voice vote in the House.

The Bill, which was piloted by Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda, was passed by the Lok Sabha on December 15, 2022. It was proposed following

the suggestion of the Tamil Nadu government that the two communities be included in the State's ST list.

Replying to the debate, Munda said the number of these communities is very less, they face hardship and are deprived of their rights even after the country's independence. "The government is working on tribal-related issues, removing discrepancies and ensuring justice for them," he said. Munda said several RS members have raised demands to add more communities from their respective areas to the tribal list and the government is sensitive about

Bill to give ST status to Betta-Karuba community in Karnataka passed in RS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

RAJYA SABHA on Thursday passed a Bill to include Betta-Karuba community along with Kadu-Kuruba in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka. The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2022 was passed through a voice vote.

The Lok Sabha had on December 19 passed the Bill, which was piloted by Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda

in the Upper House.

The minister said the Bill seeks to provide justice to the Betta-Kuruba community of Karnataka, which has only about 5,000 members living in the southern state. "The state government of Karnataka has requested to include Betta-Kuruba community as a synonym of Kadu-Kuruba in entry 16 in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Karnataka," Munda said in a statement of objects and reasons of the Bill.

Responding to the issues raised by Opposition members,

it. "The government is trying to solve the issues and has taken similar requests for the states of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka," he said.

M Thambidurai of the AIADMK supported the Bill and said some more communities from Tamil Nadu need to be added to the ST list. "Fishing is also hunting in the sea, therefore there is a demand from Tamil Nadu to add fishermen to the tribal communities. Other communities such as Valmiki, Vaduga and kuruba must be included in the ST list," Thambidurai said.

Munda said the Congress has not done anything for the welfare of the tribal community and is now shedding crocodile tears. Munda said the Narendra Modi government is trying to give justice to all sections of society. "Once the Bill is approved by Parliament and the rules are framed, the members of the Betta-Kuruba community will be entitled to all the benefits provided to the Scheduled Tribes, especially reservation in educational institutions and government jobs," he added.

5 QUESTIONS

CONGRESS MP HIBI EDEN TELLS LIZ MATHEW THAT THE BJP WAS TRYING TO SABOTAGE THE BHARAT JODO YATRA

'New Covid guidelines meant to disrupt Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra'

Congress MPs were raising slogans saying the government wanted to sabotage the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Why?

Certainly, the government and the ruling party are trying to obstruct and sabotage Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. We have no doubts that the new guidelines and restrictions (regarding Covid-19) are for that only... The PM has visited Himachal Pradesh more than 10 times and has held huge rallies in Gujarat. There was no Covid restrictions... Suddenly, when Bharat Jodo Yatra is reaching the capital, many people from BJP are nervous...

But are you not worried about the surge in Covid cases in some countries? The health ministry should have proper guidelines and the states should follow them... But the way this government is bringing in new restrictions, without giving proper reasons... they do not want the Bharat Jodo Yatra to have a happy ending.

The Yatra has been going on for months. Why does it make a difference to the ruling party now?

When it started, they all mocked at Rahul Gandhi... When it is reaching Delhi from Kanyakumari, everyone in the BJP including the Prime Minister himself, realised that people from diverse backgrounds and communities are joining him and his popularity is going up... The BJP is becoming intolerant of this.

What is the difficulties in wearing masks?

It's not about a mask nor about following protocols... We have objections to this move because it is just to disturb Rahul Gandhi's Yatra.

In this winter session, there has been no major discussion. Who is responsible for this?

We have cooperated with the government... We wanted a discussion on China, but the government did not have a major legislative agenda for this session...





CHAI TO CHINA

DENIED A discussion on India-China border issues over the last few days in Parliament, Congress MPs on Thursday came to the Well of the Lok Sabha for the first time in the ongoing winter session, protesting and demanding a discussion. The slogans were innovative. While Gaurav Gogoi shouted, “Pradhan Mantri Sadan mein aao, jawab do (come to the House and answer, PM)”, his party colleague from Kerala, Hibi Eden, took a dig at the BJP’s 2014 poll campaign and raised the slogan, “Chai pe charcha nahi, Cheen pe charcha karo (don’t discuss chai, discuss China).” Later, when Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya was making a statement on the Covid-19 situation, MP from Punjab, Ravneet Singh Bittu, accused the BJP and the Union government of being scared of the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra, and followed it with a new slogan: “Bharat Jodo Yatra rokna band karo, bandh karo (stop plans to halt the yatra).”

GREETING THE SEASON

WITH THE Winter Session of Parliament ending a week early, year-end celebrations started early for MPs, with most members leaving for home on Friday, the last day of the session. A group of MPs, led by Congress’s Francisco Sardinha, hosted a Christmas party at the Constitution Club on Thursday evening. Members from opposition parties turned up at the party, where a choir sang Christmas carols. The occasion ended with a lavish feast.

BACK ON SCARF TURF

OVER THE years, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal has earned the sobriquet “muffler man”. During TV interviews, he unfailingly points out that all that investigative agencies have been able to recover from his house are mufflers during their “raids” over various charges. The AAP has even used the muffler as a theme in its poll campaigns, borrowing tropes from superhero comics. On Thursday, with Kejriwal seen sporting a muffler during a public event, social media was abuzz with tweets from AAP supporters on the “return of muffler man”.

Azad expels 3 senior leaders for anti-party activities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 22

BARELY MONTHS after it was formed, the Ghulam Nabi Azad-led Democratic Azad Party (DAP) has expelled three senior leaders for “anti-party” activities. While the party has been silent over the kind of anti-party activities by the expelled leaders, sources said they were in talks with Congress, the parent organisation they left to join Azad’s party. In a three-line statement issued by party general secretary Rajinder Singh Chib, the DAP said Azad has expelled Tara Chand, Manohar Lal and Balwan Singh. The expulsion of three key leaders, barely three months after the DAP was launched, is a major setback for Azad’s party that has failed to gather much support in Kashmir valley.



Ghulam Nabi Azad

Chand, Lal and Singh were among the first Congress leaders to put their weight behind Azad when he resigned from Congress after five decades of association and hinted at forming a new political party in Jammu and Kashmir. A prominent Dalit leader, Chand was deputy chief minister during the National Conference-Congress coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, he held the Speaker’s post in the Assembly during the PDP-Congress alliance government. Lal was also remained a minister in the erstwhile state government.

PM backs down, escapes when people stand up to him: Rahul

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
NUH, DECEMBER 22

CITING INSTANCES of the withdrawal of the farm laws last year and the land acquisition ordinance in 2015, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said that the moment someone stands up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he “turns around and runs away”. Addressing a gathering of ‘Mewat Diwas Samaroh’ at Ghaseera village in Haryana’s Nuh, Rahul said the Congress had to hold Bharat Jodo Yatra since its voice was being suppressed in Parliament. Referring to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya’s letter to him to suspend the yatra if Covid-19 protocols were not followed, Rahul called it “excuses” to stop it. He said: “...Understand the character of Narendra Modi-ji. Whether it was the farm agitation or the land acquisition ordinance, jaise hi unke saamne koi khada ho jata hai Narendra Modi ghoom ke ulta bhaagna shuru kar dete hain (the moment someone stands up to him, Modi turns around and runs away)... muqabla nahi karte, bhaag jaate hain, maidan se nikal jaate hain (he does not compete, he runs away).” Stating that journalists ask him questions “every five or 10



Rahul Gandhi with Congress leaders Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Randeep Surjewala and others, in Nuh on Thursday. Amit Mehra

days” at regular press conferences, Rahul asked, “(But) have you seen his (Modi’s) press conference? You can’t, because he has never held one.” He said, “In Parliament, when we try to raise issues such as Rafale, demonetisation, GST, growing hatred in the country...our microphone is turned off. TV udhar kar dete hain, Speaker sahab ka chehra dikhta hai, bas (cameras are turned away; only the Speaker’s reactions are shown). Our voices were not being heard in Lok Sabha, so we had to start this yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.” On Mandaviya’s letter, Rahul said, “The yatra will go until Kashmir. Now they (BJP) have

SC set to deliver note ban verdict on Jan 2

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE SUPREME Court will deliver on January 2, 2023 its verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the government’s 2016 decision to demonetise Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes. The top court reopens after winter recess on January 2. A five-judge constitution bench presided by Justice S Abdul Nazeer had reserved the verdict on December 7 after hearing elaborate arguments by the petitioners, the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India. The bench, also comprising Justices B R Gavi, A S Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian, and B V Nagarathna, had asked the government and RBI to produce the relevant records related to the decision-making process leading to the November 8, 2016 notification. Justice Nazeer is set to retire on January 4, 2023. Taking up the batch of 58 petitions challenging various aspects of the government, the SC had initially wondered if it had not become merely an academic debate given the passage of time. It subsequently decided to go into the issue, with the petitioners contending that the procedure prescribed in Section 26(2) of RBI Act, 1934, was given a go by.

EPS sends OPS notice for ‘forging letterhead’ of AIADMK

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 22

AIADMK INTERIM general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Thursday sent a legal notice to O Panneerselvam questioning what he called a “fraudulent and illegal notice” issued by the ousted AIADMK leader under the letterhead of the party. The legal notice was sent a day after Panneerselvam targeted Palaniswami, known as EPS, and challenged him to found a new party “instead of capturing the party using money power”. The legal notice sent to Panneerselvam, known as OPS questioned his authority to make a statement that served as ‘a headquarters announcement’, which was shared on his official Twitter account and widely reported in the media. The notice said the act of OPS “misrepresented” himself as a coordinator and treasurer of the AIADMK and that he also called a meeting of the office-holders of the party headquarters and district secretaries. The notice accused OPS of forgery citing that he used a “forged seal” on the notice dated December 17 in which he claimed that it was issued with his concurrence as the ‘Party Coordinator, Treasurer and Former Chief Minister.’

The provision says that “on recommendation of the [RBI] Central Board, the Central Government may, by notification in the Gazette of India, declare that, with effect from such date...any series of bank notes of any denomination shall cease to be legal tender save at such office or agency of the Bank and to such extent as may be specified in the notification”. Appearing for one of the petitioners, senior advocate P Chidambaram contended that as per the Section, the recommendation should have “emanated” from RBI, but in this case, the government had advised the central bank, following which it made the recommendation. He said when earlier governments had demonetised currency — in 1946 and 1978 — they had done so by way of a law made by Parliament. Chidambaram also accused the government of withholding documents related to the decision from the court and raised doubts whether the quorum as required for the RBI Central Board meeting was met. Countering the argument, senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, appearing for RBI, pointed out that “the Section does not talk about the process of initiation. It only says that the process will not end without the last two steps outlined in it...” He also said, “We (RBI) gave the recommendation...”

Attorney General R Venkataramani said demonetisation was not an isolated act but part of a broader economic policy, and therefore it is not possible for RBI or the government to act in isolation. “They act in consultation...” he submitted. On the argument about previous demonetisation decisions, Gupta said RBI had not agreed to the proposals, following which the then government made the law. He also denied that any document was being withheld from the court. The central bank also pointed out that the quorum as determined by RBI General Regulations, 1949, was met for the Central Board meeting. Besides then RBI Governor and two Deputy Governors, five directors nominated under provisions of RBI Act were present, it said. So the requirement that three of them should be nominated under the law “is met”, Gupta said. Chidambaram had argued that under Section 26(2), the government cannot demonetise all series of notes of a denomination. He urged the court to read down the provision so that the expression “any” therein will be read as “some”. Opposing this, Gupta said such an interpretation will create “nothing but confusion”.

BIKANER LAND DEAL BY ROBERT VADRA’S FIRM

HC rejects plea to quash ED probe; grants stay from arrest

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 22

THE RAJASTHAN High Court on Thursday refused to quash an Enforcement Directorate investigation into the purchase of land in Bikaner by a company linked to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi’s son-in-law Robert Vadra and his mother, Maureene Vadra. The court, however, stayed the arrest for a period of four weeks till January 19. The court was hearing petitions filed by Vadra’s firm Sky Light Hospitality and Mahesh Nagar, who had earlier effected land purchases for Sky Light. Both petitions had prayed that the ED be directed to place on record the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), the same may be quashed and that all proceedings initiated by the ED be quashed too. The Bench of Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati refused to quash the ECIR saying “the present petitioners have not been arrayed as accused, and at the given stage seeking the intervention of this court for quashing of the ECIR in question is premature”. The court also observed that it is at the discretion of the ED whether to give a copy of the ECIR to persons seeking it. Along with others, Rajya Sabha MP K T S Tusli, senior coun-



Robert Vadra

sel for Sky Light, argued that neither the firm nor any of its partners/employees were named in any of the FIRs, chargesheets, supplementary chargesheets, and that they have not been accused of money laundering. They had also said that the state police and the CBI could not find any material against the petitioners and that not confessing to any wrongdoing cannot be termed non-cooperation on their behalf. “The practice of not supplying the copy of the ECIR is only to carry on with a roving and fishing inquiry against the present petitioners,” they said, adding that Vadra was interrogated for 80 hours while they were victims of fraud themselves. Mahesh’s counsel said the ED should either proceed with the investigation “to the next logical step, or refrain from issuing unwarranted summons to the petitioners and harassing them”. Appearing for the respon-

dents along with others, Additional Solicitor General Rajdeepak Rastogi said the ECIR is akin to a fact-finding report generated “as an internal document, upon the basis of which the investigation is conducted by the officials of the ED”. “If the offences are found to be made out against the accused, then the prosecution complaint is filed,” the ASG said. They also said the ECIR copy is given to the accused only after the same is produced before the special court concerned and the court takes cognisance against the accused, but not at a stage prior to that. Rastogi said the petitioners “are not named as accused, but that the investigation with regard to their involvement in the crime in question is under contemplation”. According to the ED, Bikaner’s Kolayat land deal is a case of alleged land grabbing where people, in collusion with state government officials, got large tracts of land allotted on fictitious names. The land, the agency said, was actually earmarked for people who had been displaced by the creation of the Mahajan field firing range. The property ended up with Sky Light LLP, of which Robert Vadra and his mother were partners. Sky Light then allegedly sold the land to Allegeny Finlease Private Limited for a profit.

Attention GST Taxpayers!

Please file your Annual Return in FORM GSTR-9* and FORM GSTR-9C# for F.Y. 2021-2022

December 2022

31

Before Due Date

***Taxpayers required to file FORM GSTR-9**

All GST taxpayers having Aggregate Annual Turnover above ₹ 2 Crore (during F.Y. 2021-22) except the following:

- (i) Input Service Distributor
- (ii) TDS Deductor
- (iii) TCS Collector
- (iv) Casual Taxable Person
- (v) Non-Resident Taxable Person

#Taxpayers required to file FORM GSTR-9C

A self-certified reconciliation statement in FORM GSTR-9C needs to be filed along with Annual Return in FORM GSTR-9 by the taxpayers whose Aggregate Annual Turnover is above ₹ 5 Crore (during F.Y. 2021-22)

Please Scan for details on GST Annual Returns

Late filing of FORM GSTR-9 and FORM GSTR-9C will attract late fee

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

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cbc 15502/13/0017/2223


MP: Cong no-trust motion defeated

Bhopal: The no-confidence motion moved by the opposition Congress against the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh was defeated by a voice vote in Assembly on Thursday with CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launching an at-

tack on the grand old party and its erstwhile dispensation headed by Kamal Nath for the “sins” it committed. After the motion was defeated, Speaker Girish Goutam adjourned the session sine die ahead of its schedule. PTI

CHAUDHARY CHARAN SINGH
HARYANA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HISAR.
(Established by Parliament Act No. 16 of 1970)
Advertisement No. 4/2022
(BEFORE APPLYING FOR THE POST, THE CANDIDATES SHOULD GO THROUGH THE INSTRUCTIONS/CONDITIONS CAREFULLY)
Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up various teaching posts in the University. The postwise details alongwith pay-scale, application processing fee, essential qualifications, general instructions/conditions, reservation, etc. can be downloaded from the University Website. The eligible candidates may apply through the University online portal <https://hau.ac.in> and <https://recruitment.hauiums.in> from 28.12.2022 midnight onwards which will be closed on 27.01.2023 midnight. The candidates are also requested to visit University website regularly for notifications/updates/ corrigendum/ amendment, if any, with respect to above advertisement.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

**WORKS DEPARTMENT**
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE
e-mail:- seec_bls@rediffmail.com
Government of Odisha “e” Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.CCEEC-22/ 2022-23
No: 6578/ Dt: 16.12.2022

Nature of work :- Building Works
Number of works :- 5 (Five) Nos Building Works
Amount put to Tender :- Rs. 138.01 Lakh to Rs. 586.32 Lakh
Class of Contractor :- “B” Class / “A” Class
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal :- Dt.27.12.2022 at 10:00 AM
Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal :- Dt.10.01.2023 up to 05:00 PM
Date of opening of bid :- Dt.11.01.2023 at 11:00 AM
Name & address of the Office inviting bid:- Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore
The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal “<http://tenders.odisha.gov.in>.” All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.
Sd/- R. Rout
Chief Construction Engineer
Eastern Circle (R&B) Balasore
OIPR-34026/11/0024/2223

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

सिंचाई कार्य मण्डल, मुगुदाबाद

पत्रांक: 10998 /सिकामु/टी-5 /निविदा सूचसं0-03 /एस0ई0 /2022-23 दिनांक: 20.12.2022

ई-निविदा सूचना सं0-03 /एस0ई0 /2022-23

महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तर प्रदेश की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यो हेतु ऑन लाइन <http://etender.up.nic.in> के माध्यम से श्री-क्वालीफिकेशन टेनिकल बिड व फाइनैशियल बिड, उत्तर प्रदेश सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग में निम्नांकित तालिकानुसार वर्गीकृत श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से **दिनांक 03.01.2023** अपराह्न 2:00 बजे से दिनांक 11.01.2023 दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती है। ऑनलाईन ई-निविदा की श्री-क्वालीफिकेशन /टेनिकल बिड दिनांक 11.01.2023 को अपराह्न 1:00 बजे मुख्य अभियन्ता (पूर्वी गंगा), सिंचाई विभाग, उ०ग० मुगुदाबाद द्वारा गठित निविदा समिति /अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा ऑनलाइन खोली जायेगी। टेनिकल बिड में क्वालिफाई होने वाले निविदादाताओं की फाइनैशियल बिड टेनिकल बिड में क्वालीफाई होने वाले निविदाताओं की सूची अपलोड किये जाने के दो दिवस उपरान्त खोली जायेगी। इस बीच की अवधि में टेनिकल बिड के सम्बन्ध में आपत्तियां दर्ज करायी जा सकेंगी, इसके बाद प्राप्त आपत्तियों पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। कार्यालय बन्द होने या अवकाश होने अथवा तकनीकी दिक्कतों की स्थिति में यह बिड अगले कार्यालय दिवस में उसी समय खोली जायेगी। वेबसाइट पर ई-प्रक्रोसेसमेंट प्रपत्र दिनांक 03.01.2023 को अपराह्न 2:00 बजे से उपलब्ध होगा।

लॉट सं०	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत जीएसपीटीडी सहित (लाख रु० में)	धरोहर धनराशि (लाख रु० में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (जीएसपीटीडी रु० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	पंजीकरण की श्रेणी	कार्य से सम्बन्धित अधिशारी अभियन्ता
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	जनपद रामपुर की तहसील बिलासपुर में दाया माऊंड नहर के किनारे 0.570 से कि०मी० 0.688 तक पाईपिंग के निर्माण का कार्य	337.00	6.74	2354.00	03 माह	ए एवं ए से उच्च श्रेणी	अधिशारी अभियन्ता, रामपुर नहर खण्ड, रामपुर

1. यह ई-निविदा /बिड सूचना उ०ग० सरकार की वेबसाइट <http://upgov.nic.in>, सूचना विभाग की वेबसाइट <http://information.up.nic.in> तथा सिंचाई विभाग की वेबसाइट <http://idup.gov.in> पर भी उपलब्ध है।

2. ई-निविदा /बिड की विस्तृत शर्तें निविदा /बिड प्रपत्र के साथ वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

UPID-183382 Date-22.12.2022
www.upgov.nic.in

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सिंचाई कार्य मण्डल, मुगुदाबाद

**बिहार सरकार**
न्यायालय भूमि सुधार उप समाहर्ता कार्यालय, हाजीपुर
आम सूचना

एतद द्वारा सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि सरकार के अपर मुख्य सचिव मध-निषेध, उत्पाद एवं निबंधन विभाग, बिहार पटना के ज्ञापक 3106 दिनांक 26.04.2022 के प्रसंग में एवं बिहार मध-निषेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम-2016 की धारा-58 के तहत मध-निषेधविभाग एवं पुलिस विभाग द्वारा जप्त किये गये वैसे वाहन जहाँ शराबसात का निर्णय प्रक्रियाधीन है। वैसे वाहनों को बिहार मध-निषेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम (संशोधन)2022 की धारा “ख” तथा बिहार मध-निषेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम (संशोधन) नियमावली 2022 की कंडिका 12 “क” के प्रावधानों के तहत जप्त वाहनों को पेनाल्टी पर मुक्त किया जा सकता है। मध-निषेध उत्पाद विभाग एवं सदर थाना हाजीपुर पुलिस विभाग द्वारा अनेध शराब द्रव्य परिवहन करने के आरोप में निम्न अंकित वाहनों का प्रस्ताव अधोहस्ताक्षरी के न्यायालय में संभारित है।

