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'DON'T HAMPER MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE, ECONOMIC ACTIVITY'

Centre signals third wave is ending, writes to states: Remove extra curbs

Daily count, active cases, positivity head to pre-surge levels

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M & AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, PUNE, FEBRUARY 16

WITH ALL indicators signalling a steady return to the situation that prevailed two months ago, the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday directed states to ease, or even do away with, the additional restrictive measures that had been imposed to deal with the third wave of the pandemic.

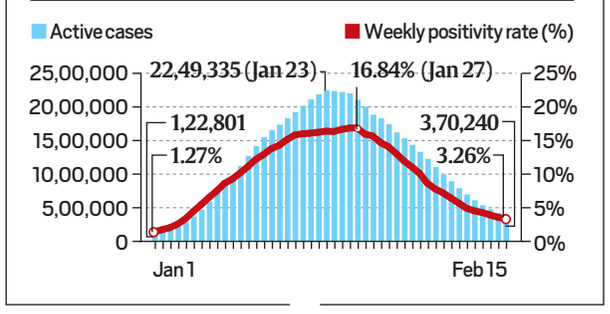
In a letter to chief secretaries in states, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said it is important that movement of people and economic activities do not remain under the same level of restrictions now.

"Presently, as the case trajectory across the nation is showing a sustained downward trend, it will be useful if states review and amend/ do away with the additional restrictions so imposed after considering the trend of new cases, active cases, and positivity," Bhushan said in the letter.

"In earlier months, in view of the high Covid case trajectory, certain states had imposed additional restrictions at their borders and at airports. While

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

GRADUAL RETURN TO NORMALCY





daCunha/AB/796

WORLD



NO SIGN OF RUSSIA PULLBACK: NATO, U.S.
PAGE 12

AAP photocopy of Cong, partners in crime, says PM

'They are in *noora kushti* (fixed fight) like WWF... can't protect border state like Punjab'

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
PATHANKOT, FEBRUARY 16

TARGETING THE Congress and AAP in poll-bound Punjab, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday said the two parties were "partners in crime" and AAP was a "photocopy" of the Congress.

Addressing his second election rally in Punjab, Modi said the Congress and AAP had questioned the bravery of soldiers.

"When soldiers show bravery, the leaders of these parties say what Pakistan says. One has sent the youth of Punjab into the arms of drugs while the other is making the youth of Delhi liquor addicts. One looted Punjab while the other is doing scams in Delhi one after the other. *Ye ek hee thaali ke chatte batte hain.* Now these two parties are doing *noora kushti* (fixed fight) in Punjab, like WWF," he said.

Accusing Congress and AAP of making a show of being opponents, he said AAP was supported by the Congress when it first

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PM Narendra Modi with devotees on the occasion of Guru Ravidas Jayanti in New Delhi on Wednesday. *PTI*

Cheered by Priyanka, Channi kicks up row with 'UP, Bihar' remark

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 16

DAYS BEFORE Punjab votes, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, with Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra by his side and applauding him, kicked up a row when he called upon Punjabis to "unite" and not let "*bhaiyas* from UP, Bihar and Delhi" enter the state.

His remarks drew a sharp response from rivals AAP and BJP which said it was "shameful" that he and Priyanka were targeting "a particular community" and calling for the "boycott" of "people

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

Upping the ante

GIVEN THE uncertainties of the four-way contest in Punjab, parties and leaders are upping the ante to swing votes. That Priyanka, who is leading the Congress campaign in UP, cheered Channi over his bhaiya-from-UP remark has not gone unnoticed — within the party and in rival camps.



DELHI UNIVERSITY OPENS TODAY

Delhi University's North Campus Wednesday witnessed the familiar sight of students milling around, a day before colleges reopen for offline classes. DU has been shut for around two years, since the onset of the pandemic. *Praveen Khanna*

REPORTS, PAGE 4

In poll season, Central security for 25 BJP leaders in UP, Punjab; Cong says bid to scare

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

THE MINISTRY of Home Affairs (MHA) has accorded central security cover to 25 BJP leaders, mostly from poll-bound Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, including Union Minister of State SPS Baghel — the party's candidate against SP chief Akhilesh Yadav from Karhal constituency in Mainpuri.