क्र० सं०	अधिरण्य वाद संख्या	थाना का नाम /अधीक्षक मध-निषेध का प्रस्ताव	थाना कांड संख्या	वाहन का प्रकार	वाहन का निबंधन संख्या	वाहन का रज-रखान स्थान / थाना
1.	01 /22-23	बेलसर ओपी०	364 / 22	बोलेरो	JHD5Q-8181	बेलसर ओपी०
2.	02 /22-23	बेलसर ओपी०	99 / 19	सुमो	BR1P-1361	बेलसर ओपी०
3.	04 /22-23	बेलसर ओपी०	99 / 19	ट्रक	PB11AD-8307	बेलसर ओपी०
4.	05 /22-23	बेलसर ओपी०	99 / 19	बोलेरो	JHO9AA-6145	बेलसर ओपी०
5.	06 /22-23	बेलसर ओपी०	99 / 19	अटली कार	JH02T-3863	बेलसर ओपी०
6.	07 /22-23	बेलसर ओपी०	99 / 19	मोटरसाईकिल	BR06BS-7064	बेलसर ओपी०
7.	85 /21-22	बेलसर ओपी०	260 / 16	मारुती मान	BR30-6665	बेलसर ओपी०
8.	11 /22-23	लालगंज	378 / 22	मोटरसाईकिल	BR31AG-9622	लालगंज
9.	12 /22-23	लालगंज	379 / 22	मोटरसाईकिल	BR06W-5535	लालगंज
10.	13 /22-23	लालगंज	379 / 22	मोटरसाईकिल	BR06M-7230	लालगंज
11.	15 /22-23	लालगंज	372 / 22	मोटरसाईकिल	BR31AB-7181	लालगंज
12.	88 /21-22	लालगंज	240 / 17	कार	BR06AX-0954	लालगंज
13.	86 /21-22	वैशाली	382 / 22	मोटरसाईकिल	BR06BX-3458	वैशाली
14.	87 /21-22	वैशाली	105 / 19	मारुती सुजुकी	BR31AF-7007	वैशाली
15.	79 /21-22	वैशाली	358 / 22	ट्रक	UP60T-7695	वैशाली थाना
16.	73 /21-22	वैशाली	35822	मोटरसाईकिल	BR06AZ-5152	वैशाली थाना

अतः उपरोक्त वर्णित वाहन से संबंधित व्यक्तियों को सूचित किया जाता है कि आप स्वयं अथवा अपने प्राधिकृत अधिकारता के माध्यम से अधोहस्ताक्षरी के न्यायालय में नोटिश् प्रकाशन की तिथि से पन्द्रह दिनों के अन्दर उपस्थित होकर बिहार मध-निषेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम 2016 (तथा संशोधित) अधिनियम 2022 तथा बिहार मध-निषेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम (संशोधन) नियमावली 2022 के धारा 12 (क) के अलाोक में प्रपत्र-पत्र के अनुसार आवेदन अपर अनुमंडल दंडाधिकारी, हाजीपुर वैशाली के सम्मक्ष वाहन का पेनाल्टी जमा कर मुक्त कराया जा सकता है। यदि पन्द्र दिनों के अन्दर पेनाल्टी जमा नहीं करते है तो वैसे वाहनों को राजसात की कारवाई की जायेगी।

नोट-1. Latest Insurenc Value का 50 प्रतिशत पेनाल्टी के रूप में देय होगा।

2. Insurenc Value की गणना वाहन मालिक स्वामीय बीमा कम्पनी से करा सकता है। बीमा कम्पनी सरकार की या निजी हो सकती है और उनके Authorized Value से यह काम कराया जा सकता है।

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखी जा सकती है।

PR- 12337 (District) 2022-23

भूमि सुधार उप समाहर्ता, हाजीपुर

BORDER ROW WITH MAHARASHTRA

Karnataka passes resolution: Not an inch of land to be ceded to neighbour

CM Bommai slams Raut remarks on ‘entering’ state, calls him ‘China agent’

KIRAN PARASHAR
BELAGAVI, DECEMBER 22

AMID THE war of words with political leaders from Maharashtra on their claims over the border district of Belagavi, which has a large Marathi-speaking population, the Karnataka Assembly on Thursday unanimously passed a resolution on the boundary row, resolving to protect the state’s interests and not to cede an inch of land to its neighbour.

The resolution, which condemned the boundary dispute “created” by Maharashtra, was moved by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and was adopted by a voice vote.

Addressing the House in the ongoing winter session in Belagavi, Bommai added that his ministers have “got invitations from towns of Maharashtra seeking to be part of Karnataka”, but Karnataka has never tried to “create a rift”.

Countering Shiv Sena



Karnataka CM Bommai addresses the House in Belagavi on Thursday. Express

(Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Sanjay Raut’s jibe that Maharashtra will “enter” Karnataka, like the Chinese “entered” India, Bommai called the Rajya Sabha MP a “Chinese agent” and asserted that the BJP government in Karnataka will protect the state’s interests. He said: “The way Sanjay Raut spoke, I doubt

whether he is in favour of China. He is anti-national. What else should I call him? If you come like the Chinese, we will do what Indian soldiers did.”

Hitting out at the Bommai government over its plan to pass a resolution, as well as the Maharashtra government’s purported “silence” on the issue, Raut had on Wednesday said, “Like China has entered (Indian territory), we will enter (Karnataka). We don’t need anyone’s permission. We want to solve it through a discussion, but Karnataka CM is igniting a fire. There is a weak government in Maharashtra and is not taking any stand on it.”

In his address to the House, former Karnataka CM and Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah also condemned Raut’s remarks: “Let us not stoop to such a low level (as that) of Maharashtra. We will respond to them in a civilised manner. We are Indians. China is an enemy country. Does he (Raut) not have any

HC quashes I-T order to attach Xiaomi India’s FD accounts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 22

THE KARNATAKA High Court has quashed an order dated August 11, 2022 of the Income Tax Department to seize two fixed deposit accounts with Rs 3,700 crore funds belonging to the Chinese cellphone manufacturing company, Xiaomi Technology India Pvt Ltd, for an alleged violation of I-T norms while transferring royalties to sister concerns based abroad.

The Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax, based on the approval by the Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, provisionally attached the fixed de-

posits (FDs) of the company worth Rs 2,600 crore in the HSBC Bank and Rs. 1,100 crore with Citi Bank. The order was later challenged as being arbitrary, mechanical, and without application of mind by the telecom manufacturer.

During the course of the hearings of the petition filed by Xiaomi Technology, the I-T department argued that the investigations found that the royalty paid by Xiaomi to foreign entities was only a method of diverting profits outside of India for the I-T year 2018-19. The department added that allowing the company to divert profits under the guise of royalty to foreign entities was detrimental to national revenues and the country.

Xiaomi Technology India has claimed that the royalties were paid to its technology partners Qualcomm and Beijing Xiaomi Mobile.

A single judge bench of the Karnataka HC with Justice SR Krishna Kumar has ruled against the I-T department on the August 11 order to seize the FD accounts of Xiaomi Technology India Pvt Ltd to recover Rs 3,700 crore diverted as royalties. “In this case, a perusal of the impugned order will clearly indicate that the same is arbitrary and reflects premeditated conclusion without recording either an opinion or necessary to attach the property,” the Karnataka HC said in its December 16 order.

GYANVAPI CASE

Petitioners’ claim of puja at mosque site till 1993 fictitious, HC told

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 22

LAWYERS REPRESENTING the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee (AIMC) on Thursday told the Allahabad High Court that the claims made by the lawyers representing the Hindu side that puja was performed at the Gyanvapi mosque complex till 1993 were “fictitious”.

Senior Advocate Syed Farman Ahmad Naqvi, who represented the AIMC in the High Court, said the claims were being made to bypass the Places of Worship Act, 1991. The Act prohibits conversion of any place of worship and provides for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947.

Naqvi told the court that the Hindu side made a “fictitious claim” that puja was performed at the mosque complex till 1993 and that it was stopped by an “oral order”.

The court was hearing a civil revision filed by the AIMC, challenging the maintainability of the suit filed by five Hindu women who are seeking the right to “worship deities in the Gyanvapi mosque complex”. A local court in Varanasi on September 12 rejected the AIMC’s application challenging the maintainability of the suit.

Advocate Hari Shankar Jain, who is representing the five women in the High Court, said, “I told the court that the religious character of the place is Hindu and not of the Muslims, and the puja was being performed at the site for ages. The temple was destroyed and a structure was built. If someone destroys a temple and builds a mosque, it can’t be considered a mosque as per Islamic laws.”

Asked about the Muslim side’s contention regarding the state government giving an order to allegedly stop puja at the site, Jain said, “That is a presumption. It will become clear when the government files a reply in the court.”

Rajasthan BJP flip-flops on suspending Jan Aakrosh Yatra

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 22

AFTER INITIALLY announcing on Thursday that it was suspending its Jan Aakrosh Yatra (JAY) in Rajasthan in view of a looming Covid-19 threat, BJP backtracked from its decision in the evening.

On Thursday afternoon, BJP’s Rajya Sabha MP and Rajasthan in charge Arun Singh said, “We have stopped the remaining Yatras but will resume the same again, without a doubt.” He said this was done “keeping in mind the Covid protocol”.

However, in the evening, BJP state president Satish Poonia issued a statement saying, “Since no advisory has been issued by the Centre or the state, there was some confusion, but it was regarding Yatras. But our Jan Sabhas will continue as per schedule.” He asked all party district presidents and leaders to do away with their confusion, if any.

Later, in a damage control, Singh too said Jan Aakrosh Yatra has been suspended but the Jan Aakrosh Sabha will continue while following all Covid rules; however, Singh’s statement was incongruous.

The name of BJP’s ongoing campaign is Jan Aakrosh Yatra. In JAY phase one between December 1 and 14, the party organised ‘Jan Aakrosh Rath Yatras’, and in phase two between December 16 and 31, ‘Jan Sabhas’ are underway.

Since the ‘Yatras’ had been suspended on December 14 itself as per Poonia, Singh’s second statement made little sense as there is no question of suspending something that has already been stopped over a week ago.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Principal chief materials manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief description	Qty.	Closing date
01	82224731B	Advance Hand Instrument With OEM Certified Compatibility With Valley Lab Machine in OT/NRCH- Assorted Length, The name valley lab has changed to medtronics. Assorted advanced hand instruments for Lap/ open surgeries.	45 Nos	16-01-2023

Note: -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS websites i.e., www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.



Tender Notice No. Surgery Item Date: -21.12.2022
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE
3402/2022

कार्यालय अवीक्षण अभियंता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत्त, अलवर
समिति, पौंसर, अशोक टाकीज के पास, कचरी रोड, अलवर
फोन:-0144-2737038, E-mail:- sealw.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in

क्रमांक
Short Term NIT No. 21/2022-23
Bids for 6 Package Road construction works in Alwar distt are invited from interested bidder from 13.12.2022 04.00 PM upto 23.12.2022 06.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> and <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> of the state and <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> department website. The approximate value of the procurements is 1488.54/- Lacs. (6 Package Road construction works).
UBN No.:
1. Road Works:-

1. PWD2223WSOB12590	2. PWD2223WSOB12591
3. PWD2223WSOB12592	4. PWD2223WSOB12625
5. PWD2223WSRC12626	6. PWD2223WSOB12654

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
PWD Circle Alwar

DIPR/C/1611/2022

MORADABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Pili Kothi, Jalkal Compound, Moradabad-244001 (U.P.)

E-Procurement Tender Notice
Ref. No : 204/Ex. Eng./ Env/NNM/2022-23
Date: 22-12-2022

Name of Work	Bid Security/ EMD	Time Limit	RFP Document Fee	EMD/Bid Security Exemption	PBG
Door to Door Waste Collection Transportation upto Secondary Collection Point. Mechanical Sweeping of Roads and User fee Collection from 50 Wards of Moradabad Municipal Corporation.	23,00,000.00	5 Years	Rs. 11,800.00	Exemption has been granted to MSMEs (Micro and small Enterprises) Bidder claiming this exemption shall submit a certificate stating their registration along with MSME.	5% of the annual project value

Key Details:-

S.No.	Description	Date and Time
1.	Start date for Purchase of Tender (Online)	24/12/2022 at 10.00 AM
2.	Last Date for submission of Tender (Online)	09/01/2023 at 04.00 PM
3.	Technical bid opening (Online)	09/01/2023 at 05.00 PM

Note:-
1. Tender Document and other details shall be available on Website <https://etender.up.nic.in>
2. Amendment to NIT, if any would be published only on website <https://etender.up.nic.in>
3. Bank Details for online payment-
A/C Holder Name - NAGAR NIGAM MORADABAD E-TENDERING
A/c No - 27050100020717
Bank Name - Bank of Baroda
Bank IFSC code - BARB0LYMOR (5th Character is Zero)
4. Document Fee Rs. 11,800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Only) has to be paid through FDR/NSC/RTGS/NEFT during the downloading of RFP Document & payment of RFP Document fee in favor of "Municipal Commissioner, Moradabad Corporation".
5. The RFP may be postponed or cancelled at any time due to administrative reasons and no claim shall be entertained of this account.
6. All the documents are to be submitted online.
The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Uttar Pradesh e-Procurement Portal <https://etender.up.nic.in> from **24/12/2022 at 10:00 Hours (IST)** onwards. Online bids are invited for the following works up to **09/01/2023 at 16:00 hours. Technical Bid will be opened on same day at 17.00 hours at Office of the Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Pili Kothi, Moradabad.**
For more details on the tender and bidding process you may please visit the above mentioned portal.

(Rajeev Kumar Rathni)
Ex. Eng./Environment Engineer
Nagar Nigam Moradabad

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

DELHI
Akademi Award
for B Narayan,
Anuradha Roy

New Delhi: The Sahitya Akademi Award for 2022 will be conferred on authors Badri Narayan and Anuradha Roy. Narayan would be conferred the award for his collection of poems in Hindi titled *Tumadi Ke Shabd*, Sahitya Academy secretary K Srinivasarao said. Roy will be awarded the award for her novel *All the Lives We Never Lived* in English and Anis Ashfaq for his novel *Khwab Sarab* in Urdu. The awards announced for 23 languages include seven poetry collections, six novels, two story collections, two literary criticisms, three plays and one autobiography. The award in Bengali would be announced after a few days due to technical reasons. **PTI**

GUJARAT
Five detained
for 'assaulting'
Dalit man

Vadodara: The Vadodara police on Thursday detained five persons in connection with alleged assault of a 24-year-old Dalit man by a group of seven persons belonging to another caste in Vadodara on December 11. Police said that after an FIR was registered on Wednesday, The accused told the police that they were allegedly summoned for help by a female social-media influencer, who was allegedly being intimidated by the Dalit youth. "We are yet to verify the facts to ascertain this version," police said. **ENS**

HARYANA
Mudslide: Three
buried while
fitting pipes

Hisar: Three migrant labourers from Bihar died on Thursday due to mudslide while fitting sewer pipes in village Kapro in f this district, a senior official said. The work of sewerage pipes fitting was going on near Indraj Park for the labourers were working 10-12 feet below. The deceased have been identified as Baljeet, Santosh and Sanoj. **PTI**

UTTAR PRADESH
'Army job':
Man held for
duping youth

Lucknow: In a joint operation with the Army Intelligence unit in Lucknow, the Special Task Force of the UP Police on Wednesday arrested a person for allegedly running a racket of taking money from unemployed youths by promising them jobs in the Army. The accused, Ankit Mishra alias Ashish, lived in Lucknow. **ENS**

ADVISORY AFTER REVIEW OF COVID SITUATION

States cautious, Karnataka makes masks must indoors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DECEMBER 22

RAMPING UP testing, genome sequencing of positive samples, ordering local authorities to be on alert and recommending Covid-appropriate behaviour are some of the measures being taken by states amid worries over the spread of the Omicron variant that has caused a new surge in Covid-19 cases in China. Moreover, Karnataka has made wearing masks mandatory indoors and in closed spaces. Here are what some of the states are doing:

KARNATAKA: The state government on Thursday released guidelines making it mandatory to wear face masks indoors and in closed spaces like pubs, bars, restaurants, malls, offices, buses and trains. All those with symptoms of respiratory illnesses have been asked to self-isolate and get tested immediately. Officials have been directed to expedite the booster dose vaccination.

KERALA: After a high-level meeting of officials, Health Minister Veena George said all districts have been told to strengthen surveillance. Number of tests would be increased and genomic sequencing of positive cases would be held. She said there would not be any curb on Christmas-New Year celebrations.

MAHARASHTRA: CM Shinde reviewed the Covid situation in the state. He directed all guardian ministers to ensure that health facilities are ready in their respective districts. He directed the Chief Secretary to ensure that the five point programme of — test, track, treat, vaccinate and ensure COVID-appropriate behaviour — is followed.



A medical staffer at Thane Municipal Corporation's Covid Centre checks equipment as part of preparations to handle Covid cases, on Thursday. **PTI**

GUJARAT: Health Minister Rushikesh Patel said that owing to the immunity developed in India in general, and Gujarat in particular, following vaccination drives, "a situation has been created whereby we can live peacefully". However, he said everyone follow Covid-appropriate behaviour.

UTTAR PRADESH: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday reviewed the Covid-19 situation in the state and directed officials to monitor the new variant, conduct genome sequencing of fresh cases and ramp up testing.

TAMIL NADU: Chief Minister M K Stalin directed officials to screen all passengers arriving to the state at the international airport in Chennai for Covid symptoms. The CM appealed to the public not to panic over the Omicron outbreak in China and said the Tamil Nadu government

is fully geared up to protect the people. He called for strict compliance of the standard guidelines for Covid management.

WEST BENGAL: In a meeting with district chief medical officers, Chief Secretary Harikrishna Dwivedi said those who have not completed their vaccination should arrange to do so, and that hospitals should stock enough testing kits.

JHARKHAND: Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Arun Kumar Singh has issued a letter to all deputy commissioners on December 21 ordering them to gear up for the "whole genome sequencing of positive samples of Covid-19" to track the variants.

UTTARAKHAND: Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama held a meeting with the concerned officials and directed them to start a campaign to administer booster doses across the state. The

officials are directed to set up camps from Friday itself. All districts have been directed to make control rooms operational and conduct genome sequencing of all new Covid cases.

ODISHA: The government has asked district collectors to gear up for disease surveillance and genome sequencing of positive samples. State health secretary Shalini Pandit asked the collectors and health authorities to follow tracking, treating, contact tracing, vaccination and Covid-appropriate behaviour scrupulously.

RAJASTHAN: The state Health Department wrote a letter on Thursday to the Chief Medical and Health Officers in all the districts to ensure regular screening and door-to-door surveys to identify people who are suffering from influenza-like illnesses. The order said samples tests should be taken from all suspected patients.

India calls for equal rights for Afghan women

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

INDIA ON Thursday said it is concerned over reports that the Taliban have banned women from universities in Afghanistan, and renewed its call for setting up of an inclusive government in Kabul that ensures equal rights of women and girls in all aspects of the Afghan society.

Responding to questions at the weekly briefing, Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "We have noted with concern the reports in this regard. India has consistently supported the cause of women education in Afghanistan. We have emphasised the importance of the establishment of an inclusive and representative government that respects the rights of all Afghans and ensures equal rights of women and girls to participate in all aspects of Afghan society, including access to higher education," Bagchi said.

He also referred to the UN Security Council Resolution (UN-SCR) 2593 on Afghanistan. "I would also recall UN Security Council Resolution 2593, which reaffirms the importance of upholding human rights, including those of women.

UP: Principal, shiksha mitra booked for 'making students recite Iqbal's poem'

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 22

A **PRINCIPAL** of a government school and a shiksha mitra have been booked in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, for "hurting religious sentiments" after a video of students reciting Muhammad Iqbal's poem *Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua* during the morning assembly went viral. The Education Department has also suspended school principal Nahid Siddiqui and ordered a probe against shiksha mitra Wazeeruddin.

The FIR against Siddiqui and Wazeeruddin was registered at Fareedpur police station on a complaint lodged by a local Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) functionary, Sompal Singh Rathore, who alleged that a "religious prayer" was recited at the government school in a bid to convert the students.

"Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua" was penned in 1902 by Muhammad Iqbal, also known as Allama Iqbal who wrote *Saare Jahan Se Achcha*.

"A prayer was being recited which said something like, 'Allah ibadat karna'. This is not the stipulated prayer, and hence school principal Nahid Siddiqui has been suspended. I have also ordered a probe against the shiksha mitra," Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), Bareilly, Vinay Kumar said.

In his complaint to the police, the VHP functionary alleged, "...teachers Nahid Siddiqui and

Wazeeruddin were making the students reciter prayer as per Muslim method with an intention to hurt sentiments of the Hindus... This is being done by the two teachers to attract students towards Islam... Both the teachers are hurting the sentiments of Hindus and preparing for the students' conversion."

The government school, where the alleged incident happened, has 265 students enrolled in Classes 1 to 8.

Meanwhile, 62-year-old Nahid Siddiqui said that she was not in the school when the alleged incident took place as she went on leave from December 12. "I was on medical leave. Before I went on leave, we recited the stipulated prayer 'Ae Shakti Humein Dena Data' every day along with the national anthem. In my absence, the shiksha mitra got *Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua* (by Muhammad Iqbal) recited during the morning assembly. In the past, when the shiksha mitra asked me to get this prayer recited, I refused," said Siddiqui, who is set to retire next March.

Three years ago, in October 2019, the headmaster of a government primary school in Bisalpur area of Pilibhit was suspended following a complaint by local VHP workers who alleged that the teacher made students recite a religious prayer, usually recited in madrasas. In that case, too, the students had recited Allama Iqbal's *Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua*.

Order to allow Sikhs to carry kirpan in domestic flights policy decision: HC

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

DISMISSING A plea challenging the Centre's notification allowing Sikh passengers to carry 'kirpan' on their person on domestic flights, Delhi High Court on Thursday said the notification was issued after "due deliberations" and the issue raised in the plea was "a matter of policy decision".

After examining the notification issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in March this year, allowing Sikh passengers to carry

kirpans on flight and in airports, a division bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad observed that the "decision has been arrived at by the government after due deliberations".