Baghel has been given Z-category security of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Sources said he had Y-category security earlier. The Centre decided to upgrade his security after his convoy was pelted with stones in Mainpuri recently.

BJP MP from Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh, Ramesh Chand Bind, has been given X-category CISF cover till the elections. Delhi MP Hans Raj Hans has been given Z-category security for his campaign visits in Punjab.

Barring these three, all the other BJP leaders who have been given Y and Y-plus category security of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) till the elections are from Punjab, including Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's former aide Nimisha Mehta. Some of the prominent names on the list are: Avtar Singh Zira, Sardar Didar Singh Bhatti, Sardar Kanwar Veer Singh Tohra, Sardar Gurpreet Singh Bhatti, Sardar Hariot Kamal, Sukhvinder Singh Bindra and Parminder Singh Dhindsa.

Ministry sources said the security cover was given following Intelligence Bureau reports

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY



DECISION 2022



BUNDELKHAND E-WAY: A WAIT FOR BENEFITS, ANGER OVER STRAY CATTLE

'DON'T TALK DRONES, TALK JOBS': PUNJAB BORDER SEATS VEER TOWARDS AAP
PAGE 5

Colleges reopen in Karnataka but shut doors on students with hijab

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 16

COLLEGES ACROSS Karnataka reopened under heavy police cover Wednesday to chaotic scenes outside several institutions with authorities refusing entry to hijab-wearing students prompting several girls to return home without attending classes.

While college authorities cited the Karnataka High Court's interim order last week, banning religious symbols until it decides on pleas challenging the hijab ban in some colleges of Udupi, several students said the restrictions were applied indiscriminately.

"Despite the hijab becoming an issue all over the state, it was never a concern in our college. But today, they asked all of us to remove our hijabs and come. Before our college was shut last week, along with others in the state, we used to wear hijabs and attend class. Today, those who refused to remove their hijabs were made to sit in a separate classroom," said a first-year BBA student from the G Shankar government women's first grade college at Ajjarkad in Udupi.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

HIJAB BAN RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION, PETITIONER TELLS HC
PAGE 8



He brought disco to the mainstream in the '80s, set feet tapping across India

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

SUANSHU KHURANA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

BEFORE THE dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Bappi Lahiri's *"Jimmy Jimmy, aaja aaja"*, a popular disco-pop number from Mithun Chakraborty's *Disco Dancer*, was a huge hit in the USSR of the '80s. Starved of any "western" popular culture, the country grooved to Lahiri's version of the disco. Glittery jumpsuits, hundreds of twinkling light bulbs and Chakraborty's pelvic moves accompanied by Lahiri's synths, horns, rhythm guitars and syncopated basslines.

Lahiri, 69, who heralded disco-pop and ruled film music in the '70s and '80s with a string of chart-topping songs, died in Mumbai on Wednesday due to obstructive sleep apnea. He had been in hospital for almost a month and had only returned home on Monday. He is survived by son Bappa Lahiri and daughter Rema Lahiri.

Lahiri learned music from his Bengali singer parents, Aparesh and Bansuri Lahiri, in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, and his maternal uncle, actor and playback singer Kishore Kumar. After learning the basics of classical music from his parents, including some training in tabla, Lahiri moved to Mumbai when he was 19 years old and began creating music in an industry dominated by R D Burman, Laxmikant-Pyarelal and Kalyanji-Anandji. among others.

He may have begun his career with compositions for Bengali film *Daadu* (1974), but his Bollywood debut came two years after he set foot in Mumbai with *Nanha Shikari* (1973), starring actors Deb Mukherjee and Tanuja. Directed by Tanuja's husband Shomu Mukherjee, the film didn't do too well on the musical charts.

After a few unsuccessful attempts, Lahiri finally hit it out of the park with three films in three successive years — *Zakhmee* (1975), *Chalte Chalte* (1976) and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Suvajit Dey

BAPPI LAHIRI
1952-2022

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



A MALL IN THE METAVERSE? IT'S ALREADY HAPPENING

Metamall is a metaverse platform that allows users to buy, own, build, develop real estate and stake the virtual real estate as non-fungible tokens (NFTs)

TECH



REALME 9 PRO+ REVIEW

Bright, colourful display, works well under direct sunlight

IN PICTURES



RIP 'DISCO KING' BAPPI LAHIRI

The Indian Express pays a pictorial tribute to the 'Disco King'

EXPRESS AUDIO

Media One ban, language protests in Jharkhand

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Vishnu Varma joins host Snigdha Sharma to discuss the ban on Malayalam TV channel Media One and why it has raised concerns about press freedom in India.

FROM PAGE ONE

Third wave

effectively managing the public health challenge of Covid-19, it is equally important that movement of people and economic activities should not be hampered by additional restrictions imposed at State level points of entries," he said.

The letter is a sort of official acknowledgment of the end of the third wave, which was not just vastly milder than the previous two waves, but also the least painful in terms of health conditions.

Case counts remained well below expected levels, though a much larger proportion of infections are likely to have been missed during this wave because of the rapid spread, and largely asymptomatic nature, of the infection caused by Omicron.

The Centre's letter comes at a time when the daily case count has dropped to about 30,000, around the lowest this year. This count had peaked on January 20, when more than 3.47 lakh new infections were detected, and has been declining for over three weeks now.

Similarly, active cases are back to levels of the first week of January after peaking on January 23. As on Tuesday, there were about 3.7 lakh active cases in the country. The weekly positivity rate, at 3.2 per cent, is also back to where it was in the first week of January after going up to as high as 17 per cent.

Just about 75 districts are now reporting a weekly positivity rate of more than 10 per cent. At the height of the third wave, towards the end of January, close to 400 districts had a weekly positivity rate of more than 10 per cent. Almost 80 per cent of districts now have a positivity rate less than 5 per cent.

The death count is still high compared to the start of the third wave, but this trend usually shows a lag of about two weeks. The daily toll outside Kerala had fallen below 50 in the last week of December -- as of now, this number is about 200.

Kerala has been continuously updating its toll by adding previously uncounted deaths because of which its daily numbers have been inflated. The state has already recorded more than 62,000 Covid-related deaths, the highest for any state except Maharashtra, where the death toll exceeds 1.47 lakh.

In the letter to chief secretaries, Bhushan wrote: "I am sure that under your continued leadership, the states would continue to address the challenge of Covid-19 while minimizing its impact on the lives and livelihood of people."

During the third wave, the states had taken control measures like night curfews, restrictions on the size of gatherings, closure of educational institutions and limitations on occupancy in restaurants and theatres. Most of these restrictions are already in the process of being lifted.

On Wednesday, the Haryana State Disaster Management Authority (HSDMA) lifted all Covid-related restrictions across the state in its revised guidelines. "However, the residents of the state are advised to strictly follow Covid appropriate behavioural norms including social distancing," stated the order issued by chief secretary Sanjeev Kaushal.

Last week, the Centre had relaxed guidelines for international passengers arriving in India. They no longer need to quarantine themselves for seven days or get tested at the airport if they come from an at-risk country, or undertake a repeat test on Day 8 of arrival. It had, however, warned against complacency, given the unique challenges the virus can still pose, and the situation in some states and districts.

(WITH PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA)

'UP, Bihar' remark

from UP and Bihar".

Addressing a road show taken out by Priyanka in favour of party candidate and Punjab Youth Congress chief Brinder Singh Dhillon in Ropar Tuesday evening, Channi said: "*Punjabian di bahu hai Priyanka Gandhi, eh saadi Punjaban hai, iss karke ikk passe ho jao Punjabion… UP, Bihar aur Delhi de bhaiye aa ke ithe raj karan lagge, vadan na deo ithe* (Priyanka is Punjab's daughter-in-law. She is our Punjaban. So Punjabis, get united. The bhaiyas from UP, Bihar and Delhi want to rule here. But we will not let them enter)."

Priyanka smiled and applauded when he made these remarks. She also told Channi and Dhillon: "*Inko samjhayie ke manch par khade ho kar banawati pagri pehnane se koi* sardar nahi ho jaata. Sardar sardar hotein hain (Please make them understand that by wearing a fake turban, one does not become a Sardar. Sardars are Sardars)."

Channi has been using the term "bhaiyas" for migrants, referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as migrants who want to rule Punjab. Two days ago, while addressing the media, he said: "These people are like bhaiyas. We bring them to Punjab, respect them, look after them. But we cannot allow them to rule us."