On Article 25 of the Constitution, the bench said it gives "every person the right to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion, subject to public order, morality and health". It was noted that the explanation-I to the Article specifically clarified that "wearing and

Compounder held for botched surgery that killed woman, murder of her mother

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 22

A **MEDICAL** assistant of a private hospital in Gita Mandir road area of Ahmedabad who allegedly gave an overdose of anaesthesia "while performing a surgery" on a 35-year-old woman, leading to her death, and later murdering her 55-year-old mother the same way to "eliminate witness" was arrested on Thursday.

The bodies of the women were found in the closet and the in-patients room of the hospital near Bhulabhai Park on Wednesday. Postmortem report confirmed that the two women died of an overdose of Ketamine, an anaesthetic drug.

According to police, the accused Mansukh Miyadra, 40, who was a compounder for over 10 years at the Kam ENT Speciality Hospital that runs from a section of a multi-storey commercial complex, was known to the victim, Bharti Solanki, 35.

According to Assistant Commissioner of Police K Division Milap Patel, Miyadra was "unskilled" but would perform procedures in the absence of the doctor, for a smaller fee.

Solanki's father Govind Vala, 60, told police that the women left home saying Champa had pain in her leg and would go to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation-run LG hospital.

Miyadra called the victims for the surgery in the absence of the doctor. While doing the surgery, he gave an overdose of the anaesthetic drug to Bharti and later to her mother Champa, 55, in order to eliminate the witness.



Afghan protesters demonstrate in Kabul against the Taliban's decision to close universities for women. **Reuters**

namaz. This life is worse than jail," said the student, whose younger brother attends school. "They have issues with the existence of women. How can one expect such a mentality to change?"

The Taliban's latest action, after its ban on education of girls from classes 7 to 12, has forced women to take to the streets.

On Thursday, a group of students protested near Kabul University. They were beaten and even whipped by Taliban men. One of the protesters said: "Today again they tried to stop our protest. They openly thrashed and lashed the girls who were protesting for our right to education."

Women students said they are getting open death threats from the Taliban — but said that this would not deter them from pressing for education for girls.

Another student, in her early twenties, said her friends were beaten in front of her when they tried to enter the campus. "They were beating women and touching them inappropriately. They say that in Islam, a woman has no right to study and she is meant only to give birth to a child. Every minute here is suffocating now. My father works in Iran because there are no jobs in Kabul."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Cops: Prof held for seeking sexual favour from student

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 22

A **47-YEAR-OLD** Rajasthan Technical University associate professor, accused of blackmailing and demanding sexual favours from a student, and the victim's male classmate who acted as a mediator were on Thursday arrested and sent to three-day police custody.

According to the police, after an FIR was registered on the basis of the student's complaint, more students corroborated her version in their statements to the police.

"Preliminary investigation suggests that the harassment had been taking place since a

month and half. He had been trying to initiate a dialogue and summon the students seeking sexual favours in exchange of passing them," said DSP Amar Singh Rathore.

He added that the incident came to light after an audio of the professor's conversation with another student went viral on social media in which the former can be heard making vulgar comments about the victim.

"We have arrested both the professor and the student who was the intermediary through whom the former would convey the messages to the girl students. We have recorded statements of two-three other students," the DSP said.

Four Indian films make it to Oscars shortlist

UDBHAV SETH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

FOUR INDIAN films, including the commercial hit RRR, have made it to the Oscars shortlist in four different categories.

The 95th Academy Awards shortlist announced on Thursday includes *Last Film Show* (*Chhello Show* in Gujarati) in the Best International Feature category, documentaries *All That Breathes* and *Elephant Whisperers* in the Best Documentary and Best Documentary (Short) category, respectively, and *Naatu, Naatu* song from *RRR* in the Best Original Song category.

"We're beside ourselves with



Chhello Show is first Indian film in 21 years and 4th Indian film ever to make it to Best International Feature shortlist

joy and relief. Not least because this shines more light on the singularly remarkable work our characters do, but also owing to the lovely films we are in the company of," said Shaunak Sen, direc-

tor of *All That Breathes*, a documentary about two brothers in New Delhi who rescue a black kite falling from the city's smog-choked skies against the backdrop of north-east Delhi's 2020 riots.

Four Indian films make it to Oscars shortlist

The documentary has already won awards at the Cannes and Sundance film festivals where it was featured earlier this year.

"We're genuinely thrilled with the recognition and are looking forward to the next steps in the film's journey... We're exhilarated about India's stunning performance at the shortlist level, four [shortlisted films] is incredible," said Sen.

Last Film Show is the first Indian film in 21 years and fourth Indian film ever to make it to the Best International Feature shortlist. Directed by Pan Nalin, it follows the story of Samay, a nine-year-old boy in a village in Gujarat, who bribes a theatre projectionist to watch movies all

summer. Smitten by the craft and deciding to pursue it as a vocation, the boy navigates a life of hardship, creation, sacrifice and a selfless love of artistry. The film premiered at the 20th Tribeca Film Festival in 2021 and released in India this year.

Elephant Whisperers (streaming on Netflix) is about an unusually large family. Following the lives of an ageing couple of the Kattunayakan tribe in south India who become parents to two orphan baby elephants, this 41-minute documentary directed by Kartiki Gonsalves is a half-a-decade-long journalistic endeavour that explores a love transcending boundaries of blood, community, and species.

Four Indian films make it to Oscars shortlist

"We were trying to stabilise her blood pressure with injection support as there was no chance for a surgical intervention. She died due to severe head injuries," the KIMS director said.

Her son, Bharath Barikeri, was killed in the attack. The accused beat the 10-year-old boy, twirled him and smashed the boy's head against a cement pillar, before flinging him from the first floor of the school building. Kuri, also a temporary teacher, had also attacked the headmaster of the school, Sanganagouda Patil.

According to the preliminary investigation conducted by Gadag police, Kuri, also a guest teacher, and Barikeri were in an alleged extramarital relationship. Kuri was jealous after suspecting that Barikeri was getting close to the headmaster.

The Indian **EXPRESS**

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CHINESE TAKEAWAY

It has been nine months since the Omicron wave petered out in India. China surge must be seen as a warning

THE RENEWED AND unfolding Covid-19 emergency in China has set off warning bells in India. Rightly so. Even though there is no cause for alarm, reactivating surveillance procedures, which had become all but dormant in the last few months, is a step in the right direction, considering the proven unpredictability of the virus. Realistically speaking, the situation in China is a threat to India only as much as the several big and small waves in various countries were in the last nine months. What is happening in China is a consequence of the manner in which the pandemic has been dealt with in that country. Apprehensions are that infections would increase in China at an even faster rate and very large numbers of people would fall sick at the same time, overwhelming the country's healthcare systems, and resulting in a chaos that China has managed to avoid till now in the pandemic. The possibility of a spillover effect on India, however, though not entirely ruled out, does not pose a major risk at this point.

The dominant variant in circulation in China, the BF.7, is essentially an Omicron sub-variant. There are hundreds of Omicron sub-variants circulating in the world right now — over 500, according to the World Health Organisation — each with some special characteristics, but none remarkably more dangerous enough to be designated as a new Variant of Concern (VoC), a WHO classification that marks out a global threat. Many of these sub-variants must be in circulation in the Indian population as well. Just because a lower number of cases are being detected in India does not mean the virus has disappeared from the country. The current sub-variants, including BF.7, which has been found to be floating around, are either not powerful enough to overcome the natural immunity in most Indians, or are able to infect only in harmless ways. But this situation could change, and this is why the Chinese situation needs to be monitored closely. Because of the very large number of infections that are likely in China, the chances of the virus mutating into newer forms is greater than at any point of time in the last one year. Whether it would evolve into a more powerful virus, or just more sub-variants of Omicron, cannot be predicted. Scientists say the possibility of a Delta-like variant re-emerging is very low, but not zero. From the Indian standpoint, therefore, stepping up surveillance makes a lot of sense.

It has been nine months since the Omicron wave petered out in India. A fresh wave in the coming months would not be surprising. The Chinese situation is only incidental in this regard — even the Omicron sub-variants can cause this new wave. Many countries have seen multiple waves of infections caused by Omicron, or its sub-variants. Both natural as well as vaccine-acquired immunity are not permanent. It is, therefore, good to see the government respond quickly to the emerging situation in China.

LISTENING IN

Growing dissension within MPC suggests rate hike cycle may be drawing to a close

IN ITS DECEMBER meeting, the monetary policy committee of the Reserve Bank of India had voted to raise the benchmark repo rate by 35 basis points. The MPC had retained its stance, choosing to remain focused on the withdrawal of accommodation. However, committee member Jayanth Varma voted against the rate hike. Varma, along with Ashima Goyal, also objected to the stance of the committee. As differences within the committee begin to sharpen, the minutes of that December meeting, released on Wednesday, not only provide an understanding of the considerations guiding individual MPC members, but also indicate the likely trajectory of monetary policy.

The minutes of the meeting reveal that several committee members continue to worry about price pressures in the economy despite the recent dip in inflation. Headline retail inflation declined to 5.88 per cent in November, falling below the upper threshold of the RBI's inflation targeting framework. Much of the decline was due to falling food inflation — the consumer food price index fell to 4.67 per cent in November, down from 7.01 per cent in October. Worryingly, however, core inflation remained elevated, signaling continuing price pressures in the economy. RBI's state of the economy report also acknowledges the risks, saying that "inflation may be slightly down, but it is certainly not out." And that "if anything, it has broadened and become stubborn, especially at its core." In his comments, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das also noted the "persistence" in core inflation. However, Varma, while arguing that inflationary pressures are "easing", points towards "heightened growth concerns" — this perhaps indicates a shift within the committee with greater emphasis now being placed by some on growth considerations. After all, the effects of a slowing global economy are already being felt across the Indian economy. India's export growth has plummeted in recent months, as has industrial production. Domestic demand also appears to be slowing as seen through the recent import data.

Since May, the MPC has raised the repo rate by 225 basis points. While the size of the hike was lower in December, indicating perhaps that the end of the rate hike cycle is near, there continues to be uncertainty over the extent of tightening the RBI still envisages. Das has said that a "premature pause in monetary policy action would be a costly error at this juncture," while Patra has noted that a "decisive decline in inflation over a series of monthly readings" needs to be seen before a shift. These comments only increase the possibility of another rate hike when the committee meets next in February. A pause thereafter cannot be ruled out.

THE STORY OF CTM

Ali Ahmed Aslam played a starring role in the tale of chicken tikka masala, an enduring symbol of UK's multiculturalism

IT IS SAID that on a cold, wet Glaswegian evening, sometime in the 1970s, a customer at a local Indian restaurant called the Shish Mahal, sent back his order of chicken tikka, finding it too dry for his taste, and asked for it to be served with some gravy. The restaurant's owner, Ali Ahmed Aslam, added yoghurt, cream and some spices to the chicken and the chicken tikka masala, or CTM as it is fondly called, was born. Aslam died this week in Glasgow at the age of 77.

While the Pakistan-born Aslam is widely recognised as the CTM's creator, other curry shops and restaurants in the UK have also staked their claim on its origins. Some, like Chef Anjum Anand, have traced it to the butter chicken that is believed to have been invented at the Moti Mahal in Delhi in the 1950s; the similarities in the two origin stories — addition of cream, yoghurt or tomatoes and garam masala to dry cooked chicken — are indeed hard to overlook.

But the origins of the CTM, whether in the UK or India, are the least interesting part of its story. In 2001, the UK's former foreign minister, Robin Cook, described CTM as "a true British national dish" and upheld it as a successful example of the nation's multiculturalism. And that is exactly what's so remarkable about the success of CTM. Other contenders for the position of Britain's national dish have come up since Cook's famous speech, but CTM's appeal remains both wide and enduring. From families looking for a quick, cheap meal at the local greasy spoon to hungover stag and hen parties indulging their morning-after munchies, Britons cutting across generations and class have found comfort in the rich textures and mild flavours of chicken tikka masala — a dish of indisputable South Asian lineage, never mind the details.



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

THE FATE OF democracy often rests on the quality of the political Opposition. This is even truer when the government uses all its institutional power to disadvantage the Opposition. How does the Opposition create space? This is one perspective from which to look at the Bharat Jodo Yatra, a novel attempt to create a new political space. It is often in the nature of imaginative political actions like the Yatra, that its effects are discovered after the fact. An act of political improvisation can itself lead to new forms of knowledge and identification.

The Yatra is a novel mode of political articulation: An amalgamation of pilgrimage and penance that also deploys the grammar of the national movement. It is premised on the recognition that the hard work of pushing back the BJP will have to come from ideological outreach, the constant articulation of discontent and not just mobilisation at the time of elections. Second, it is meant to be a show of strength, to rejuvenate the Congress party and to empower silent constituencies. It was to give a glimpse of an alternative style of politics: A politics of decency, comfortable with listening, refreshingly bereft of the orgies of hate that define public discourse. The Yatra embodied love and national unity. Doubtless, it created that effervescence for those who participated. Suhas Palshikar has, in these pages ("One hundred days of Yatra", IE, December 22), written eloquently about the limitations of the Yatra in these respects.

But as it turned out, the semiotics of the Yatra are entirely dominated by one figure. Rahul Gandhi had for long, fairly or unfairly, laboured under the charge that he was an entitled politician, with a lack of commitment, confidence and decisiveness, and bereft of the popular touch. Much of the Yatra is focused on the recasting of that image: The projection of another bearded pilgrim, whose dedication cannot be doubted, who now exudes a common touch and ease with people that comes from genuine empathy. Projecting the idea that this is India's Discovery of Rahul and Rahul's Discovery of India has pretty much crowded out everything else, including party unity in Congress.

This is neither criticism nor endorsement.

Yatra, without arrival

Bharat Jodo is an important gesture on politics of hate. But it is not yet a politics of hope

But analytically, then, the political success of the Yatra turns on one question: Does the Yatra place Rahul Gandhi in a better position to exert more authority within the Congress party? Does it make him a politically more acceptable leader? The Yatra may have projected Rahul Gandhi's empathy and resolve. But has it done much to overcome the idea for many voters that Rahul was the symbol of the old, hollowed out, political order. He was an easy foil against whom Modi made himself look good. Has it done enough to convince his own party that he is an electoral asset that can be projected in a one-to-one battle with the prime minister?

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Supporters of the Yatra argue that it should not be judged by conventional political yardsticks, particularly elections in the short run. And we need time for the consciousness raising of the Yatra to kick in. There is something important about the idea of a political gesture for its own sake. It is often a reminder, to paraphrase Livy, that an arrogant man can take away other people's liberties but by lack of courage and political action, we take away our own. Even if we grant this, there is something odd about positioning a Yatra that ostensibly speaks to citizens, but not to voters, and bypasses political questions, electoral or otherwise.

The success or failure of the Yatra will not be decided by endorsements, but politically. So here are three things that will constitute the political test of the Yatra and its aftermath. The first is ideological. To give Rahul Gandhi credit, he is one of the few in the Opposition space to take head-on the fact that the RSS and Hindutva are deeply authoritarian and communal. There is no mendacious soft peddling. But merely reiterating this opposition is not enough. India is divided over secularism. But the contest cannot be simply Hindutva versus Congress secularism as practised in the 1980s.

Take an important issue, and potential political googly, like the Uniform Civil Code. Bharat Jodo is going to be tested on concrete issues like this. Congress has done well in Haryana to oppose the new conversion bills. But does the process of listening and outreach create a space for a new vision of secularism

that pre-empts the BJP in its criticisms of the old Congress' institutional and legal conduct? Or will the party again flail on specifics, emotionally defending secularism but abdicating all concrete issues to the BJP.

The second issue is this: How many hearts and minds the Yatra converts is an open question. At an elite level, it does not seem to have moved many who were not already sympathetic. But the conduct of other political actors is a proxy test of the political success of the Yatra. The Yatra may have energised Congress workers in some states. But there is little sign that it has given the party momentum. If anything, the factionalism in Congress, even in states where it has the best chance, Rajasthan and Karnataka, is making Congress' position less strong than it should be. Factionalism is not a just a function of the small-mindedness of the leaders of different factions. Just witness Rajasthan. It is also a function of their lack of confidence in the highest levels of leadership. Will this Yatra restore that confidence in full measure?

Third, if the BJP is to be ousted, there will have to be significant Opposition unity, properly institutionalised, operationalised and communicated. There is no way of getting around this fact. All established regimes are delegitimised only if the Opposition speaks with a degree of unity. Does the Yatra remain confined to virtue signalling? Or does it both broaden the base of voters who can be brought into the anti-BJP camp? Does it enhance the Congress's capacity to facilitate Opposition unity, by the dint of its authority, and the new political capital it might bring to the negotiation? It might seem unfair to lay the test of the Yatra on how other Opposition leaders respond. Perhaps. But in a deeper sense, they are politicians. And their reading of the Yatra will indicate whether it has any political momentum.

Bharat Jodo is an important gesture on the politics of hate. But its own equivocation on what it is about suggests that it is not yet a politics of hope.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express



SHWETA BANSAL

THE G20'S FINANCE Track discussions placed the regulation of virtual digital assets (VDAs) to curb financial crimes such as money laundering and terror financing as a priority. This comes on the heels of the 'No Money for Terror' conference hosted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. The conference concluded with a commitment from the 93 participating nations to end all financing of terror, including through the use of emerging technologies such as VDAs.

The concerns around the misuse of VDAs for illicit activities require careful legislative responses and forward-looking regulatory guardrails. On a fundamental level, these concerns stem from a lack of reporting and transparency norms, and an absence of international consensus on regulatory design.

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Deputy Director highlighted the difficulty in regulating VDAs, given the lack of reliable data on VDA transactions. This allows bad actors to engage in unchecked transactions and defraud investors, as evinced by one of the (erstwhile) largest VDA exchanges — FTX. In this context, PM Narendra Modi's mantra of creating "global solutions" to address global problems posed by fast-changing technology is important.

As one of the highest-ranked countries in terms of VDA adoption, and now with the G20 presidency, India has a critical role to play in shaping the global regulatory environment.

In the short term, a viable approach for India is in taking the industry and the in-

A LAW FOR DIGITAL ASSETS

India can take the lead in regulating Virtual Digital Assets as G20 president

vestor into confidence by allowing anti-money laundering (AML) authorities visibility over VDA transactions, and the power to impose controls upon them and prosecute in the event of any misuse. There are several international templates to this effect. The Financial Action Task Force Guidelines on Virtual Asset Transactions (FATF Guidelines) are a case in point, which have been adopted by various jurisdictions, including the EU, Japan and Singapore.

The FATF prescribes minimum AML/CFT standards that countries should employ to prevent the likelihood of misuse, and the FATF Guidelines prescribe the same for VDA transactions. The Guidelines are applicable to VDA service providers of member states like India. Key features of the FATF Guidelines include licence/registration requirements and extensive reporting and record-keeping obligations for VDA service providers. One such obligation is the "Travel Rule", which requires service providers to record the originator and beneficiary's account details, transaction amount, and purpose of transaction for all wire transfers. Customer due diligence obligations, which include verifying the customer and beneficiary's identities should be conducted for all transactions exceeding \$1,000. The FATF Guidelines also require VDA service providers to perform enhanced due diligence obligations (such as corroborating the customer's identity with a national database or potentially tracing the customer's IP address to ensure there are no links to illicit activities) when a transaction is

with a higher-risk country. In sum, the FATF Guidelines take effect in the form of due diligence obligations, registration, record-keeping and reporting obligations for the VDA industry. India's existing AML/CFT framework under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) already applies these regulatory tools over traditional financial institutions. Notably, the PMLA also includes reporting obligations for overseas transactions that fall under the ambit of "suspicious transactions" under the framework.

Currently, the PMLA does not apply to the VDA industry. The government has the power to notify any "designated business or profession" as a reporting entity under the PMLA and can issue a notification that classifies VDA service providers as a designated business. As a result, players in the VDA industry would be obliged to report offshore transactions and be subject to regulatory oversight.

This is a vital first step towards India's vision for creating trusted corridors for tech innovation with like-minded countries. With the Digital Data Protection Bill and the Digital India Act already in the pipeline, Indians and digital businesses will soon have a coherent rights and responsibility framework to operate within. The time is ripe to extend regulatory oversight over the VDA industry so as to ensure that tech-innovation flourishes in a responsible, accountable manner.

The writer is an IFS officer

DECEMBER 23, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

POLL RIGGING FEARED

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi expressed apprehension of rigging and booth capturing in the coming assembly election in Tripura and wanted the EC and the state government to take all steps to ensure free and fair polls. The PM also assured the Centre's help for this purpose.

US IN PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN AUTHORITIES ARE stated to be "very busy" refurbishing several houses in Peshawar, Karachi and Islamabad to accommodate a number of top Americans who

have been asked to shift there from various parts of the world to lay the groundwork for some unspecified job which may have something to do with South Asian and South-West Asian politics. According to sources, some 60 American experts on electronics and monitoring devices from Egypt have been asked to prepare to go to Pakistan.