Kejriwal slammed Channi: "It is very shameful. We strongly condemn comments aimed at any individual or any particular community. Priyanka Gandhi also belongs to Uttar Pradesh so she is also a 'bhaiya'." The AAP chief, who was in Jalandhar on the occasion of Guru Ravidas Jayanti, said it is a "very shameful remark".

"Passing remarks on any community or state or group is deplorable," he said while addressing the media in Jalandhar along with AAP's CM candidate Bhagwant Mann.

Union Minister and BJP leader Bhupender Yadav, in a Twitter post, said: "First Rahul Gandhi said India isn't a nation. Now Priyanka Vadra cheers to CM Charanjit Channi's call to boycott people from UP and Bihar. The work to divide India has been an ongoing project for Congress' first family. That is why India is rejecting them state after state."

Congress leader Manish Tewari, addressing the media in Ludhiana, said, "Turban is the pride of Punjab. So there should be no politics on wearing it." While some Congress leaders said he was referring to Modi and Kejriwal who don turbans on stage, others said Tewari was taking a swipe at Priyanka.

VIP security

of threats to their lives during elections. According to sources, many of the leaders in Punjab who have been given security joined the BJP recently. "One of them even wrote to the Centre seeking central security cover, claiming a threat to his life," said an official.

When contacted, the Election Commission declined to comment on the matter.

Criticising the move, Congress communication department head Randeep Surjewala told The Indian Express: "Z-category security is now being distributed by the central government for BJP leaders like political lollipops and status symbols and as a tool of intimidation. Every institution in this country already stands trampled. In the middle of the elections, the use of such blatant and naked tactics like Z-category security aimed at creating fear psychosis and scare among the people and also to be used as status symbols is nothing but an affront to democracy and speaks volumes of the BJP's impending loss of power."

In a similar move in the run-up to the West Bengal polls last year, the Centre had granted central security cover to over a dozen BJP candidates and politicians in the state, including TMC leader-turned-BJP candidate Suvendu Adhikari.

AAP photocopy

came to power in Delhi and did not have a majority. "Who gave them support to become the CM? It is a Xerox copy of Congress. Vohi chaal chalan. If Congress is original, then this second party is its photocopy," he said.

Asking the people of Punjab to give the BJP five years of governance, Modi promised all-round development in the state, be it agriculture, business activities or industry. "We will make not *'majboor'* but *'mazboot'* Punjab. The debt on Punjab is increasing, employment is decreasing, youth are immigrating, employees are demonstrating on roads for small demands, and being beaten up by police. Development has not come to Punjab. Only sand mining loot is taking place here. Does any action take place against the sand mafia? We will ensure that the mafia will leave Punjab, not the youth of Punjab," he said.

The day being Guru Ravidas Jayanti, Modi told the gathering that he had made it a point to visit the Guru Ravidas Vishram Dham Mandir in New Delhi in the morning to pay his respects. He said special arrangements had been made for Guru Ravidas devotees visiting Varanasi for his birth anniversary celebrations. The Election Commission moved the Punjab elections from February 14 to February 20 to allow devotees to visit Varanasi and be able to cast their votes in Punjab.

The Prime Minister questioned the Congress on the issue of Kartarpur Corridor and said the party had lost three opportunities to secure the piece of land where Guru Nanak had lived. He said the first opportunity was lost at the time of Partition when the land could have been included in India. "In 1965, our Army was proceeding to plant the Indian flag in Lahore. If little effort had been made in 1965, Kartarpur would have been in India," he said.

He said the third opportunity to get Kartarpur was lost in the 1971 war when India had 90,000 Pakistan Army prisoners of war in its custody. "If the government in Delhi had any guts, they would have said these soldiers will be returned only if the land of Guru Nanak was given back. They lost three chances made available to them. I got the corridor opened through diplomatic power and now our devotees can visit the holy place and not just see it with binoculars," he said.

Referring to the terror attack on Pathankot air base in January 2016 and the Pulwama terror attack of Ferbuary 2019, Modi criticised Congress for "questioning the bravery of our soldiers".

"When Pakistani terrorists attacked Pathankot, the country was standing united. But Congress leaders questioned the bravery of our jawans. They tried to besmirch the sacrifice of our braves. On the anniversary of Pulwama attack, the Congress people did not stop their 'paap leela'. They are again demanding proof of our Army's bravery. I thank the soldiers for giving a befitting answer to silence the Congress leaders" he said.