INDO-BANGLA TALKS

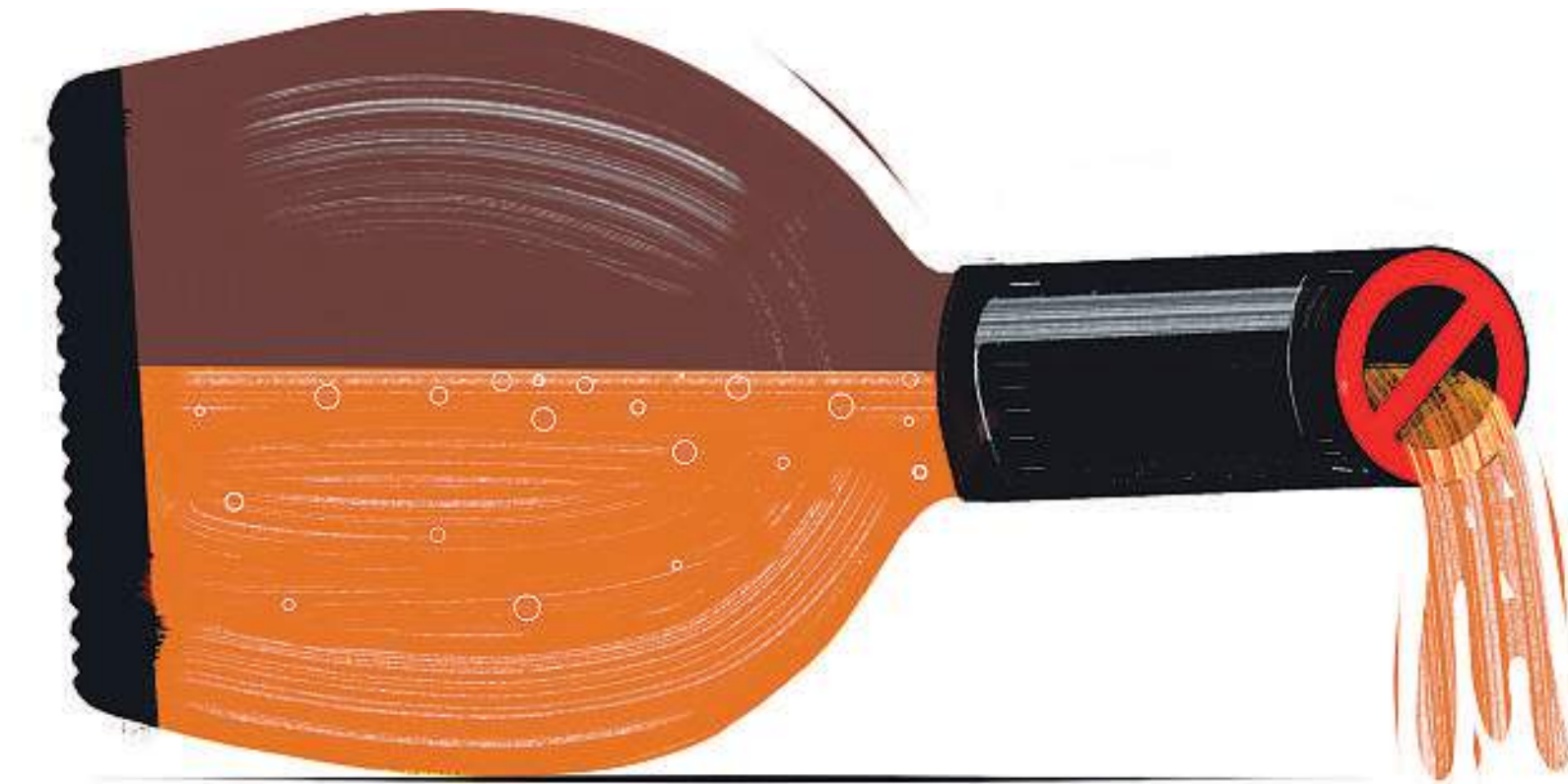
THE INDO-BANGLADESH JOINT Rivers Commission began a three-day sitting. Official sources described the first day's discussions as positive and constructive with the two sides considering the question of

sharing of the Teesta river waters and problems connected with other common rivers. The meeting, which is the 23rd of the Indo-Bangladesh JRC, is the first after the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding during the visit of Gen Ershad to New Delhi in October.

SOVIET NUKE FREEZE

THE SOVIET UNION declared that it was prepared to freeze its nuclear arsenal. It offered to come to an agreement on a complete and general nuclear test ban so that no more new kinds and types of nuclear weapons might be developed.

THE IDEAS PAGE



C R Sasikumar

Why liquor ban is bad — and good

No policy can claim success if it leads to preventable calamities and deaths. But for half of Bihar, the ban on alcohol is a blessing



M R SHARAN

IN LATE 1948, the Constituent Assembly of India sat down to discuss prohibition. B H Khardekar, an independent member from the Bombay States, opposed it on three grounds: First, prohibition was hard to enforce; second, even limited enforcement would overwhelm jails and third, the revenue loss would be substantial.

How well do Khardekar's concerns reflect Bihar's experiment with prohibition since 2016? Travelling around the villages of Muzaffarpur in the summer of that year, I remember being surprised by how well the policy was implemented. The evening addas among the daily-wage mazdoors, beginning at twilight and lasting till the wee hours of the morning, had all but disappeared. Daily drunks, it appeared, had turned over a new leaf: Women spoke glowingly of husbands who had become shant, peaceful. Friends in Patna told me alcohol was extremely hard to procure. Khardekar, it seemed, was not so prescient after all.

But, as the years rolled on, the stories gradually turned: It began with mazdoors once more disappearing into the night. The public drinking sessions were now replaced by clandestine encounters with low-quality, bootlegged liquor. In Kurhani, where I spent some time, the signs were ominous. The alcohol was both bad and expensive; a pall of fear hung over the households of those who drank. Soon, reports spilt over into newspapers. Stories of bootleggers abounded, some ordinary citizens, and other powerful people, including the police. In 2017, nine lakh litres of confiscated alcohol in police custody had mysteriously vanished, consumed, ap-

parently, by dipsomaniacal rodents. Worryingly, from the border districts, stories of children being roped into smuggling alcohol from neighbouring states emerged. The demand for substitutes for alcohol skyrocketed — drug addiction among youth in some pockets became a very real problem.

Enforcement has weakened, but alcohol is still not as abundantly available as it was before the ban. A plausibly direct consequence of this is a fall in domestic violence. Reported instances fell by 37 per cent in the state between 2016 and 2020. Overall, the effects on crime are ambiguous: One working paper suggests a rise in violent and property crime in post-prohibition Bihar compared to neighbouring Jharkhand.

The loss of revenue is undeniable. Tax revenues from alcohol were Rs 3,100 crore in 2014-15, about 15 per cent of total tax revenues and 1 per cent of the state's GDP. Back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest that alcohol tax revenues alone could have funded the entire housing budget of the state in 2019-2020. While these numbers seem substantial, it is also true that over 75 per cent of Bihar's revenues are generated via central taxes or grants from the Centre. In the absence of a ban, alcohol alone accounts for a mere 5 per cent or less of the total revenue receipts of the state government.

Bihar's jails are not overflowing. This is partly because conviction rates under the prohibition law are very low. However, those picked up for bootlegging are often the small fry, mostly those at the bottom of the bootlegging hierarchy in charge of distribution at the last mile. These tend to be disproportionately unemployed men at an economically precarious time in our country's history, desperate for a quick buck.

Thus, Khardekar's concerns played out to varying extents in Bihar. The law's enforcement has been weak, but alcohol consumption has undeniably reduced. This has mixed results on crime. The jails are not quite overflowing; and the revenue loss, while substantial, is not debilitating.

What Khardekar did not foresee was the tragedy of lives lost to illicit hooch. No policy can claim success if it leads to preventable calamities.

The question before Bihar is: What is the alternative? One solution, favourable to many economists, is to make alcohol available but to levy high taxes. This is a halfway house between making alcohol freely available and banning it altogether. The optimal tax rate can be quite high, because the demand for alcohol is fairly inelastic. Moreover, when alcohol is legal and the stigma attached to consumption is reduced, people will be less willing to turn to cheap illicit substitutes like hooch, even when the price differential is high. Making highly taxed alcohol available could keep consumption levels somewhat low, shore up revenues, refocus police attention and bring down hooch-related deaths. There are issues with such a policy, of course, the most important one being determining the optimal tax rates. Overall, however, this seems like a better equilibrium than the current one.

This begs one final question: What explains the government's insistence on not doing away with prohibition? My guess is that we systematically underestimate how popular the move is with one-half of Bihar. This week, I spoke to a small group of women in Muzaffarpur, where three people died last year due to consuming hooch. I asked them whether they supported prohibition. "It is a brilliant thing", one of them said. She rattled off a list of benefits: The men don't beat us, they go to work on time and there is money left over for our children.

When the outside world is lurching from one economic crisis to another, stability at home is nonpareil. For every tragic hooch death, there are several small but significant transformations.

The writer is assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Maryland, College Park and author of Last Among Equals

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The Taliban must realise that to advance the interests of Afghan people, it needs to invest in education for women — not ban it. This will not only help the government build better relations with other countries and earn public support at home, but will also help Afghanistan reach its potential." — THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

Having an Xmas cake & eating it too

That's what Centre wants. Rule 267, which gives MPs across parties a voice, remains contentious



ZERO HOUR

BY DEREK O' BRIEN

LAST WEEK, A Member of Parliament from Tamil Nadu surprised a few of us in Central Hall. He placed his black duffel bag on the desk, unzipped it, and announced, "Here is some traditional Christmas cake". The day before yesterday, an MP from Bengal brought two boxes of rich-fruit Christmas cake to share with colleagues across all parties. The cakes from Kolkata were handmade from a recipe invented 120-years ago at Nahoum's, a Jewish bakery located in New Market. Rich in history, legacy, and flavour, it is a true taste of Christmas in the city. This was exciting. Everything else in Parliament was bland.

This Parliament session has been cut short once again. It was adjourned sine die on Friday at noon. This is becoming the norm. From the Budget Session in 2020 to the Winter Session this year, this is the eighth time in a row that Rajya Sabha (Council of States) has curtailed its session. The Budget Session was scheduled to end on April 3, 2020, but was adjourned on March 23, 2020. The next six sessions after that were cut short by eight days, 14 days, two days, one day, one day, and four days respectively. This Winter Session followed that trend.

Rule 267 still remains a contentious issue. It is the rule in Rajya Sabha, which allows MPs to give a written notice to suspend all the regular business listed on the agenda and seek an immediate discussion on an important issue affecting the country. The book Rajya Sabha at Work states that "The Chairman's rulings constitute precedents which are of a binding nature". So, let's look at the precedents set by the previous Chairmen of Rajya Sabha in relation to Rule 267.

Shankar Dayal Sharma, as Chairman of Rajya Sabha, allowed four discussions to take place under this rule between the years 1990-92. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, during his tenure as Chairman of Rajya Sabha, enforced the rule three times in one year, 2004. There are more precedents. From 2013-2016, Hamid Ansari as the chairman, allowed four discussions under Rule 267.

These discussions, taken up out of turn because of the urgency of the situation, were held on a variety of subjects: The situation in Jammu & Kashmir, the Gulf War, corruption, attack on the secular fabric of the country, agrarian crisis and farmer suicides, to name a few. In the last six years, every single notice given by the Opposition to discuss an urgent national issue has been outright rejected. The last time such a notice was allowed was in 2016, when the House discussed demonetisation.

While it is true that this rule cannot be, and must not be accepted every week, or

every month, Rule 267 is a "living rule", which precedents suggest is accepted at an average of about once or twice a year. During this session, MPs across all parties did get an opportunity to speak on the economy and politics of contemporary India. My party nominated me to speak on the two Appropriation Bills (regarding excess and supplementary demand for grants). The premise of our argument was that the Union government had not delivered on their electoral promises. We presented data to make our case.

Economic blockade of states: In 2015, eight schemes were delinked from the support of the Union government and the funding pattern was changed for 24 schemes, squeezing the states, who are now owed huge amounts of money also for Central Sector Schemes. One example: the Union owes states Rs 10,162 crore under MGNREGA dues. Bengal alone is owed Rs 5,433 crore — more than 50 per cent of the total due to states.

Depriving states: Cesses and surcharges are not shared by the Union government with states. Cesses and surcharges as a percentage of gross tax revenue were 8 per cent in 2010. This is up to a whopping 27 per cent in 2022.

Finance Commission recommendations: Divisible pool of taxes set by the 14th Finance Commission and 15th Finance Commission were 42 per cent and 41 per cent, respectively. In 2022-23, the states' share in central taxes is estimated to be just 30 per cent of the gross tax revenue of the Union government.

Bad loans: In five years, Rs 10 lakh crore has been written off as bad debts by banks. To put it in perspective, this amount written off is almost the same as the entire combined budgets of West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Rajasthan for FY 21-22. Of the Rs 10 lakh crore, only Rs 1.3 lakh crore, or 13 per cent has been recovered.

Unemployment: The unemployment rate is at a three-month high at 8 per cent. As per CMIE's October 2022 estimates, urban unemployment in the age group of 20-24 is 42 per cent. Over two crore women quit the workforce between 2017 and 2022.

The Union government, led by the Prime Minister and represented by the Finance Minister in Parliament, did not contradict any of these figures in their response to the debate on Wednesday afternoon.

At the start of this Winter Session of Parliament, we had challenged the BJP, in this column a fortnight ago, to act upon even one of these issues: Pass the Women's Reservation Bill, appoint a Deputy Speaker in Lok Sabha, accept a 267 Notice from the Opposition to discuss a burning issue, get the Prime Minister to answer for the first time in six years a question on the floor of Rajya Sabha, comply with the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy, and let Parliament function for a fixed number of days. As expected, none of these was done.

When it comes to Parliament, the Union government always wants to have their (Christmas) cake and eat it too.

The writer is Member of Parliament and Leader, All India Trinamool Congress Parliamentary Party (Rajya Sabha)



RAJA MENON

Fork in the sea

An India-Japan nuclear submarine project can balance Beijing's maritime clout

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AUKUS by the US without prior warning was one of the low points in Indian foreign policy. It was most probably caused by a (mistaken) perception in Washington that Canberra was a more reliable ally against Beijing than New Delhi. The perception was probably caused by the Indian hesitancy to agree to even minimally militarise the QUAD from a purely diplomatic grouping to a more military alignment. The consequences of not being given access to US nuclear submarine technology are devastating for the Indian Navy's plans to offensively confront Beijing in the maritime arena. Now, however, there is an opportunity to leap-frog the disappointment over the AUKUS by inviting Japan to join India in a bilateral nuclear submarine building project.

Most laymen would question the need to invite Japan into a submarine-building consortium, when India has already launched the Arihant and the follow-on is about to be commissioned. This is based on a misperception that all nuclear submarines are similar. They are not. Only the US and the UK operate nuclear submarines with a fuel core of 95 per cent enrichment, thereby giving the propulsion unit enormous power over the 35-year lifespan of the submarine.

Compared to this, other submarines have a core of low-enriched uranium, giving them a limited life of fewer than 10 years at a moderate operating tempo. The difference is be-

tween chalk and cheese. A US or British nuclear submarine has so much reserve power that it is operated continuously by two complete crews alternating one after another. Distances mean nothing to them as they transit at 500 miles a day at cruising speed. Repeated attempts by retired Indian admirals to canvas congressional support for US nuclear submarine technology have been refused on the grounds of US naval opposition.

But, surprisingly, the alternative to India acquiring highly enriched core reactors could come from Japan, a country where nuclear weapons are anathema. But this doesn't stop the Japanese from treating nuclear reactors as a national strategic choice, with something like 56 reactors produced over time. If any Asian power has the capacity to build a naval propulsion reactor, it is Japan, India's partner in the QUAD against China. In fact, Mitsubishi and Hitachi are about to launch a new generation of nuclear power reactors to attain carbon zero by 2050. The model for a multinational defence project like an Indo-Japan nuclear submarine would obviously be the Euro fighter Tornado aircraft project. The project began in 1983, but was delayed by the end of the Cold War. Nevertheless, the strategic and cost benefits revived it with Germany, Austria, Italy, the UK, Spain and Saudi Arabia choosing it against stiff competition. The multinational consortium consists of the UK, Germany, Italy and Spain, each nation con-

tributing what it was best at, to build a highly successful multi-role fighter. If the Europeans can get together to build an aircraft to deter a common foe, the Asians can surely copy the model to deter an even bigger potential foe.

It is true that India can independently build a nuclear-propelled submarine. Unfortunately, the product and its limitations will determine Indian naval strategy. Today, the Chinese operate an overseas base in Djibouti, almost 6,000 miles from their home base. This act speaks of either fool-hardiness or a cynical contempt for Indian maritime capability. If India had reoriented its military grand strategy from defensive territoriality to an offensive oceanic one, the Chinese base in Djibouti would not exist for more than 72 hours, and that too when they are continuously needling us on the LAC. An Indian nuclear submarine with an Indian low-enriched uranium core will force us on the backfoot, into a cautious, timid and conservative maritime strategy, because of the submarine's extremely limited operating profile.

On the other hand, a nuclear submarine with a highly enriched core, and unlimited endurance, could, after departing Visakhapatnam, be off Shanghai in 5-6 days, operate in the South China sea for a month and return for a change of fresh crew, before repeating the performance again. As it is, the QUAD simply brings a cynical smile to Xi Jinping's face knowing that it is not a military organi-

sation. An Indo-Japanese nuclear submarine project with both countries operating nuclear submarines in the South China sea would convert that smile into a frown of worry.

For once, we need to put Aatmanirbhar aside and do an Asian multilateral nuclear submarine project that will rattle the cage in Beijing. The Indian Navy's excellent design organisation can provide the drawings for the submarine, while Mitsubishi or Hitachi manufactures the propulsion reactor, the whole project being managed by an inter-governmental group probably led by the Controller of Warship Building in New Delhi.

The project will certainly need strong ministerial leadership, from either the External Affairs Ministry or someone like Hardeep Puri, whose dynamic stint as a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, many years ago is still fondly remembered. India's military grand strategy must surely mean more than holding off the People's Liberation Army in the Himalayas. An Indo-Japanese nuclear submarine project would bring in an element of oceanic retribution to influence the strategic choices seen to be available in Beijing. The whole country has waited for decades for a national security strategy, but in the meanwhile, the Navy should take the initiative.

The writer, a former rear admiral in the navy, is author of A Nuclear Strategy for India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

YATRA'S FAILINGS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'One hundred days of Yatra' (IE, December 22). Padyatras have always been undertaken to resurrect dying political fortunes. While the purpose of Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra is to project itself as an alternate to the divisive politics of BJP, it will not be wrong to state that the yatra has not been able to do what it had set out to — catch the fancy of the people of India. They have made feeble attempts to grab headlines. But the Bharat Jodo Yatra has neither breathed new life into the Grand Old Party nor raised Rahul Gandhi's stature. A narrative has to be built and successfully sold to the people to take on the ruling regime.

Vijai Pant, Hampur

A LARGER ISSUE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A different NPA' (IE, December 22). The high rate of loan defaults in low-value education loans highlights the fault lines in the education system in the country. The proliferation of colleges offering various professional courses was grossly unplanned, and the standards and quality of graduates they are producing aren't employable. Due process wasn't followed while offering accreditation and affiliation. This also shows that public funding for education, whether through subsidised fees or direct scholarships, isn't enough to cover the pool of higher education aspirants.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

LET'S PREPARE

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Covid advisory again: Random test at airports, try to use mask' (IE, December 22). In a wise move, the Union government has reacted promptly to the rise in Covid cases in China, Japan, US and parts of Europe. While the China surge is seen as a result of the withdrawal of its zero-Covid strategy, the worry is that different sub-variants appear to be driving the surge in different countries. Covid infections continue to remain flat in India but this could partly be due to reduced testing. It will be difficult to get early warning of an upsurge in India unless states get back into testing mode and send as many positive samples as possible for genome sequencing. India should keep all systems on alert for a rapid, scaled-up public health response.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

DAMAGE CONTROL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Sliding back' (IE, December 22). The recent ban on women attending universities in Afghanistan sheds light on the trajectory of the Taliban's rule in the country. The Taliban's claims of creating an inclusive regime, which would not repeat the excesses of the 1990s, have all fallen flat. Curtailing the basic human rights of women will cause immeasurable damage. All nations should also try negotiating with the Taliban.

S Haritha Rao, Wanaparthy

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,hitherto known as Bhoneshwari alias Bhoneshwari Khandelwal,D/o Shri.Ghanshyam Das Khandelwal,W/o Shri Ashok Khandelwal,R/o B-21,East-Azad Nagar,Near-Krishna Nagar,Delhi-110051,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nidhi Khandelwal.

0040646386-5

I,Vikash Kumar Yadav,s/o-Ranvir Singh presently,residing at,822/2-A,Dinesh Vikar,Near-Disha Academy-Public School,Kishanpura,Meerut,Utt ar Pradesh-250002,have changed my name,from Vikash Kumar Yadav to Vikas Yadav, vide-affidavit dated-21.Dec-2022.

0040646347-10

I,Varsha Rani W/o Amit Saxena,R/o B-2/8,Upper-Ground-Floor,Safdarjung Enclave,Delhi-110029,have changed my name to Varsha Saxena.

0040646384-7

I,VISHWAJIT KUMAR JAISWAL,S/O VINAY JAISWAL,R/O FLATNO.D0003, ADANI OYESTER GRANDE,TOWER-D, GURGAON-122001.CHANGED MY NAME TO VISHWAJIT JAISWAL.

0040646436-4

I,VINAY KUMAR,S/O Desh Raj,R/O House No.C-63,J.J.Colony, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059,inform that VINAY is given Name KUMAR is Surname.

0040646386-1

I,VARUN WADHWA,S/O CHANDER PARKASH, R/O,HNO-2173,HOUSING BOARD-COLONY,SECTOR-1,ROHTAK-124001.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VARUN KUMAR WADHWA.

0040646418-5

I,UNESH CHITTORIA, W/O.SRI BHAGWAN CHITTOORIA,VILL & PO KHARAINTI, DIST.ROHTAK,HARYANA. PIN. 124533,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM UNESH CHITTORIA TO UNESH VIDE-AFFIDAVIT DATED. 22- DECEMBER-2022

0040646347-9

I,Surander S/O Rajender Singh R/O, H.No-54,Village Haiderpur Shalimar Bagh,Delhi-110088,have changed my name to surender Yadav.

0040646386-9

I,Sunita Rani Sharma W/o Mahendra Pal R/o-D5/1003,Aloha-Apartment,Sushant Lok-3, Sector-57,Tigra,Gurgaon (Haryana)-122003,have changed my name to Sunita Pal.

0040646436-6

I,Saroj Rana-W/o-Suresh Kumar Rana R/O-108,Goodwill, Apartment Sector-13 Rohini Delhi-110085,changed my name to Saroj Bala and my DOB wrongly,written 29.10.1969 in my documents. My actual DOB is 20.09.1967.

0040646384-10

Shakun W/o Subhash Lalwani R/o E-013, First Floor, DLF Crest, DLF 5, Sector 54, Gurgaon 122001 Have Changed My Name SHAKUNTALA LALWANI

Permanently 0040646325-1

I,SWARNLATA,W/O VISHWAJIT JAISWAL,R/O FLATNO.D-0003,TOWER-D,ADANI OYESTER GRANDE,TOWER-D,GURGAON-122001.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SWARNLATA JAISWAL.

0040646436-5

I,Rohini Singh Rawat,D/o Ratan Singh R/o H.No.47/10, Rajpur Road,Civil Lines,Delhi-110054,have changed my name to Rohini Singh Walia.

0040646384-8

I,Ranbir Singh S/o K.D.S. Choudhary R/o UU-204,Second-Floor Vishakhia,Enclave Uttari,Pitampura Delhi-110034,changed my name to Ranbir Choudhary.

0040646436-1

I,Rajesh S/O-Rampal,R/OJG-1/9,OPP. Anand Kunj,Vikas Puri,New Delhi-110018,Have Changed my Name to Rajesh Pal.

0040646386-2

I,Rajeev Kumar S/O Shri Nathuram,R/O A-332,Shiv Mandir Block,Tirthankar Jain Nagar,Village Karala,Delhi-110081,have changed my name to Rajiv Kumar.

0040646438-2

I,ROZ ALI,S/O-BAKREED ALI.H.NO.121.MEER-VIHAIR.MADAN PUR DABAS,RANI-KHERA, NORTH-WEST DELHI-110081,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM. ROZ ALI TO ROSE ALI,FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040646347-7

I,ROSHAN AARA,D/O-JAMSHED ALI,R/O HOUSE.NO-A-5,4TH-FLOOR,FLAT.NO.E-1,CHATTARPUR EXTENSION,CHATTARPUR, DELHI-110074,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME ROSHAN AARA TO SONIYA,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSE.

0040646436-3

I,Poornima Sachdeva,W/o Sunil Kumar Sachdeva,R/o GH-6/165,Prachin Apartment,Meera Bagh,Paschim-Vihar, Delhi-110087,have changed my name to Purnima Sachdeva.

0040646347-4

I,Hussain Ali,S/o-Chhote Kha,R/O,G-6, Gali.No.15,Near Noor-Masjid,Old Mustafabad,Delhi-110094,have changed my name,from Hussain Ali to Hoshiyar Kha,for all, future purposes.

0040646386-4

I,PAWAN SHARMA,S/O-CHANDER PRAKASH,R/O RZ-143,FIRST-FLOOR,CHANAKYA PLACE,PART-2,UTTAM NAGAR,DELHI-110059. CHANGED MY NAME TO PAWAN KUMAR.

0040646418-2

I,No-2995756L,.Ex-Naik Sabzar Ahmad Pala, R/O- Manigam, Tehsil- Devsar, District- Kulgam. In my service records the names and D o B of my childrens has been wrongly mentioned son as Vaseet Ahmad Pal D o B- 01-01-2001 instead of Basit Subzar Pala D o B-25-04-2006 and daughter as Saveel Akhtar D o B- 01-01-2003 instead of Arjunam Subzar D o B-10-03-2008 as in school records. It needs corrections.Objections be filled to Unit/Regt- 15 Rajput within seven days.

0020450242-1

I,Nicky Chandru Alwani,s/o-Chandru Atmaram Alwani,R/o 1982,Convent Street,Flat.No-10,Madhava Building, Pune,Maharashtra-411001,have changed my name to Naresh Chandru Alwani,permanently.

0040646386-3

I,Navin Mittal,R/o 1305,Malviyigiri Towers, Kaushambi,Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh,201010,have changed my name to Navin Chander Mittal.

0040646438-1

I,Meetu Nagrani,R/o-V-29,Green Park main,1st-Floor,New Delhi-110016,have changed my name Meetu NANGRANI to Meetu NAGRANI,for all purposes.

0040646386-6

I,Meenakashi Bansal W/o Anil Bansal R/o,E-132, Karam Pura New Delhi-110015, have changed my name from Meenakshi Bansal to Meenakshi Bansal, permanently.

0040646347-1

I,ANKIT S/O SUNIL KUMAR,R/O GANJ MOHALLA,HASSANPUR HAVE CHANGED NAME TO ANKIT GOYAL FOR ALL.

0040646347-2

I,Manmeet Singh Sethi,S/o-Jagmohan Singh,R/o N-60,Partap Nagar,Malka Ganj,Delhi-110007,have changed the name of my-minor daughter Mehar Malhotra aged-6-years to Mehar Kaur Sethi.

0040646347-8

I,Mandeep Kumar Singh,S/o J.P.Singh R/o,3D,HIG-Block-A,Green-Vue Apartment, Sector-99,Noida,Gautam Buddha-Nagar,Uttar-Pradesh -201303,have changed my name to Mandeep Singh.

0040646436-7

I,Madiyabanu Mohamedhanif Gazil alias Madiya W/o,Sarfazar Abdul Latif Makda R/o,2660/2-NDF, Gali-Khajaor Wali,Kucha-Chellana,Darya-Ganj, N-D-110002,have changed my-name to Madiya Sarfaraz Makda for-all-purposes.

0040646444-3

I,MOHD SAID CHAUHAN, S/O,UMMETT HOUSE,N-413,CHOTI, MASJID,SHEKHPUR KHICHRA TEHSIL DHAULANA DISTRICT HARUP,UTTAR PRADESH-245301,changed my name to SAID,For all,future Purposes.

0040646386-8

I,MAHIVIR PRASHAD S/O NIHAL CHAND BANSAL R/O 25,DAYANAND VIHAR,I.P EXTENSION,VIKAS MARG,DELHI-110092.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAHAVIR PRASHAD BANSAL.

0040646436-2

I,MAHESH KUMAR, S/O,ARJUN, ADD-36,J CAMP TIGRI,SOUTH-DELHI 110062,changed my name to MAHESH,for all,future Purposes.

0040646384-5

I,Krishna Gupta W/o,Alok Kumar Agarwal R/o,H.No.12, Ramjas Teachers-Lane, Upper Anand-Parbat,Karol-Bagh, New Delhi-110005,have changed my-name to Krishna Agarwal after-marriage.

0040646444-6

I,KM,SALINI,W/O.YOGINDER PAL SINGH,ADD-621,GALI NO-6,GOVIND PURI KALKAJI SOUTH-EAST DELHI-110019, changed my name to SHALINI MALIK,for all,future Purposes.

0040646347-6

I,Jyoti Gupta W/o Pushpinder Agarwal R/o 7/63, Second-Floor, South Patel-Nagar,New Delhi-110088,have changed my name to Jyoti Agarwal after-marriage.

0040646444-7

I,JC-774383Y Subedar Pardeep Dahiya father of Sanjana resident of C-2/2, Rajouri-Garden,New Delhi-110027,have changed my daughter name from Sanjana to Sanjana Dahiya vide-affidavit dated-22/12/2022 before Mr. Suraj Kumar Tis Hazari Court.

0040646444-5

I,Harmeet Singh Shah S/o Avtar Singh R/o 1914, Arun Vihar, Sector-37, Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Harmeet Singh for all purposes.

0040646317-1

I,Harjeet D/o-Jasbir Singh R/o,H.No.36, Kh.No.33/3, Chander-Vihar,Nilothi Extn, Nangloi,West Delhi,Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Harjeet Kaur.

0040646384-9

I,Priyanka Chauhan alias Priyanka Singh alias Priyanka Rana D/o Sh. Ram Pratap Singh Chauhan W/o Sh. Gaurav Singh R/o House No. 1/2304-A, Street No.6, East Ram Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Priyanka Rana for all purposes.

0040646312-8

I,Ekta D/o-Rajkumar,R/o Ruriawas(142) Tehsil Matanahil District-Jhajjar (Haryana),have changed my name to Ekta Duddy,for all Purposes.

0040646418-1

I,AtulKumar Varma,s/o-Krishna Varma R/O-1101,Empire tower omaxe-new heights,sec-78, faridabad,haryana,have change name to ATULKUMAR KRISHNA VARMA,FOR ALL

0040646347-3

I,Anjulee Tiwari,W/o-Ajay Kumar Tiwari R/o,Flat.No.702,Tower-F,JMD-Garden, Sohna-Road, Sector-33,Gurugram (Haryana)-122018,have changed my name to Anjali Tiwari.

0040646418-4

I,Irshad S/o-Gulam nabiAddress-32 gali kachabiyan jama masjid Delhi 110006, changed my name to Irshad Qureshi.

0040646418-3

I,ASHWINI KUMAR VAISHYAS/O-ASHOK VAISHYA,R/O-R-289C 1ST-FLOOR GREATER-KAILASH PHASE-1,DELHI-110048,have changed my name TO ASHWIN VAISH.

0040646347-5

I,ARSHJYOT BEDI,S/O SH.KULJEET SINGH BEDI,R/O-1502,TOWER-2,L OTUS 300,SECTOR-

107,NOIDA,G.B.B.NAGAR,U.P. 201304,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM ARSHJYOT BEDI TO ARSHJYOT SINGH BEDI,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSES.

0040646386-10

I,hitherto known as Sh.CHETAN S/o Sh.SURINDER PAL, R/o-Flat.No-358, Pocket-2,Sector-9, Dwarka, South-West-Delhi-110075, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHETAN CHAUDHARY.

0040646319-3

I,hitherto known as RINKY W/o Sh.CHETAN, R/o-Flat.No-358, Pocket-2,Sector-9, Dwarka, South-West-Delhi-110077,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RINKY CHAUDHARY.

0040646319-2

I,hitherto known as RINKY W/o Sh.CHETAN, R/o-Flat.No-358, Pocket-2,Sector-9, Dwarka, South-West-Delhi-110077,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RINKY CHAUDHARY.

0040646319-2

I,Yashika Sood W/o Shubham Sood Residence 4516, 2nd floor, Gali Shaheed Bhagat Singh Shora Kothi, Main Bazar, Paharganj, New Delhi-110055, have changed my name Yashika to Yashika Sood for all future purpose.

0070818866-1

I,Vikrant S/O V.P.Bahal R/O M-1-806, GD-Block, Gulmohar Garden, Rajnagar Ext. Ghaziabad have changed my name to Vikrant Bahal.

0070818870-1

I,Sushila, W/O Sunil Kumar R/O RZ-88, Lokesh Park Najafgarh, Delhi-110043, Have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Sushila Devi

0070818786-1

I,Sunderum Kumar S/O Roshan Lal, R/o Kanipia, Near Govt. Sen. Sec. School, Kanipia (104), Kurukshetra, Haryana-136131, Declare that name of Mine and My Wife has been wrongly written as Surender Sharma and Neelam in my minor Son Vaibhav Sharma, aged about 17 years, In his Education Document. The actual name of Mine and My Wife are Surender Kumar and Neelam Rani, which may be amended accordingly.

0070818790-1

I,Sudarshan Kumari Virmani W/o Sh.Om Parkash Virmani, R/o-H.No.1/30,Shastri colony, Old-Faridabad,have changed my name Sudarshana Virmani to Sudarshan Kumari Virmani, for all further purposes.

0040646319-1

I,Shankuntla Manuja D/O Hans Raj Gulati, W/O Late Khairati Lal R/o 172, Bai Ka Bagh, Near Topan Das Confectionary Shop, Allahabad Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh-211003, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Shakuntala Rani.

0070818788-1

I,Shabana Khatoun,W/o Mohammad Shariq,R/O Triton Hospital,CC-31 Nehru Enclave,Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019,have changed my name to Shabana Shariq

004064644-1

I,Sagar S/O Sushil Kumar R/O Sagar Electronics, Sector -22, Noida Near Radha Public School UP-201301 have declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Susheel Kumar Rajhans in my Class 10th &12th Result. The actual name of my father is Sushil Kumar.

0040646368-1

I,SURABHI JAIN, W/o MAYANK JAIN, R/O D- 8/6, Model Town-2, Dr Mukherjee Nagar, North West-Delhi-110009, have changed my name to SURBHI JAIN for all purposes.

0070818865-1

I,Roop Narain Maloo S/o Ram Prasad Maloo R/o B-111, Sector-40, Noida, Gautambuddha Nagar UP-201303, have changed my minor son's name from Shaurya to Shaurya Maloo

0040646310-1

I,Ritu Devi Khandelwal W/o Vijay Narain R/o House K-1,Old Rangpuri, Mahipalpur, Delhi-110037 have changedmy name to Nidhi(Adhaar 367065628978)

0040646336-1

I,Riazuddin,S/o Jameel Ahmed,R/O E-47/A, Block-E,Shaheen Bagh,Okhla, Jamia Nagar,Abul Fazal Enclave-II, New Delhi-110025,changed my name,from Riazuddin,to Riyazuddin,for all purposes.

0040646444-2

I,Riazuddin,S/o Jameel Ahmed,R/O E-47/A, Block-E,Shaheen Bagh,Okhla, Jamia Nagar,Abul Fazal Enclave-II, New Delhi-110025,changed my name,from Riazuddin,to Riyazuddin,for all purposes.

0040646386-7

I,Satpal S/o Megha Ram R/o H.No-204/25, Gandhi Nagar, Rohtak, Haryana-124001, have changed my name to Satpal Juneja

0070818860-1

Isarswati W/O, Raj Singh Rana R/o 36/208, Arya Samaj Gali, Siraspur, Delhi-42 have changed my name to Saraswati Devi for all purposes

0040646405-1

I,SYED MUTAB ALI S/O SYED KAZIM ALI R/O 1922, STREET RAJAN, KUCHA CHELAN, DARYA GANJ, NEW DELHI - 110002, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SYED MUTABA WASTI.

0040646386-7

I,Raj Kumar S/o Rattan Chand R/o P/O-Rail, Tehsil-Nadaun, Ghardun, Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh-177045, have changed my minor daughter's name from Lehar aged 16 years to Suhani forever.

0070818861-1

I,REEMA, wife of ATUL, H.No.7, Sahipur Village, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088 have changed my name from REEMA SHOKEEN to REEMA after marriage.

0040646309-1

I,Pragati Vedanta D/o Adishree Singh R/o-D9-42, Sector-E1, DDA Vasant-Kunj, New-Delhi-110070, have changed my daughter's name to Adishree Vedanta for-all-purposes.

0040646444-4

I,Narinder Singh/ Narinder Kumar, S/o. Shri Pyara Singh, R/O. T-171/B1, Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi -8 have changed my name to Narinder Arora for all future purposes.

0070818856-1

I,Naiyum s/o Salim Mohammad r/o RZC-295,Nihal Vihar, Nangloi Delhi-110041 have changed my name to NAYEEM SAIFI Permanently.

0040646326-1

I,NARESH, S/o BADRI PRASAD, R/O-House No- 1927, Sector-10A, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001 have changed my name to NARESH KUMAR for all purposes.

0070818867-1

I,Mohammad Rizwan S/o. Mohammad Saghir Abdulmannan R/O-430, Gali-No.5, Sangam Vihar, Wazirabad, Delhi-110084 Have changed my name to Mohd Rizwan Khan.

0040646338-1

I,Micky Chhabra S/o Nathu Ram Chhabra R/o 701, Siddhartha Apartment Pitampura Delhi have changed my minor son name from Shourish To Shourish Chhabra permanently.

0040646370-3

I,Micky Chhabra S/o Nathu Ram Chhabra R/o 701, Siddhartha Apartment Pitampura Delhi have changed my minor daughter name from Saisha To Saisha Chhabra permanently.

0040646370-2

I,Meraj S/o Mahmood Hussain R/o 606/8, I-Block, Sangam Vihar, Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Meraj Ali for all purposes.

0070818869-1

I,Lavika D/o Jugal Kishore R/o EMAAR Gurgaon Greens Flat No-301 Tower-18 Sector-102 Gurugram Haryana, have changed my name as Lavika Verma permanently

0040646370-1

I,KM. Sangeeta Rani Chauhan, D/O Narayan Singh Chauhan, W/o Sanjeev Kumar Rajput, R/O L-10-B,Janta Flate,N.A, Saket,Malviya Nagar,South Delhi,Delhi-110017,have changed my name to Sangeeta Rajput,for all purposes.

0040646444-9

I,Commander Deepak Kumar Bhambri, 40560-F IN, Retd, R/o B-81, Sector-21, Jalvayu Vihar, Noida, UP-201301, declare that in my service record my wife's name is wrongly written as Nelam instead of her correct name Neelam Bhambri.

0070818871-1

I,Batool Nisha W/o Mohammad Rauf, R/o H.No.117, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Katanga Cantt. Ranital, Jabalpur, M.P. inform that in my husband's pension records my name has wrongly mentioned as Batul Nisha instead of Batool Nisha.

0040646378-1

I,BHIM PAL S/O VIJAY KUMAR, ADD-A-133,RANI GARDEN SHASTRI NAGAR,EAST-DELHI-110031.Changed my name to BHIMPAL UPPAL,for all future Purposes.

0040646216-4

I,Anil Singh S/o Shiv Dayal Singh R/o-173, Block-C-1, Sec-55,Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201301,have changed my minor daughter's name from Khushboo Bisht to Khushboo Bisht for all purposes.

0040646415-1

I,Sudhanshu Kumar Mishra S/o Sh. Jaleswar Mishra R/o H.No.A-20/2, Aali Vihar, Sarita Vihar, South Delhi, Delhi-110076 have changed my name to Himanshu Mishra for all purposes.

0040646312-9

ISatya Prakash,S/o-Raman Lal Sharma R/O-433A/6,Gali No.3,Ashok Vihar,Mehalna Road, Sonipat, Haryana-131001 have changed my name to Satya Parkash for all purposes.

0040646315-1

ISatpal S/o Megha Ram R/o H.No-204/25, Gandhi Nagar, Rohtak, Haryana-124001, have changed my name to Satpal Juneja

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

Recalling the life and crimes of Charles Sobhraj

ARJUN SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

TO THOSE who have known him personally, serial killer Charles Sobhraj appeared affable and charismatic. He had a keen grasp of human nature, and used his charms to control people and situations over his entire storied life. The so-called Bikini Killer committed at least 12 murders and repeatedly escaped the law with serpentine slipperiness.

Sobhraj, now 78, is set to be released from prison in Nepal, where he was arrested in 2003 for the murder of an American backpacker.

Difficult childhood

Sobhraj was born to an expatriate Indian moneylender and a Vietnamese woman in French-occupied Saigon in 1944. His birth father left him and his mother when he was just three; his mother then married a French army officer. Charles' childhood was defined

by crises of identity and belonging as he was "shunted back and forth between parents and continents", according to his biographers Richard Neville and Julie Clarke.

Charles spent most of his adolescence in and out of juvenile offender homes — he stole cars, robbed housewives, and mugged people on the street. By his 20s, he was moving between Parisian high society and the underworld, making money through scams and burglaries. He grew close to Chantal Compagnon, whom he married in 1969.

From early on, Sobhraj displayed little remorse for his actions, Neville and Clarke reported. Rather, he saw himself as a victim of an unjust society and wretched fate, with his only way to power, wealth and opulence being the path of crime.

Victims on the hippie trail

In the 1970s, many Westerners journeyed to the 'Orient' to "find themselves" outside the capitalist decadence of their native lands.

Hordes of young Europeans came to South and East Asia on shoestring budgets — and it was in the obscurity and transience of the hippie trail that Sobhraj committed his worst crimes, often targeting those who were allured by his magnetism. He was arrested multiple times in Athens, Delhi, and Kabul — he got away each time through bribery or audaciously planned escapes.

After Chantal left Charles, taking their baby along, a young Canadian named Marie-Andrée Leclerc fell for the criminal after meeting him in India. She became his close companion and remained devoted to him despite his addiction to gambling and women. The ability to gain people's trust and make them want to do things for him remained Charles' abiding character trait.

Thailand, India murders

In 1975, Sobhraj and Leclerc found themselves in Thailand, where he committed his first confirmed murder: The American Teresa

Knowlton was found dead in a tidal pool wearing a bikini, the first of similar murders that earned him his name of Bikini Killer. He would be accused of killing at least another 11 people in Thailand, Nepal, and India; some estimates put the number of his victims at 30.

In 1976, Sobhraj, along with Leclerc and an Indian accomplice Ajai Chaudhary alias Mohan Lal, was accused of murdering, robbing, and forging the identity of an Israeli tourist in Varanasi. Like most of his murders, Sobhraj had allegedly killed his victim by poisoning. A trial court convicted him, but he was acquitted by the Allahabad HC and then the Supreme Court in 1996 after the prosecution failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt.

He had been arrested earlier in Delhi for trying to rob an emporium at Hotel Ashoka and a con job in Tilak Nagar among other petty crimes. He was subsequently arrested and sentenced for trying to poison and rob some French tourists.

Why Sobhraj killed so many remains a

mystery. Sobhraj has himself claimed that many of the deaths were either accidental drug overdoses or cartel killings. He often used the passport and identities of his victims to travel to multiple countries.

Herman Knippenberg, a Dutch diplomat who was key to uncovering details about Sobhraj, told *The Guardian* in 2020 that he killed his victims because they rejected his criminal entreaties. "In resisting the overtures of Sobhraj," he said, "they triggered his childhood preoccupation with being rejected".