He questioned how a border state like Punjab can be given to "such people". "Can such people give you protection? Can they ever worry about you? If they get another chance, then they will put the security of Punjab in jeopardy," he said.

Promising a 'Nawan Punjab, Nachda Punjab', Modi said the poor in India received free rations during the Covid pandemic which brought many countries to their knees. He also referred to the vaccination campaign of the government and said free vaccines had been provided with the result that 95 per cent of the population had received the first dose while efforts were also being made to deliver the second dose rapidly.

Stating that for BJP, Punjabiyat is supreme, Modi said special development programmes were being launched for border areas like Pathankot which will focus on infrastructure development and setting up of skill development centres.

"Our opponents only see Punjab from the prism of politics but we see it deeper. Now Congress leaders speak only against Modi and BJP in poll campaigns. Because they know 'aayegi to BJP hee'. They are attacking me because we are going to win, else why would they abuse me and BJP. The more they abuse us, it means you are getting stronger," he said.

He concluded his speech by seeking votes for BJP and its allies, Punjab Lok Congress and SAD (Samyukt) led by Captain Amarinder Singh and Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, respectively.

Karnataka

The college's principal, Bhaskar Shetty, said he was "following the court order". "There are 196 Muslim students out of 2,326 girl students in the college,and only 40 were against removing hijabs. We will take a decision about making alternative arrangements for those who refused to attend classes without hijabs," Shetty said.

Even as the Karnataka High Court continued to hear petitions against the ban, the issue echoed in the state assembly where it was raised during Zero Hour by Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah.

The Congress leader sought a clarification from the BJP government on a statement made by the state's Higher Education Minister Dr C N Ashwathnarayan on Tuesday that the High Court's restrictions would not apply to degree colleges.

Responding in the House, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said: "The High Court order will be followed in all colleges. The High Court has said that only in colleges where uniforms are prescribed will the ban apply."

Bommai stated that as per the High Court's interim order of February 10, the restrictions apply only in pre-university colleges where uniforms without headscarves have been prescribed.

When contacted by *The Indian Express* to ask why students were not allowed inside degree colleges in Udupi, Sadhashivaprabhu, additional deputy commissioner of the district, said: "I don't want to comment on the issue."

Officials said the six students who had moved the Karnataka High Court against the hijab ban remained absent from the Government Pre-University College for Women in Udupi. "The other Muslim students attended the college by adhering to the court's order," said Rudre Gowda, the principal.

The 23 girl students who had insisted on wearing hijabs at the Government PU College in Udupi's Kundapur stayed away from classes, too.

Classes did not resume at the other hotspot in the district, MGM College in Manipal, where groups of students -- those wearing saffron shawls and others wearing hijabs -- had gathered to raise slogans on campus over the row. College authorities said they had declared an extra day's holiday on Wednesday.

The state government had shut all colleges from February 9 to cool communal tensions over the hijab row. On Wednesday, there were minor protests outside some colleges where hijab-wearing students were denied entry with policemen deployed near campuses at sensitive locations -- especially in Udupi and Mysore where prohibitory orders were enforced within 200m of educational institutions.

At DVS College in Shivamogga, hijab-wearing students said they were not allowed to appear for internal exams. "Today was our test, and we are not allowed to go in. For us, practising our faith is as important as education and hijab is part of our faith," a student told reporters.

In Vijayapura, students in burqas were not allowed inside campuses. Similar incidents were reported from Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Chikmagalur, Vijayapura, Gadag, Hubballi, Chitradurga and other parts of the state.

The faceoff also triggered a war of words between the Bajrang Dal and SDPI, which is the political arm of the radical PFI, with both blaming each other in press conferences held in Udupi for the escalating tensions over the issue.

State Home Minister Araga Jnanendra warned students that they would face "stern action" if the High Court's interim order is not followed. "We had adopted a soft approach over these days, considering they are students, but it won't be so any more," he said.

In its interim order, the High Court had said that "pending consideration of all these petitions, we restrain all the students regardless of their religion or faith from wearing saffron shawls (bhagwa) scarfs, hijab, religious flags or the like, within the classroom, until further orders".

It said that the order "is confined to such institutions wherein the College Development Committees have prescribed the student dress code/ uniform".