Tihar stay, Nepal arrest

In 1976, Thai police issued a warrant against Sobhraj for the murder of six women, all of whom were found dead in bikinis on beaches. But he was caught in Delhi before Thai authorities could get to him. He was charged with the murder of Frenchman Jean-Luc Solomon and received a 12-year sentence.

Sobhraj lived lavishly in Tihar, bribing guards and befriending prisoners for special

treatment. In 1986, he escaped after drugging inmates and guards — but was recaptured in Goa soon, and had 10 years added to his sentence.

It has been speculated that this was precisely what Sobhraj wanted — he had realised that if released before Thailand's 20-year statute of limitation expired, he would be deported and would receive the death penalty — and had planned the escape to extend his stay in prison in India.

In 1997, when Sobhraj was finally released, most warrants against him had expired, and evidence and witnesses gone. He returned to France, where he sold film rights on his life for \$15 million, and charged big money for interviews and photographs.

It was probably hubris that caused Sobhraj to return to Nepal in 2003 — one of the few countries where he was still wanted. He was arrested and convicted of murders he had committed in 2006, and received a 20-year sentence.

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

WHAT'S THE WATCH THAT TAMIL NADU BJP CHIEF ANNAMALAI WEARS?

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

AFTER FACING flak for wearing a limited edition Rafale wristwatch which reportedly costs lakhs, Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai has claimed that the timepiece is made from the same material as the Rafale fighter jet, 36 of which India has purchased from France — and that he wears the watch because he's "a patriot". "This watch is very important to me. Since I can't fly a Rafale jet, I'll wear this watch until the day I die," he said.

On December 17, Tamil Nadu Minister and DMK leader V Senthilbalaji posted a thread on Twitter asking how Annamalai, who claimed to own only four goats and cows, was able to afford such a watch.

The Rafale watch

The watch that Annamalai seems to own is French watchmaker Bell & Ross's BR 03 Rafale. Introduced in 2015, the watch has been crafted in collaboration with Dassault Aviation, which also builds Rafale fighters.

According to the website of Bell & Ross, the watch is a limited edition of 500 units. At the time of its launch, it was priced at 5,200 euro, which is about Rs 4.57 lakh today.

The watch is a chronograph, meaning it can also act as a stopwatch. Before the advent of the digital era, chronographs were widely used for precision timekeeping and speed or distance computations. They were also worn by pilots, as they helped them with speed and distance calculations. Although they have been largely replaced by far superior gadgets and instruments, chronograph watches still enjoy immense popularity among watch enthusiasts.

Its specifications

The Bell & Ross BR 03 Rafale is made



Annamalai with the watch at a press conference. Video grab
When launched in 2015, the watch cost 5,200 euro, which is about Rs 4.5 lakh today. Bell & Ross

from ceramic, which is lightweight, has hypoallergenic properties, and offers high resistance against heat. It's because of these advantages that in recent years ceramic has been extensively used not only in the watch industry but also in the aviation sector — to build aircraft, rockets, and fuel nozzles.

Measuring 42 mm in width, the Rafale watch takes its design cues from the design of the aircraft. Its case is presented in a stealth-like matte black colour which is a reference to the anti-reflective tints of instrument panels in aeroplane cockpits; the dial has the same matt grey hue as the Rafale jet.

The display also consists of two sub-dials — a 30-minute counter and the small seconds counter that has a silhouette of the Rafale jet. The typography of the numerals on the dial mirrors the registration numbers on the jet's fuselage.

The watch is powered by an automatic movement called BR-CAL301. The power reserve — the length of time a mechanical watch will run when it's fully wound — of the watch is 42 hours. The watch is water resistant up to a depth of 100 metres.

EXPERT EXPLAINS

DR RAJESH CHAWLA

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

WHILE THERE are anxieties about the surge of Covid-19 in China driven by the BF.7 sub-variant of Omicron, what many are forgetting is that the host for an aggressive strain of the virus is different.

How is the situation in India different?

The Chinese were not infected by SARS-CoV-2 in the same way as people in India — which went through multiple waves of the pandemic — were. Most Indians have been infected by the virus, and many have even had repeated bouts of infection.

Nor have the Chinese been vaccinated as much. Most Indians have been immunised, with about 95 per cent of the population having been fully vaccinated. Almost 30 per cent have had booster shots — those who haven't taken them should take them now.

In such a scenario, even if there is a new mutant, the body triggers a response as it has some immunity. Even if a new downstream strain does trigger a wave, we do not expect it to cause severe cases.

Is there a reason to worry for those who took the "precaution" dose long ago?

The vaccines have held up well against the extreme end of the viral attack spectrum. And Indians have already gone through the Omicron wave and contracted its variants. Our immune system is primed to protect us from severe manifestations or to be caught unawares. Most research has shown that longer-lasting "memory" B and T-cells remaining in the body are ready to produce antibodies and defend against the disease even later.

Are those with comorbidities at greater risk from a possible new wave?

The threat for this vulnerable group is just as much as it was earlier. They must certainly take the booster dose if they haven't already because that will at least bolster their immunity and keep it from dropping too low.

Besides, they have to be very mindful of

Covid-appropriate behaviour, which means masking up in any social situation, protecting themselves from exposure to winter cold, ventilating their surroundings well, and maintaining hand and body hygiene.

This being the regular cold and flu season, should they develop such symptoms, they should get themselves tested to be sure, so they can be prescribed the right line of treatment.

Can repeated infections weaken the organ system?

In a study published in *Nature Medicine*, researchers found that Covid-19 reinfections could be taking a toll on some important organ systems, in the short or long term. People who had been infected more than once were three times more likely to be hospitalised and twice as likely to die than those who had only had one infection.

Those with multiple infections were also more vulnerable to other dangerous conditions — they were 3.5 times more likely to develop lung problems, 3 times more likely to have heart conditions, and 1.6 times more likely to have brain changes requiring care than people who had only had Covid-19 once. Many studies have shown that the virus causes inflammation of blood vessels and organ systems.

The impact may differ from person to person. Those with stronger nasal, oral, and lung immunity might not progress into severe symptoms while others might. Any other viral infection or flu has the same effect. Some flu patients display severe symptoms. To that extent, they are just as weakening.

Some studies have said that repeat infections may also raise the risk of long Covid. But a more long-term study and a wider arc of test cases across geographies are required to come to a definitive conclusion. Till then post disease rehabilitation and lifestyle modifications can heal conditions.

Do Indians need a fourth dose of vaccine?

The government has not notified anything. Besides, the efficacy of a fourth booster shot is still under review and no concrete results have come out. We should instead focus on immunising a large swathe of people. As stated above, most Indians have been fully vaccinated. We should focus on completing the pending booster shots.

Dr Chawla is Senior Consultant, Pulmonology and Critical Care, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi



Schoolchildren in masks at the Parliament House complex on Thursday. PTI

EXPLAINED HEALTH

Assessing the new Covid risk

Can BF.7 cause severe disease should it spread widely in India as well? It is unlikely: most Indians are fully vaccinated and previously infected, conditions that were absent in China. Taking the booster shot will help

THIS WORD MEANS

XBB VARIANT

Dominant sub-variant of Omicron in India now

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

THE Ministry of Health has issued a statement rejecting the "fake and misleading" claims on social media that the XBB sub-variant of Omicron is "5 times more virulent than the Delta variant and has a higher mortality rate".

India's deadly second wave of April-May 2021 was driven by Delta. XBB is currently the dominant variant, and caused more than 65% of infections in the country in November.

What is known about the XBB variant?

XBB is a recombinant of two Omicron sub-variants, BA.2.10.1 and BA.2.75. Several studies have shown that XBB is more immune evasive — that is, it has the ability to circumvent immunity from vaccination-induced infection — and has a growth advantage over other currently circulating variants of Omicron. What this essentially means is that the variant is more likely to cause re-infection or breakthrough infections in people.

This, however, does not mean that the variant can lead to more severe Covid-19 disease, hospitalisations, or deaths. An analysis by an expert group of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in October said, "There has been a broad increase in prevalence of XBB in regional genomic surveillance... The

current data do not suggest there are substantial differences in disease severity."

Does the XBB variant affect the lungs?

That is not true. Unlike Delta, which went deep into the lungs and led to a fall in oxygen saturation, Omicron variants affect the upper respiratory tract — the nostrils, nasal cavity, mouth, and throat. The virus can go into the lungs in some cases, but it is not the location of choice for the variant.

XBB follows a disease pattern that is similar to its forbear Omicron variants. This, coupled with the high vaccination rate and high infection rate in India, has meant that the Omicron wave resulted in fewer fatalities in the country.

Is there a risk of a new Covid-19 wave with the XBB variant?

In most people, the XBB variant is likely to lead to a fever, cough, and cold. XBB accounted for 8% of all the cases in September, increasing to 45.2% in October, and 65.6% in November — it is now the dominant variant in India.

If XBB had the potential to drive a surge in cases, hospitalisations, and deaths, some indications would be visible by now. But even the number of cases has remained low, with an average of only 158 cases reported daily from across the country during the week ended December 19.

EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY

Why SEBI is phasing out the stock exchange route for buybacks



HITESH VYAS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has decided to phase out buyback of shares of listed companies through the exchange route. The regulator favours repurchase of shares by companies from shareholders on a proportionate basis through the tender offer, which is considered to be more equitable, transparent, and fair.

What is share buyback?

A buyback, also known as share repur-

chase, is when a listed company buys its own shares from existing shareholders. The process reduces the number of outstanding shares in the open market over a period which can lead to better valuation and earning per share (EPS).

Currently, a company can buy back its shares from shareholders on a proportionate basis through tender offer, or from the open market via book-building process, or from the odd-lot holders. The maximum limit of any buyback is 25 per cent or less of the aggregate of paid-up capital and free reserves of a company.

What is the stock exchange route?

Under the stock exchange route, a company can buy back shares only on the stock exchanges having nationwide trading terminals. The buyback will be made only through the order matching mechanism. In this method, the promoters, or persons in control of a company, are not allowed to participate.

Paytm, which witnessed a 76% crash in share prices after its IPO last year, recently opted for the open market route through stock exchanges for share buyback, which is to be completed within six months. TCS, which came out with share buybacks recently, used the tender route, while Infosys opted for the stock exchange method for its recent buyback.

Why is SEBI against the exchange route?

The Keki Mistry committee set up by SEBI to review the buyback regulations found that under the stock exchange route, there is the possibility of one shareholder's entire trade getting matched with the purchase order placed by the company, thus depriving other shareholders from availing the benefit of buyback.

This runs contrary to the principle of equitable treatment which forms the basis of all the corporate actions.

According to SEBI chairperson Madhabi

Puri Buch, the tender route is more equitable. "The other routes are vulnerable to favouritism because nobody really knows that in the exchange mechanism when the company is going to come in order to buyback shares, and only a few people may be aware of it, and benefits may flow to those few people," Buch said after the SEBI board meeting.

When will the exchange route be phased out?

As recommended by the Keki Mistry committee, SEBI will phase out buyback through the stock exchange route with effect from April 1, 2025. Many experts termed the SEBI's decision to phase out stock buyback through the exchange route as positive, as it will give all shareholders an opportunity to participate.

How will shareholders benefit?

According to Yash Ashar, partner & head - capital markets, Cyril Amarchand

Mangaldas, the process of buyback via stock markets may or may not have benefitted smaller investors as they may not have known when the buyback was taking place.

"With the tender offer process being the only process going forward, all shareholders would now be provided with an opportunity to participate in the buyback. Especially as tender offers also require a reservation for small shareholders," Ashar said. "In a way it democratises the process and creates a fair and equitable platform," he said.

What is buyback via tender offer?

Tender offer means an offer by a company to buy back its own shares or other specified securities through a letter of offer from the holders of the shares or other specified securities of the company. The buyback is done on a proportionate basis as per the buyback ratio, and the additional shares tendered over and above the prescribed buyback ratio get accepted if there are any unac-

cepted shares.

SEBI has reduced the timeline for completion of buyback through tender offer by 18 days by removing the requirement of filing draft letter of offer with it. It has also permitted an upward revision of buyback price until one working day prior to the record date.

The process of offering shares under the tender process is similar to buying shares through an online Demat account. When the company launches a buyback, shareholders will find an option of 'offer for sale' when they log into their Demat account. Shareholders who wish to sell their shares can submit them to the company for sale.

The price under this mechanism is fixed and is offered higher than the market price to attract a large number of shareholders to sell their shares.

Fifteen per cent of the buyback size is reserved for small shareholders. All shareholders as on record date are eligible to participate in this process.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Joyland had faced a ban in Pakistan. File

PAKISTAN 'Joyland' makes it to the Oscar shortlist

Islamabad: The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Thursday released its Oscar shortlists for the upcoming 95th edition in 10 categories. 'Joyland' is among 15 films that made the cut for the best international feature film honour and will advance to the final stage of nomination. It has also become country's first film to enter Oscars shortlist. The critically-acclaimed film follows a patriarchal family, craving for the birth of a baby boy to continue the family line, while their youngest son secretly joins an erotic dance theatre and falls for a trans woman. Films from 92 countries and regions were eligible in the best international feature film category. **PTI**

ISRAEL Netanyahu says he has formed a new government

Jerusalem: Designated Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that he has successfully formed a new coalition, setting the stage for him to return to power. Netanyahu made the announcement in a phone call to President Isaac Herzog moments before a midnight deadline. His Likud Party released a brief video clip of the smiling Netanyahu and a recording of the conversation. The move came after weeks of surprisingly difficult negotiations with his political partners – who still have need to finalise their power-sharing deals with Netanyahu's right-wing Likud Party. **AP**

UNITED NATIONS Council calls for end to violence in Myanmar

UN: The U.N. Security Council approved its first-ever resolution on Myanmar demanding an end to violence in the country and urging its military rulers to release all "arbitrarily detained" prisoners to restore democratic institutions. The resolution reiterated the call by the 15-member council for the country's opposing parties to pursue dialogue and reconciliation. The council vote was 12-0 with three abstentions, China, Russia and India. **PTI**

HIS FIRST VISIT OUTSIDE UKRAINE SINCE START OF WAR

Zelenskyy addresses Congress in US: Have 10-point peace plan



US Vice President Kamala Harris and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (right), react as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy presents lawmakers with a Ukrainian flag autographed by front-line troops in Bakhmut. AP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 22

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the US Congress that he proposed a 10-point "peace formula" during his meeting with President Joe Biden, which he hoped would result in joint security guarantees for decades ahead. Zelenskyy, 44, met President Biden in the Oval Office and jointly addressed a press conference at the White House on Wednesday. He was given the rare distinction of addressing a joint session of the US Congress on a day packed with back-to-back meetings. "We need peace. Ukraine has already offered proposals, which I just discussed with President Biden, our peace formula, ten points which should and must



US President Joe Biden and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at a press conference in the White House. PTI

be implemented for our joint security guarantees for decades ahead. And the summit, which can be held," Zelenskyy said in his historic address to the joint session of the Congress. He said that any such discus-

sions would also depend on Russia's willingness to negotiate and the participation of the international legal order, even as he slammed President Vladimir Putin for invading Ukraine. "It would be naive to wait for

steps towards peace from Russia which enjoys being a terrorist state. Russians are still poisoned by the Kremlin. The restriction of international legal order is our joint task," Zelenskyy noted. Zelenskyy expressed hope that Congress would pass the extra USD 45 billion in aid to Ukraine to "help us to defend our values, values and independence".

Earlier on Wednesday, Biden welcomed Zelenskyy to the Oval Office, saying the US and Ukraine would continue to project a "united defence" as Russia wages a "brutal assault on Ukraine's right to exist as a nation." Zelenskyy is on his first known visit outside his country since Russia invaded in February. He said he wanted to visit earlier and his move now showed the "situation is under control, because of your support."

Shanghai hospital flags 'tragic battle' amid Covid spread

ZOEY ZHANG & BERNARD ORR SHANGHAI, DECEMBER 22

A SHANGHAI HOSPITAL has told its staff to prepare for a "tragic battle" with Covid as it expects half of the city's 25 million people will get infected by the end of next week. The Shanghai Deji Hospital, posting on its WeChat account late on Wednesday, estimated there were about 5.43 million positives in the city and that 12.5 million will get infected by the end of the year. "This year's Christmas Eve, New Year's Day, and the Lunar New Year are destined to be unsafe," said the private hospital, which employs some 400 staff. "In this tragic battle, the entire Greater Shanghai will fall, and we will infect all the staff of the hospital! We will infect the whole family! Our patients will all be infected! We have no choice, and we cannot escape." The post was no longer available on WeChat by Thursday afternoon. A person who answered the hospital's main telephone said they could not immediately comment on the article. Shanghai residents endured a two-month lockdown that ended on June 1, with many losing income, and struggling for basic necessities. **REUTERS**

Covid deaths over 5000 a day: Data firm

Beijing: More than 5,000 people are probably dying each day from COVID-19 in China, health data firm Airfinity estimated, offering a dramatic contrast to official data from Beijing on the country's current outbreak. The UK-based firm said it had used modelling based on regional Chinese data to produce figures that also put current daily infections in the country at above a million. Its estimates were "in stark contrast to the official data which is reporting 1,800 cases and only seven official deaths over the past week," it said in a statement. Airfinity further said its mortality risk analysis suggested between 1.3 to 2.1 million people could die in China's current Covid outbreak. Analyses by other modelling groups have also predicted as many as 2.1 million deaths. **REUTERS**

Russia, China hold joint military drills

ASSOCIATED PRESS MOSCOW, DECEMBER 22

RUSSIAN AND CHINESE warships on Thursday practiced joint action in the East China Sea, continuing a series of drills that reflect a growing defense cooperation between the two countries. The Russian Defense Ministry said the Varyag missile cruiser, the Marshal Shaposhnikov destroyer and two corvettes of Russia's Pacific Fleet were taking part in the drills that began on Wednesday. China has deployed two destroyers, a diesel submarine and several others ships for the exercise. Russian and Chinese aircraft were also taking part in the weeklong maneuvers that will involve firing exercises and anti-submarine drills, according to the ministry. "The main goal of the drills is to strengthen naval cooperation between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China and to maintain peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region," the ministry said. Military ties between Moscow and Beijing has grown stronger since Russian President Vladimir Putin sent his troops into Ukraine on February 24. China, which has declared a "no limits" friendship with Russia, has refused to criticize Moscow's actions, blaming the U.S. and NATO for provoking the Kremlin.

Fiji military called in after disputed polls

NICK PERRY WELLINGTON, DECEMBER 22

FIJIAN POLICE on Thursday said they were calling in the military to help maintain security following a close election last week that is now being disputed. It was an alarming development in a Pacific nation where democracy remains fragile and there have been four military coups in the past 35 years. The two main contenders for prime minister this year were former coup leaders themselves. Police Commissioner Brigadier General Sitiveni Qililo said in a statement that after police and military leaders met with Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama they collectively decided to call in army and navy personnel to assist. The commissioner said there had been threats made against minority groups who were "now living in fear following recent political developments." Reporters in the capital, Suva, said there were no immediate signs of any military presence on city streets. The military move came after Bainimarama's Fiji First party refused to concede the election, despite rival Sitiveni Rabuka's party and two other parties announcing they had the numbers to form a majority coalition and would serve as the next government. Fiji First Gen. Sec. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum told media Wednesday that under the nation's constitution, Bainimarama would remain prime minister until lawmakers returned to Parliament within two weeks to vote on the next leader. **AP**

Alzheimer's risk may vary with race, study finds

Washington: A study conducted by US-based researchers has found that the same gene variant may carry different risks for Alzheimer's disease in people from different races. In the largest-ever genetic study of dementia among people of African descent, Veterans Affairs (VA) researchers have identified several genetic risks different from those seen in people of European ancestry. People of African descent and other minority groups are historically underrepresented in genetic research, which is why this study represents a rather important milestone, according to the research team. According to the study, in the United States, a greater proportion of African-Americans have Alzheimer's disease than people of European descent. However, most large genetic studies of Alzheimer's disease study white participants. **PTI**

Japan reverses nuclear phaseout plan adopted after Fukushima

MARI YAMAGUCHI TOKYO, DECEMBER 22

JAPAN ADOPTED a plan on Thursday to extend the lifespan of nuclear reactors, replace the old and even build new ones, a major shift in a country scarred by the Fukushima disaster that once planned to phase out atomic power. In the face of global fuel shortages, rising prices and pressure to reduce carbon emissions, Japan's leaders have begun to turn back toward nuclear energy, but the announcement was their clearest commitment on the possibility of building new reactors. Under the new policy, Japan will maximise the use of existing reactors by restarting as many of them as possible and prolonging the operating life of aging ones beyond a 60-year limit. The government also

pledged to develop next-generation reactors. As part of the new policy, the Economy and Industry Ministry has drafted a plan to allow extensions every 10 years for reactors after 30 years of operation while also permitting utilities to subtract offline periods in calculating reactors' operational life. The plan was endorsed on Wednesday by the Nuclear Regulation Authority, Japan's nuclear watchdog. News safety inspection rules still need to be put into law and approved by Parliament. Most nuclear reactors in Japan are more than 30 years old. Four reactors that have operated for more than 40 years have received permission to operate, and one is currently online. Utility companies have applied for restarts at 27 reactors in the past decade. 17 have passed safety checks and only 10 have resumed operation. **AP**

EXPLAINED What is the new policy?

IN 2011, Fukushima Daiichi disaster super-charged anti-nuclear sentiment in Japan led the government to promise phasing out the energy by 2030. Since then, Japan set up a target for nuclear to make up for 20-22% of the energy mix by the end of the decade. Under the new policy, Japan will maximize the use of existing reactors by restarting as many of them as possible and prolonging the operating life of aging ones beyond a 60-year limit.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK USES HUNGRY SHEEP TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM WILD FLORA

To save Pompeii, send in sheep: A new way of preventing over-vegetation

JASON HOROWITZ POMPEII, DECEMBER 22

ON A BRIGHT morning in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius, a stout shepherd with a wool sweater stretched over his belly whistled and clicked and steered his flock of sheep to a grassy slope above Pompeii's frescoed ruins. He glanced a few feet down at a house destroyed nearly 2,000 years ago under a fiery rain of volcanic rock and tapped a grazing ewe with his crook to make sure it didn't get too close and take a tumble. "It can happen," the shepherd, Gaspare de Martino, said

with a shrug. In recent years, the vast archaeological park of Pompeii, a city buried alive by the eruption of Vesuvius in A.D. 79, has turned to high-tech options to maintain its excavated ruins. A surveillance drone makes a monthly flight over the site's roughly 10,000 exhumed rooms. Artificial intelligence programs analyze aerial images for new cracks, fallen stones and other signs of erosion. But to prevent the third of the park that remains hidden under pumice and meters of earth from becoming overgrown with thorn bushes, wild hedges and trees, Pompeii has found a more appropriate

ancient, and inexpensive, solution in hungry sheep. Without the sheep "you'd have some kind of jungle that would invade the archaeological structures and the site," said Gabriel Zuchtriegel, the park's director. He said that he came up with the idea of bringing in the sheep after seeing them maintain the land on top of dikes in the North Sea, and said that the Pompeii sheep would chop down invasive vegetation, destructive roots and wild terrains that could lead to the city's reburial under landslides. But Zuchtriegel acknowledged that his new landscaping project, which began a few



Martino grazing his sheep in Pompeii archaeological site. NYT

weeks ago, was as much about reimagining Pompeii's immediate marketing future as it was about preserving its archaeological

ical past. For a city most closely associated with choking clouds of ash and incinerating gusts of heat from one of the most hor-

rific natural disasters in recorded history, the sheep – along with newly planted vineyards, orchards in ancient atriums and plans for local olive oil – are part of a Pompeii Pastoral rebranding campaign to move away from fire and brimstone, and toward farm to table. "I even dream," Zuchtriegel said in German-accented English as the sheep bleated around him, "of wool." Zuchtriegel is one of the so-called super directors recruited internationally by Italy to modernize major museums. He may have visions of a Pompeii-branded farm producing milk, cheese and lamb to be served at

a new restaurant overlooking the site and of exclusive scarves and sweaters stacked in a gift shop, but as he points out, the sheep themselves are nothing new for Pompeii. The volcano's eruption killed Pliny with "some gross and noxious vapor," as his nephew, Pliny the Younger, wrote in his own searing account of the disaster. In the ensuing centuries, sheep returned and grazed on the earth above the buried city, even after excavation began in the 18th century. For generations, the ancestors of De Martino, including his grandfather and father, led their flock to the park's unexcavated grounds.

Only about 15 years ago, he said, did the park management tell him to take a hike. "We were here forever, but then the old director didn't let us in anymore," De Martino said. "They didn't like the dung. What was I supposed to do, pick up after them?" The night before, Vesuvius, which is still an active volcano, grumbled near its crater with a small earthquake, though experts say not dangerously. De Martino, 40, shook off any concern. "When it explodes, it explodes," he said. "You can't plan these things. You can't say, 'Hold on a sec.'" **NYT**



Afghan women protest against the ban in Kabul. AP

TALIBAN MINISTER DEFENDS MOVE

Turkey, Saudi condemn Taliban ban on women attending universities

ASSOCIATED PRESS KABUL, DECEMBER 22

THE MINISTER of higher education in the Taliban government on Thursday defended his decision to ban women from universities – a decree that had triggered a global backlash. Discussing the matter for the first time in public, Nida Mohammad Nadim said the ban issued earlier this week was necessary to prevent the mixing of genders in universities and because he believes some subjects being taught violated the principles of Islam. He said the ban was in place until further notice. In an interview with Afghan television, Nadim pushed back against the widespread international condemnation, including from Muslim-majority countries such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar. Nadim said that foreigners should stop interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs. Earlier on Thursday, the foreign ministers of the G7 group of states urged the Taliban to rescind the ban, warning that "gender persecution may amount to a crime against humanity." Nadim said universities would be closed to women for the time being, but that the ban could be reviewed at a later time. A former provincial governor, police chief and military commander, Nadim was appointed minister in October by the supreme Taliban leader and previously pledged to stamp out secular schooling. Nadim opposes female educa-

tion, saying it is against Islamic and Afghan values. Despite initially promising a more moderate rule respecting rights for women and minorities, the Taliban have widely implemented their interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia, since they seized power in August 2021. The ban has been met by widespread global condemnation, including from Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Thursday that the ban was "neither Islamic nor humane." The Saudi foreign ministry expressed "astonishment and regret" at Afghan women being denied a university education. In a statement released late Wednesday, the ministry said the decision was "astonishing in all Islamic countries." Previously, Qatar, which has engaged with the Taliban authorities, also condemned the decision.

CROSSWORD 4932

ACROSS

1 Firm revises dates quickly (9)
8 Perfume starts a romantic interlude (5)
9 What old scholars often dipped into (7)
10 It makes a very fine trap (6)
11 Roar and bluster about the Spanish (6)
12 Go where one shouldn't or chance being disturbed (8)
15 Bird artist (8)
18 Happy medium condition? (6)
20 Observing it's a dumbbell? (6)
21 A split in the union (7)
22 Overweight round-headed wild bees (5)
23 There's no getting to the nearest bank from here (9)

DOWN

2 Drawn - from the past for example? (5)
3 A fabric that is woven as and when one pleases (2,4)
4 Knows beyond doubt there's plenty of water (4,4)
5 He stops to interfere (6)
6 It ought to be soundly curbed for safety (7)
7 A fresh air allocation is everyone's entitlement (4,5)
11 One having a sea view? (3,6)
13 Their falling would ruin acts perhaps (8)
14 He provides French wine with the rent possibly (7)
16 A four-foot cycle (6)
17 Left work (6)
19 Article on companies making drink (5)

Solutions Crossword 4931: Across: 1 Cahoots, 4 Medai, 7 Purr, 8 Lilliput, 10 Second hand, 12 Lashed, 13 Lethal, 15 Head keeper, 18 Inaction, 19 Draw, 20 Gored, 21 Trained. Down: 1 Capes, 2 Hard cash, 3 Slight, 4 Malingered, 5 Dope, 6 Lateral, 9 Interested, 11 Chaperson, 12 Lagging, 14 Adroit, 16 Rowed, 17 Fair.

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 clue.

I put my heart and my soul into my work, and have _____ in the process. - Vincent Van Gogh (4,2,4)

BNIOS

EOSTDM

AALNT

BHLUMY

SOLUTION: BISON, NATAL, MODERN, HUMBLBY

SUDOKU 5057

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5056

Office of the Superintending Engineer 12th Circle P.W.D. Pauri

Fax & Phone No. 01368-222322, E-mail:-sepwdpauricircle@gmail.com

Letter No 6346/141 Yata-12/2022-23

Dated 22/12/2022

Short Term (E-Tendering)

Superintending Engineer, 12th Circle, Public Works Department Pauri on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand, invites item rate e-tender (two bid system). For further details please log on to <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 24.12.2022.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Earnest money (in Lakh Rs)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Validity of tender	Time of completion in Months	Contractor's category of Registration
1	Strengthening of Surface in Ghurdauri-Jamankhal-Charakot- Devprayag Motor Road Km (1 to 3) (PD, PWD, Pauri) .	3.65	5000 +18% G.S.T.	120 Days	2.50	Category B/B+ for Road work in State/Central Govt./ undertaking.

Sd/-

अधीक्षक अभियन्ता 12वां वृत्त, लो.नि.वि पौड़ी (गढ़वाल)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Principal Chief Materials Manager

Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001

Mail ID : salenr365@gmail.com

No. 117-S-Sales-Auction Programme- 2022-23

Dated. 20.12.2022

e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. January/2023

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Used lead Acid Batteries/Used oil/Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board. Auction programme is as under.

e-AUCTION DATES FOR 'January, 2023.

S. No	Depot conducting auction	Time	1 st round	2 nd round	3 rd round	4 th round	5 th round	6 th round
1	Alambagh/Lucknow 0522-2451257	10:00	2	7	11	16	23	31
2	Shakurbasti 011-27015387	10:00	4	9	14	18	25	31
3	Jagadhari 01732-252388	10:00	3	7	12	17	24	31
4	Sr.DMM/LKO 0522-2234756	10:00	3	6	12	17	24	31
5	Sr.DMM/FZR 01632-244154	11:00	5	10	13	19	27	31
6	Sr.DMM/UMB 0171-2611203	11:00	4	9	13	18	25	31
7	Sr.DMM/MB 0591-2413141	10:00	5	10	13	19	27	31
8	Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311	11:00	2	6	11	16	23	31

1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in.

2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations.

3. To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with ireps. The details on last sold rates in auctions are available at www.railnet.gov.in.

4. For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway website 'www.ireps.gov.in'.

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

3405/2022

(Om Kumar)

Dy. Chief Material Manager/S&P

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Tenders for the following works:

E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/127/2022 Dated: 16-12-2022

Item of work	Approx. Value
Shifting of Power line	Rs. 26,35,252/-
Crossing and Lighting arrangements for proposed ROB in lieu of LC No.102 at Km 188/514 at Kudatini Yard.	

(Tender No. ECN/47/2022)

E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/128/2022 Dated: 16-12-2022

Item of work	Approx. Value
Lighting arrangement	Rs. 78,61,958/-
ROB in lieu of 1). LC No. 32 between Hubballi and Hosapete (Schedule A) 2). LC No. 66 between Koppal and Gingirga (Schedule B) 3). LC No. 72 between Gingirga and Munirabad (Schedule C) (Tender No. ECN/59/2022)	

E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/129/2022 Dated: 16-12-2022

Item of work	Approx. Value
Power supply arrangements	Rs. 37,82,133/-
and platform lighting arrangements for proposed Doddahalli Railway station in Tumkuru - Rayadurg section. (Tender Ref. No.:ECN-62-2022) Corrigendum No.1, Dated : 19-12-2022, 17.55.	

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 12-01-2023

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB560/AAD/PBB/SWR/2022-23

f S.W.Railways SwRRly SwRRly

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Information Technology and Digital Services Department

Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA)

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA), towards the Selection of System Integrator for the Implementation and Maintenance of Master Data Management (MDM) and De-Duplication Tool for State Family Database (SFDB) in Tamil Nadu.

The tender document (RFP) can be downloaded at free of cost from <https://tntenders.gov.in/>, <https://tnega.tn.gov.in/> from 23.12.2022, 14:00 hrs.

Pre-bid meeting is scheduled online on 29.12.2022 at 11:30 hrs. through video conference (VC) by TNeGA and the link for the VC can be referred in the RFP.

EMD for an amount of Rs.5,00,000/- has to be paid through online mode. Last date and time for online submission of bids through <https://tntenders.gov.in/> (e-Tender) is 09.01.2023 till 16:00 hrs. Technical Bid shall be opened online on 09.01.2023 at 16:30 hrs. Bidders are advised to participate in the pre-bid meeting scheduled by TNeGA.

DIPRI/ 5675 /TENDER/2022

Chief Executive Officer, Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency.

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

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

N.I.T. No. : 32/22-23/WE

Name of work with its location:

(A) Provision of additional water storage capacity Under ground tank of one lac litre and Extension of storage on Vth floor and other allied works for Ministry of Railway Health in COFMOW building in the s/o SSEW/BH under ADEN/E-III

Approx. Cost of work : (A) Rs. 71,07,549.82

EMD amount : (A) Rs. 1,42,200.00

Completion period of work : (A) 06 Months

Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender : Closing date of tender on 17.01.2023 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. : Above tender available on website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 128-W/269/OET/22-23/WE/NIT/32 Dated: 21.12.2022 3400/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

Government of Jharkhand

Directorate Of Food And Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand,

Third Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru Ranchi

Letter No- 2069

Tender Ref No:Kha.up.Ni-01- Ch.Da.Vi-01/2022- 1962

Date- 22/12/2022

Dated - 02-12-2022

Corrigendum Notice

Reference to Tender Ref No: Kha.up.Ni-01- Ch.Da.Vi-01/2022- 1962 Dated - 02-12-2022, PR No. 284111 for Empanelment of Bidders for supply of Chana Dal for PDS under NFSA and JSFS Scheme under Reverse Auction Mode.

Following Amendment are hereby Authorized.

Description	As per RFP	Amended As
Bidding Cost and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/Bid Security submission last date	26.12.2022 at 5:00 PM	05.01.2023 at 5:00 PM
Tender Document Sales End Date :	26.12.2022 at 5:00 PM	05.01.2023 at 5:00 PM
Bid Submission Closing Date :	26.12.2022 at 5:00 PM	05.01.2023 at 5:00 PM
Bid Opening & Evaluation :	27.12.2022	06.01.2023

However, the prospective bidder are advised to regularly keep visiting and checking the website <http://jharkhand.gov.in/food> & <https://tntenders.gov.in> for any further forthcoming information/ notice(s) / developments / amendment(s) / Clarification(s) regarding the subject Tender. Rest all the Terms and Conditions of the RFP and subsequent amendment remains unchanged.

Sd/-, Director

PR 285706 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs(22-23)#D Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग झांखण्ड, राँची

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट अत्यन्तकालीन निविदा (प्रथम आमंत्रण) (प्रथम शुद्धि पत्र - PR No- 2856310)

ई-टेंडर रफरेंस नं०- Cluster (JJM Dhanbad-2)/09/2022-23 दिनांक:- 15-12-2022

क्र०	विवरण	पूर्व में विनिर्दिष्ट तिथि एवं स्थान	संशोधित तिथि एवं स्थान
1	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	From 22-12-2022, 4:00P.M	From 03-01-2023, 4:00P.M
2	बिड प्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम तिथि / समय	03-01-2023 up to 5:00P.M	11-01-2023 up to 5:00P.M
3	प्री-बिड बैठक का स्थान एवं तिथि	-	16.01.2023 / 04:00 PM अभियंता मुख्यालय का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, नेपाल हाउस, डोरखा, राँची
4	निविदा की हार्ड कॉपी जमा करने की तिथि / समय / स्थान	06-01-2023 up to 2:00P.M कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल संख्या-02, धनबाद / असीमग अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल, धनबाद / असीमग मुख्या अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग दुमका प्रखंड, दुमका।	19-01-2023 up to 2:00P.M -वही-
5	निविदा प्राप्त बिड खोलने की तिथि / समय	09-01-2023 up to 01:00 P.M	20-01-2023 up to 01:00 P.M

➤ निविदा की अन्य शर्त यथावत रहेगी । कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल संख्या-02, धनबाद

PR285710 (Drinking Water and Sanitation)22-23*D

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

In spite of the fact that everyone appears determined to pick up the wrong end of the stick, this does seem to be a good time to at least attempt to communicate. There is bound to be some considerable exaggeration, but if you take big promises with a pinch of salt, then you should protect yourself against major blunders.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

What comes to light over the next few days should strengthen your bargaining power. You should check out any legal, ethical or long-term issues today, so that when an opportunity does come along, you are well primed – and can do your best by other people.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You do have a sense of humour, even if some people don't believe it! The moment has come for you to lead others a merry dance, which is just what they deserve. Do keep a very careful eye on the financial situation, partly because a partner is liable to take up a rather extreme position.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

The next forty-eight hours should raise the financial temperature. Do concentrate on your own interests, in spite of the fact the others may have their own rather complex demands. Partners could still be rather fractious, and a loved one may need placating.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The Moon is now offering you a great deal of encouragement and you may right wrongs, make up for injustices and generally correct a serious personal imbalance. Don't imagine that you can get away with half-measures, though. It's time to go the whole way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Now that one series of intensely personal planetary aspects is on the wane, you should begin to feel slightly less hassled. Yet don't expect genuine relaxation until after another few days have passed. Actually, you're most relaxed when you're busy.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Make the fullest possible advantage of a series of splendid planetary aspects. Probably the prime consideration is to see that you take a little time off by yourself. Also, please don't believe unfounded rumours or imagine that others are undermining you.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You should spend a little time tuning your body up, with special attention to exercise and diet. You are slightly sensitive at the moment, and any emotional stress could leave you feeling under the weather. That's why partners should be nice to you! I know it, and you know it, but I hope they know it.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You've got more personal choices coming up. The question is whether you would rather spend time with friends who may be pleasant but dull, or with intimate partners who may be highly stimulating but also rather complicated and unpredictable.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You may leave yourself enough time for a spot of self-indulgence, but should realise that certain planets are tipping you into excess. That would never do! Remember the dangers of swinging to emotional extremes or of putting too many demands on partners.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

If you have not already had some sort of completely random and ill-considered argument, whether with a close partner or a complete stranger, it may yet happen. Mind you, sometimes it does you good to blow your top! It's just that you have to clear up the mess afterwards.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

There is still a considerable amount of tension, but life could be extremely exciting if you have a private goal that you are determined to achieve. Only Pisceans who are totally dedicated to a passive lifestyle will resent all those mounting personal pressures.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Sujata Devnath

General Public is hereby informed that one female **Name: Sujata Devnath, W/o: Tarun Devnath, R/o: H. No. 135, Street No. 13, H-Block, Kuwar Singh Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **14.12.2022** at 08:00 am. from her house from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 154A dated 14.12.2022** has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing female are as under: **Age:** 32 years, **Sex:** Female, **Height:** 5' 2", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue colour short, jeans and Pink colour shoes in her feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing female kindly inform to the following.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/3879/OD/2022
SHO P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Tel.No. 011-25946710, 7065036129

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 45 Yrs., **Height:** 5'6", **Sex:** Male, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Id Marks:** A Mole mark on the right side of nose, **Wearing:** Black Colour Lower and Black & White Colour Jacket, **Place of Recovery:** Found dead in Park, near Janta Market, Nangloi, Delhi.
In this regard **DD No. 47A, Dated 25.11.2022** has been lodged at **Police Station: Nangloi, Delhi**. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.
SHO P.S.: Nangloi, Delhi
Ph.: 9990173018
DP/4048/OD/2022

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking

(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)

TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for the supply of following items

(1) 74915 – Supply Implementation and support for IT Application & Infrastructure, (2) Biennial Rate Contract for purchase of 11 kv, 250 MVA, Indoor VCB Switchgears for DSS with Horizontal Isolation, (3) 75483 – Selection of a consultant for Registration, Monitoring, Verification, Issuance and Trading of carbon credits for BEST Undertaking, (4) Contract for providing Canteen services at Various locations of the BEST Undertaking.

Re-invited e-tenders

(5) 74909 (Corrigendum), (6) 75318, (7) 75345, (8) 75331 (Corrigendum), (9) 75313

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

PRO/AAM(M)/140/2022 GENERAL MANAGER

New Delhi

BRIEFLY

Men can compete in artistic swimming at Paris Olympics

Lausanne: Men can compete in Olympic artistic swimming for the first time at the 2024 Paris Games, World Aquatics said on Thursday. Approval from the International Olympic Committee means a maximum of two men can be selected among eight athletes in the team event that is due to include 10 nations.Adding men to the sport once known as synchronized swimming will leave rhythmic gymnastics as the last women-only event on the Summer Games program. **AP**

Raja sacked as PCB chairman

Karachi: Former Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja has been sacked as chairman of the country's cricket board (PCB) after the 3-0 test series white-wash by England, his interim replacement Najam Sethi said on Thursday. Raja, who played more than 250 international matches from 1984 to 1997, had taken over from Ehsan Mani who stepped down from the role in 2021. "The cricket regime headed by Ramiz Raja is no more. The 2014 PCB constitution stands restored," Sethi, who previously served as the head of the PCB, said on Twitter. **REUTERS**

Nikhat, Manju ease into quarterfinals

Bhopal: World Championships medallists Nikhat Zareen and Manju Rani registered thumping 5-0 victories against their respective opponents to enter the quarterfinals of the 6th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships here on Thursday. Reigning world champion Nikhat, representing Telangana, thrashed Meghalaya's Eva Wayne Marbaniang in the 50kg pre-quarterfinals bout, while Railways boxer Manju Rani also produced an equally dominating performance to defeat Uttarakhand's Kavita comprehensively in the 48kg last-16 contest. **REUTERS**

Pele's cancer in advanced stage

Sao Paulo: Brazilian soccer legend Pele's cancer has advanced and he requires care related to renal and cardiac dysfunction, according to a medical report, and his family said he would remain in a Sao Paulo hospital over Christmas. Widely considered one of the greatest footballers of all time, the 82-year-old has been hospitalized in the Albert Einstein hospital since late November as doctors reevaluate his treatment and tend to a respiratory infection. **REUTERS**

IBA has 'no real interest' in sport: IOC

Lausanne: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Thursday raised the possibility of boxing being excluded from the 2024 Paris Games, saying its Russian-led world body showed it had "no real interest" in the sport or its athletes. The International Boxing Association (IBA) was stripped of involvement in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and boxing is not on the initial programme for the 2028 Los Angeles Games, pending reforms demanded by the IOC. **REUTERS**



Pacer Umesh Yadav picked up four wickets on Thursday.

AP

Why dropping Kuldeep is insensible, insensitive and lacks vision

TUSHAR BHADURI

DECEMBER 22

SPIN, FLIGHT, turn, bounce, as well as accuracy – all the qualities one associates with a top-class spinner were on display when Kuldeep Yadav made his comeback to Test cricket in Chattogram last week. So what do Indian team management do? Drop him for the second Test in a decision that has had Sunil Gavaskar almost reaching out for a cuss word.