Bappi Lahiri

Aapki Khatir (1977). While *"Aao tumhe chand pe le jaayen"* (*Zakhmee*) sung by Lata Mangeshkar was noticed, it was Asha Bhosle and Kishore Kumar's *"Jalta hai jiya mera"* that had the country swinging to it. Then came *"Kabhi alvida na kehna"*, the title song for *Chalte Chalte* that was to become the farewell song for years to come, followed by the fun *"Bambai se aaya mera dost"*.

But Lahiri was yet to hit his commercial peak. That came in the '80s. And it began with Lahiri giving the world a peek into his world of disco through *"Hari Om Hari"* (*Pyaara Dushman*, 1980). He got singer Usha Uthup, the toast of Trincas — the famed restaurant and performance venue at Kolkata's Park Street — to croon the piece. The song shot to fame but disco as a genre was yet to break ground in the country. That happened with the spirited and electric *Disco Dancer* (1982). *"I am a disco dancer"* sung by Vijay Benedict was a rage and remains etched in the nation's collective memory — it created a disco subculture that was previously non-existent.

This was followed by chart-topping hits in *Namak Halal* (1982) and *Dance Dance* (1987); there were others like *Himmatwala* (1983) and *Sharaabi* (1983). A part of Amitabh Bachchan's success in the '80s can be credited to Lahiri and his unique songs like *"De de pyaar de"* and *"Ke pag ghunghroo baandh"*. He made Bhosle attempt disco-pop with *"Jawani jaan-e-man"* and *"Raat baaqi"*. These songs had unique personalities and extended themselves to the actors that portrayed them. Then there was *"Kaliyon ka chaman"* (*Jyoti*, 1981), the Lata Mangeshkar song which became more famous as a remix in the '90s.

Uthup called Lahiri a "trailblazer, trendsetter, and innovator" in her video statement about the composer. "All the new sounds, computing, and programming began with him. There are so many of us musicians today who got roti, kapda, makaan because of him. A simple man with a heart of gold. I feel a little pained by the fact that when he was alive, he wasn't appreciated as much. He was a true gamechanger whose contribution can never be forgotten," she said.

Playback singer and pop star Alisha Chinai, who sang extensively for Lahiri, including the popular *"Zoobi zoobi"* (*Dance Dance*), *"Disco dandiya"* (*Love Love Love*, 1989) and *"I am a bad girl"* (*Guru*, 1989), said that Lahiri was a path-breaker, as he, along with composer Biddu and Nazia Hassan, brought disco to India. "I was singing jingles at the time and Bappi da was looking for a voice with some Western sensibility. I happened to fit the bill and there was no looking back. Back in the day, essentially all the soundtracks were about pretty melodies. Bappi da came and redefined the music we were hearing. He brought disco and fused it with melody, which made it interesting and different," said Chinai, who recorded a Bengali song for Lahiri a couple of months ago.

Lahiri's range also extended to ghazals, a genre that rose to popularity in India in the '80s. His composition *"Kisi nazar ko"* (*Aitbaar*, 1985) is still celebrated for being one of the finest of film ghazals. Lahiri also enjoyed singing and often sang for himself as well as other composers. *"Yaar bina chain"* (*Saaheb*, 1985) remains one of his most popular ones, apart from *"Ooh la la"* (*The Dirty Picture*, 2011) and *"Bambai nagariya"* (*Taxi no 9211*, 2006), the latter two composed by the duo, Vishal-Shekhar.

While the '80s aren't considered the finest years in Hindi cinema music, Lahiri's melodies were very influential, turning him into a pioneer of disco in India. He never paid much attention to allegations of plagiarism, or talk about his flamboyant sartorial choices. He adored his gold jewellery, wore it with aplomb and could eat fish curry everyday.

Lahiri was the first Indian composer to make it to the Grammy jury in 2012. He also had a brief stint in politics — he joined the BJP in 2014 and fought the Lok Sabha elections but lost.

Lahiri will forever be remembered as the musician who brought disco to the mainstream in India. If one were to visit Russia and sing *"Jimmy jimmy"* today, the reply from the locals may well be *"Aaja aaja"*. That's the impact he leaves behind.