It's not a decision that's likely to affect the Test match result probably, but the issue here was how a bowler who desperately needs confidence and backing has been dumped yet again. Wrist-spinners generally need a sympathetic captain. More so Kuldeep. This is a bowler who broke down on the field after being hit for a few sixes in an IPL game. The decision in Dhaka would feel like a kick to the guts.

Kuldeep's plight shows the state in which the game is in India. For all the solid bench strength touted time and again, with some saying that India can field two simultaneous teams of high quality, the ICC trophy cabinet is vacant for a decade as the resources at hand are not utilised in optimum fashion.

What happened to Kuldeep is just a

symptom of a larger malaise – the lack of direction and vision in Indian cricket. It would be interesting to see how he fares when called upon next. The Dhaka selection debacle may just push his career two steps back. He will need oodles of mental strength to bounce back from this setback, which is not of his own making.

Apart from the eight-wicket match haul and the crucial 40 in the first innings, during which he put on a crucial 92 runs for the eighth wicket with Ravichandran Ashwin, what caught the eye was the rhythm the chinaman bowler showed in the game. The Bangladesh batsmen very often had no clue about what was coming at them, either the direction of the deviation or where the ball would land.

However, the player-of-the-match performance was not enough for Kuldeep to keep his place in the next match, as the team management included Jaydev Unadkat in the eleven. The left-arm seamer, a domestic stalwart, played his only previous Test a dozen years ago in South Africa, when he went wicketless in an Indian innings defeat.

"Hard decision on Kuldeep but we know Ashwin and Axar (Patel) can find spin, and bring Jaydev in to cover all bases," is how stand-in skipper KL Rahul put it at the toss. After the day's play, Umesh Yadav termed the decision



The pitch that was used for the first two days of the match.

Express photo

the other end, Gurnoor Brar (9-4-8-1) was equally impressive.

Kaul, who was the pick of the bowlers for Punjab told *The Indian Express*: "I can't make any comments on the pitch as I am neither the captain nor the coach. My job is to take wickets for Punjab and I am happy with my effort." One of the Punjab batsmen, who was hit on the helmet on Day 2 said: "It was a better surface. It is not life-threatening. We will try to wrap up the innings quickly tomorrow and try to gain a first-innings lead."

With the game starting fresh on a new sur-

Bangladesh might well rue not making full use of batting first as many batsmen fail to convert starts amid Ashwin and Umesh's onslaught

ABHISHEK PUROHIT

DECEMBER 22

EVERY TIME Bangladesh started to build a partnership, either they would self-destruct or India would find a way to break through. Five of the first six partnerships read 39, 43, 48, 42 and 41. None of the top seven Bangladesh batsmen made less than 15, so everyone got at least some sort of start. But only one of them went on to make more than 26 – former captain Mominul Haque, who constructed a patient 84 on comeback.

Only a couple of the disappointments could be put down to the pitch playing tricks or the ball doing a bit. The result was that after losing the toss, India ran through Bangladesh for only 227 just over halfway into the third session on the first day of the second Test in Dhaka. Perhaps it was as well that India lost the toss, because stand-in captain KL Rahul said they were not sure what to make of the pitch. There had been variable bounce, exaggerated at times, in the couple of ODIs India had played here earlier this month, although runs had been scored in the second game.

The pitch for this Test, moreover, had a nice green cover, much more than the one for the first Test in Chattogram had.

Then again, the thin grass lining in Chattogram had only served to prevent the placid pitch from breaking up. In the end, India took a punt on the grass and left out Kuldeep Yadav despite his eight-wicket haul in the first Test, instead handing Jaydev Unadkat his much-desired second Test cap, 12 years after his first. Unadkat had waited since 2010 for his first Test wicket; he had to wait another 23 deliveries into his first spell. With some luck, India could have struck much earlier than the 15th over of the innings from Unadkat. But Umesh Yadav, in particular, and Mohammed Siraj went past the edges of Najmul Hossain Shanto and Zakir Hasan numerous times.

There was hardly any swing, but there was plenty of movement off what was a somewhat damp track to start with. And even after the 70th over, the seamers would keep finding something off the pitch, even though the magnitude would drop. It was Mirpur after all,



Kuldeep Yadav has changed the dynamic of white-ball cricket.

AP



My main concern was having a double cell. Your cellmate can attack or threaten you. For the first time in my life I felt hungry – meaning I went to bed hungry. Prison was good for my health. They did have alcohol but I didn't drink any."

BORIS BECKER
ON HIS TIME IN PRISON

though, so the zip wasn't quite there. But Unadkat found awkward bounce almost immediately with his height and high release. He began hitting the glove or the splice regularly, the leading edges began to pop up, and it seemed only a matter of time before the maiden Test wicket arrived.

Soon enough, a short of a length delivery leaped and cut in alarmingly at Chattogram debut centurion Zakir Hasan, who had no time to get out of the way and lobbed it to the slip cordon. From hereon until the sixth wicket to fall, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Bangladesh would threaten to develop a partnership and barring Mushfiquir Rahim, all would bring about their own downfall.

Shanto padded up to what he thought was an offbreak that would spin away. But R Ashwin had bowled it with the seam parallel to the stumps, and the ball barely spun.

Shakib Al Hasan took on the left-arm spin of Axar Patel, but first ball after lunch, he decided to welcome Umesh back with a lofted boundary. This wasn't the pitch to be hitting on the up, that too right after a break, and the Bangladesh captain failed to clear mid-off.

Litton Das has been in fine nick of late, and he motored along at run a ball before clipping Ashwin straight to midwicket.

As Bangladesh kept imploding, Unadkat earned himself his second Test wicket. In his time away from the Indian team, he has grown to work out truckloads of domestic batsmen on unresponsive pitches with one tireless spell after the other. Among his bag of tricks is to go round the wicket to the right-hander and try to move it away against the angle. He would get that delivery spot-on to Mushfiquir, who could do nothing more than nick it behind.

Meanwhile, Mominul had quietly gone about his business at the other end. The past 12 months or so have been disastrous for Mominul. He had managed only single-digit scores in 14 of his 16 previous completed Test innings. He lost the Test captaincy after the defeat to Sri Lanka at home earlier this year, and eventually, also his place in the side. This was his first game in six months in the only international format he plays now.

It was a characteristic Mominul knock. He

as a call taken by the team management.

Well, if Ashwin and Axar can get spin from the surface, a wrist-spinner would do as well, maybe extract even more purchase. The pitch at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium may have had a tinge of green at the start of the match, but the general nature of tracks in Bangladesh is well known over the years, and one won't describe it as pace-friendly. It seemed as a 'handing out' of a cap as a reward for Unadkat's perseverance.

And if one spinner had to be dropped after a good performance, maybe Axar should have been the fall guy. He is basically a 'slightly' inferior version of Ravindra Jadeja, and keeping the seat warm till the latter returns to full fitness.

Sunil Gavaskar, for one, wasn't one to mince words at the selection call. "Dropping a Man of the Match, that is unbelievable. That's the only word I can use and it's a gentle word. I would like to use quite stronger words, but it's unbelievable that you left out a man of the match, who got eight out of the 20 wickets," the former India captain said on television.

At 31, Unadkat isn't likely to get into the Indian team when the likes of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami are available, while Kuldeep was once touted by former India head coach Ravi Shastri as the

didn't commit early, played close to the body, within himself, and attacked only when a delivery was absolutely asking for it. In a measure of how the pitch played, and also how little India gave to drive, only five of his runs came in the conventional 'V' down the ground.

Even as he was running out of partners, he made a fatal mistake; to an Ashwin carom ball, he stretched out his arms a bit too far as he tried to leave, and the ball flicked the glove on its way to the wicketkeeper. From 213 for 5, Bangladesh could add only 14 more runs as Umesh and Ashwin ran through the lower order. By the third session, Unadkat's followthrough had caused a couple of clear rough areas to develop outside the right-hander's off stump. And the odd delivery had started to either take off or stay low if it pitched there. Shubman Gill was lucky to escape with a couple of under-edges past the stumps as India closed on 19 for 0 six overs early amid bad light, and it appears that the batsmen will continue to be tested.

Stumps Day One

1st innings:	
Shanto lbw Ashwin	24
Hasan c Rahul b Unadkat	15
Haque c Pant b Ashwin	84
Shakib c Pujara b Umesh Yadav	16
Mushfiquir c Pant b Unadkat	26
Das c Rahul b Ashwin	25
M Hasan c Pant b Umesh	15
N Hasan lbw Umesh	6
Taskin c Siraj b Umesh Yadav	1
Tajjul Islam Not Out	4
K Ahmed c Unadkat b Ashwin	0
Extras: 3b 7lb 0nb Open 1w	11
Total (73.5 overs)	227 all out
Fall of Wickets : 1-39 Hasan, 2-39 Shanto, 3-82 Al Hasan, 4-130 Rahim, 5-172 Das, 6-213 Miraz, 7-219 Hasan, 8-223 Ahmed, 9-227 Haque, 10-227 Ahmed	
Bowling: Siraj 9-3-9-0-4-33, Umesh 15-4-25-4-1-67, Unadkat 16-2-50-2-3-12, 1w, Ashwin 21.5-3-71-4-3-25, Patel 12-3-32-0-2-67	
India 1st innings: Rahul 3*, Gill 14*	
Extras: 0b 0lb 2nb Open 0w	2
Total (8.0 overs)	19-0
Bowling: Taskin 4-2-8-0-2-0-0-2nb, Shakib 4-2-11-0-2-75	

team's No.1 spinner outside Asia.

A useful weapon

Kuldeep, along with leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, changed the dynamic of white-ball cricket a few years ago, even in conditions which hardly had anything for tweakers, before going off the boil. But at 27, his best days should still be ahead of him, if handled properly.

Looking at the bigger picture, with India's qualification for the World Test Championship final resting on the upcoming four-Test home series against Australia, one would have thought that a fit and firing Kuldeep would have been a key weapon, especially remembering what he did in the series-decider at Dharamsala when the Aussies came calling the last time.

But thinking two steps ahead is not what the Indian think tank is known for. If given a choice about whom they will like to face in Indian conditions, the response of the Aussies would be obvious.

With the 50-over World Cup to be held in India in 10 months' time, an on-song Kuldeep would have been a big plus. It's a different format, no doubt, but the confidence and rhythm a player carries can often transcend the length of the game and the colour of the ball in use.

RANJI TROPHY : DAY 3 ROUND-UP

Karnataka bag 7 points

Karnataka pacers Ronit More (4/36), Vidwath Kaverappa (2/44) and Vijaykumar Vyshak (3/23) shared nine wickets between them as they defeated Puducherry by an innings and 7 runs. **Brief scores:** Puducherry: 170 and 127 in 43 overs (Ronit More 4/36, Vijaykumar Vyshak 3/23, Vidwath Kaverappa 2/44) vs Karnataka 304

Gujarat thrash J&K

Left-arm spinner Siddharth Desai (6/38 & 8/66) bagged fourteen wickets as Gujarat registered a convincing nine wicket win over Jammu and Kashmir. **Brief scores:** Gujarat 307 and 11/1; 2.5 overs. J & K 135 and following on 182; 58 overs (Nazir 43, Vivrant 41; Desai 8/66, Patel 2/55). Gujarat won by 9 wickets

Twin tons for Hooda

Deepak Hooda (133 & 106 batting) scored his second century of the match to put Rajasthan in a commanding position against Kerala on Day 3.

Khare, Mandal shine

Riding on the centuries from Amandeep Khare (125 not out) and Ajay Mandal (114), Chhattisgarh has bagged a crucial first-innings lead of 176 against Services' **Brief Scores:** Services: 213 & 145/4 in 40 overs (R Singh 71) vs Chhattisgarh: 389 in 130 overs (Amandeep Khare 125 not out, Ajay Mandal 114; Dwesh Pathania 3/71, Pulkit Narang 3/78, Arpit Guleria 3/102)

Gharami shows class

Sudip Gharami scored his second first-class century to put Bengal on the cusp of a big win against Himachal Pradesh. **Brief scores:** Bengal: 310 & 291/5 decl (Sudip Gharami 101, Manoj Tiwary 50) vs Himachal Pradesh 130 and 79/1 in 25 overs (Prashant Chopra 44 batting, Ankit Kalsi 17 batting)

How does an 'Impact player' system, started in IPL, work?

VENKATA KRISHNA B
DECEMBER 22

EXPLAINED
The IPL has introduced the concept of impact player from the upcoming season.

What is that?
Apart from the playing XI, teams can bring in a substitute at any stage of the game. Teams have to name four substitutes apart from the playing XI at the toss. One of them can be brought into the XI at any time as a substitute.

How does it work?

The captain can pick one of the four substitutes as impact player at any juncture and can bring him at the start of the innings or at the end of an over or when a wicket falls. While bowling, if the team brings an impact player at the fall of a wicket in the middle of an over, he can't be called on to bowl. And the replaced player will play no further part in the match.

If a batting side brings on an Impact player, the batsman can replace another batsman who has been dismissed/retired

What are the options for the batting side?

If a batting side brings on an Impact player, the batsman can replace another batsman who has been dismissed / retired. One of the players yet to come in to bat then forsakes his batting turn.

Will the number of overseas players in the XI go up?

No, that cap stays. Only 4 foreign players are allowed at any point. So teams can bring in only Indians as Impact players unless they don't have four overseas players in the XI.

Is there a quota for bowlers?

If player A has bowled his quota of four overs, and is substituted, the Impact player will also be allowed to bowl 4 overs. So a team can essentially use a new ball bowler in the powerplay and bring in a specialist for the death.

IPL MINI-AUCTION

All-rounders Stokes, Curran, Green set to go for big bucks

Multi-utility players tend to get a windfall, but there is no certainty to any of it

VENKATA KRISHNA B
COIMBATORE, DECEMBER 22

IT IS that time of the year when IPL franchise officials turn poker-faced and keep their cards close to their chest. Fifteen seasons have gone by since the Indian Premier League came into existence, and the auction strategy has proved to be a tough egg to crack, unless one is an insider. Every auction throws up a surprise or two. Yes, all-rounders and multi-utility players, ones who are regarded as X-factors tend to get a windfall, but there is no certainty to any of it.

For instance, in the full-fledged auction last year, it was fast bowlers, especially the Indians, who walked away with big pay cheques. As the IPL gets ready for a mini-auction on Friday in Kochi, it is time to expect the unexpected. Despite this being a mini-auction, 405 players are in the pool. Ben Stokes, Sam Curran and Cameron Green, all capable fast-medium all-rounders and match-winners, are set to trigger a paddle-raising frenzy at the auction.

The three are expected to fetch the maximum sum with Sunrisers Hyderabad (Rs 42.25 cr) and Punjab Kings (Rs 32.20 cr) with the biggest pay purse available expected to go all out for them. Of course, others will also be in the fray, but out of the eight Royal Challengers Bangalore and Kolkata Knight Riders have less than Rs 10 crore remaining in their purse and have seven and 14 slots to fill respectively (maximum limit being 25 and the minimum being 18).

Mumbai Indians, Chennai Super Kings, Delhi Capitals have Rs 20.55 cr, Rs 20.45 cr and Rs 19.45 cr available and have nine, seven and five slots to fill. So spending big on one of them would mean, they would have very little to left.

But this auction will be dictated primarily by two things: the availability of players (especially English and Australians) and the new impact player rule introduced this year by the IPL. With Ashes set to follow soon after the IPL during the English summer and the 50-over World Cup in October-November, there is apprehension among the franchise executives that a few players might pull out of the IPL at the last minute citing fatigue and workload issues.

Which is why despite the availability of Stokes – a player who could win matches on his own with that bat and ball – teams are a little concerned whether to go big for him and



Ben Stokes, Sam Curran, capable fast-medium all-rounders and match-winners, are set to trigger a paddle-raising frenzy at the auction.



live with the risk of him pulling out at a later stage. For the record, Chris Woakes, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc have already pulled out of the IPL or didn't register themselves for the same reason.

Teams will be willing to take that risk, because he is the sort of player who could ultimately make a big difference. One just has to look at what Mumbai Indians did last year when they bought Jofra Archer for Rs 8 crores despite knowing that he won't play the 2022 season," a franchise official said.

With most teams having limited purse to splurge and not even a handful of world-class players in the auction list, there is a mismatch between demand and supply. More than the big auction, it is at the mini-auction where players get a big pay as teams with a huge purse tend to outbid the rest.

While teams can fill up to 25 slots, something most usually do, talking to franchise officials and support staff one thing is clear; they are not really looking just for quantity. "Teams usually go for big squads so that all bases are covered. But there is a huge demand for quality players in a 10-team league. So if you get a pool of 18 players, then well and good. This is where the availability factor comes in and uncapped Indian players benefit out of it," a support staff who has been part of a franchise for over three seasons said.

The concern about availability of overseas players is so serious that according to multiple franchise executives, they have been double-checking with the player agents about their commitment. "If you spend big on an overseas player, you expect him to play a big role every season. But if they pull out, it leaves a

huge hole that we can't cover up because of the imbalance in demand and supply," a franchise executive said.

With Ashes and World Cup to follow back-to-back, franchises are also expecting few of the overseas players (already part of the team) to arrive with certain terms and conditions. For instance, franchises believe that Australia and England players' workload will be managed by their respective boards, which means they may be forced to miss a game or two at some point. "We haven't heard anything concrete yet, but we have been hearing it unofficially. At the end of the day, they give the NOC and you have to stick to the terms that come with it," the franchise official said.

Impact player rule

The other thing that will make this auction interesting is the impact player rule. With teams allowed to bring in a new player during a game, it helps the teams to be a lot more flexible. While teams usually go into the auction with primary focus on picking a XI, it now becomes a bit more complicated because they have to name 14 players at the toss with any of the additional three being their impact player. "It is a new concept and from what we spoke to our scouts, coaches of domestic teams and captains, it opens the door to be a lot more adventurous. For example, we may not spend big on a player who we think would not fit into our XI. But if we can add him as an impact player, his value is going to increase. It is an unknown territory for us, but one we are also excited about," said a support staff member who watched the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s where the impact player was first introduced.

CSK, Mumbai Indians look to replace Bravo, Pollard

Sunrisers Hyderabad have biggest purse with Rs 42.25 crores

Who will replace Thakur Delhi Capitals
Purse remaining: Rs 19.45 crore
Available slots: 5 (2 overseas)

Have their core intact. But traded Shardul Thakur to Kolkata Knight Riders for Aman Khan and released Srikar Bharat and Tim Seifert. They are a team that likes to have good players as cover so expect them to go for an all-rounder and wicket-keeper.

Who will fill Pollard's shoes?

Mumbai Indians
Purse remaining: Rs 20.55 crore
Available slots: 9 (3 overseas)

Having failed to make play-offs in successive seasons, MI are continuing to rebuild. They need a reliable spinner, all-rounder to fill Kieron Pollard's place, and fast bowlers given their star pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Jofra Archer are injury prone. Need at least two players who can walk into their playing XI.

Lots of slots to fill Sunrisers Hyderabad
Purse remaining: Rs 42.25 crore
Available slots: 13 (4 overseas)

Have the biggest purse. They are without a captain, a wicketkeeper, a top-order batsman, a middle-order batsman, an all-rounder, and a wrist-spinner. There are too many vacant slots and given the short supply of quality players, have a big task in hand.

Pacer to reduce Hardik workload

Gujarat Titans
Purse remaining: Rs 19.25 crore
Available slots: 7 (3 overseas)

The core that won the title is intact. Having traded Lockie Ferguson to Kolkata, they need an overseas pacer and an Indian to reduce the workload on Hardik Pandya. They also need a top-order batter and if possible an Indian wicketkeeper.

A batsman with good strike rate

Royal Challengers Bangalore
Purse remaining: Rs 8.75 crore
Available slots: 7 (2 overseas)

They have not released any of their first-choice players. For a change have a definite plan in place and will look for an overseas pacer as well as an Indian. Need a batsman, one with a good strike-rate to make up for Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli's relatively slow starts when batting

KKR need death over specialist Kolkata Knight Riders
Purse remaining: Rs 7.05 crore
Available slots: 11 (3 overseas)

Have traded Shardul Thakur, Lockie Ferguson, Rahmanullah Gurbaz. Leave aside squad players, with the smallest purse available, have to pick a middle-order batter (who can be wicketkeeper), an opening batter, and a reliable death bowler. And hope none of their first-choice XI gets injured.

Dhoni's backup behind stumps

Chennai Super Kings
Purse remaining: Rs 20.45 crore
Available slots: 7 (2 overseas)

Need Indian batsmen who can slot in the middle-order straight away. An all-rounder to fill Dwayne Bravo's shoes, an overseas fast bowler and an Indian pacer. Bonus would be getting players with age on their side and a keeper to eventually replace MS Dhoni.

Needed: A couple of fast bowlers

Lucknow Super Giants
Purse remaining: Rs 23.35 crore
Available slots: 10 (4 overseas)

Having invested heavily in domestic players, their main focus is to pick players who can compliment them. So will need an all-rounder, a couple of fast bowlers to make them look formidable. Won't sweat on filling all the slots if they get their picks.

Reliable middle-order batsman

Rajasthan Royals
Purse remaining: Rs 13.3 crore
Available slots: 9 (4 overseas)

Need a reliable middle-order batsman as they seem too top-heavy and all are one-dimensional. So if they can get one in that area, it would make them all-round. Like the rest of the teams, they need an all-rounder to add strength. Their bowling looks strong, and may look for a back-up or two.

Fast bowling all-rounder

Punjab Kings
Purse remaining: Rs 32.2 crore
Available slots: 9 (3 overseas)

Have again decided to tweak. That should come as no surprise. But they have a good core of players meaning if they get an Indian middle-order batsman, a fast-bowling all-rounder, and Indian pacer and a spinner, they will go home happy.

MARUTI SUZUKI

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