SBI State Bank of India
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Publication of Notice regarding Possession of Property u/s13 (4) of SARFAESI Act 2002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said act on the dates mentioned against each account.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount and interest thereon.

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

Name ofAccount/ Borrower & address	Name of Owner of property	Description of the property mortgaged/ charged	Date of Demand / Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
Sri Amrendra Kumar Yadav and Kameshwar Prasad Yadav, its guarantors of Sri Ravi Shankar Prasad Yadav and Sanjay Kumar	1. Shri Kameshwar Yadav S/o Late Vishnudeo Yadav 2.Shri Amrendra Yadav 3. Shri Udai Yadav 4. Shri Manish Kumar Sr. 2 to 4 all Son of Shri Kameshwar Yadav	Residential land & Building Situated at Plot no-173, Khata No-118, Thana No-45, Tauzi No-3019, Mauza- Ram Nagar@ Raghavpur Well Known as Bihta, Pargana- Maner, P.S- Bihta, Distt- Patna. Owned By Karneshwar Prasad Yadav & Others bounded as follows- **Bounded: On the North by :** Rasta & Ravi Sharma, **On the South by :** Dewanti Devi, **On the East by :** 8' Wide Rasta., **On the West by :** Niz Plot Of The Present Owner	**09.12.2021** / **14.02.2022**	₹ **5,37,401.32** (Rupees Five Lakh Thirty Seven thousand four hundred one and thirty two paise only) as on 09/12/2021 plus accrued interest, Charges, other miscellaneous expenses etc.

Date : 14.02.2022
Place : RACC, Bihta

(Authorized Officer)
State Bank of India, RACC, Bihta

CJI says bureaucracy taking tribunal vacancies lightly, questions govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

CHIEF JUSTICE of India N V RamanaWednesday questioned the Centre over vacancies in various tribunals despite the Supreme Court nudging the government to fill them up soon and said the "bureaucracy" seems to be "taking it very lightly".

The bench headed by the CJI referred to petitions pending before it on the issue and told Attorney General K K Venugopal, "We are getting requests for extension of time for National Company Law Tribunal matters, etc.... We don't know the fate of members and many are retiring.... It is better that we list the matter."

It said, "We want to know what is your stand. Last time you said some appointments (had) taken place. After that, nothing is happening.... Bureaucracy is taking it very lightly. Better we hear and pass orders."

Venugopal said he is ready even if the court were to list it for Thursday. The court said it will take up the matter in two weeks.

The stand-off between the top court and the government over filling up of vacancies in tribunals has continued ever since the court came up with a law on this, which was struck down by the court last year, only to be revived by the government in the form of a new Bill a month later.

The CJI had also flagged this issue in in August last year, saying: "The impression we are getting is that bureaucracy does not want the tribunals".

India, UAE to sign trade pact on Friday

New Delhi: India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are likely to sign a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on Friday during a virtual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan, sources said on Wednesday.

Making an announcement on the summit, the Ministry of External Affairs said both leaders are expected to lay out their vision of the historic and friendly bilateral ties at a time when India is celebrating 75 years of independence and the UAE marks 50th anniversary of its foundation. It said Modi and Al Nahyan, who is also the deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces, will discuss bilateral cooperation and exchange views on issues of mutual interest. **ENS**

Cong seeks Karnataka minister dismissal over 'saffron flag to replace Tricolour' remark

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 16

THE CONGRESS in Karnataka Wednesday sought the dismissal of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj minister KS Eshwarappa and the registration of a sedition case against him for his February 9 remark that a saffron Hindutva flag could one day replace the national flag.

The Congress Wednesday moved an adjournment motion in the Assembly over Eshwarappa's statement. The motion was, however, rejected by the Speaker even as Congress legislators protested in the well of the House with the Tricolour. Law minister JC Madhuswamy said the statement does not amount to an act of sedition.

"The Governor should seek the resignation of Eshwarappa from the government or the Chief Minister must drop him from the Cabinet," Congress leader in the House Siddaramaiah said.

"How can a man who insults the national flag continue as a minister? Neither the BJP nor the chief minister has condemned the remarks. It seems the BJP and RSS instigated him," he said, adding that the state police must file a suo motu sedition case.

On February 9, Eshwarappa had said that the saffron flag (a symbol of Hindutva) could replace the national flag on the Red Fort in the future. He was responding to Congress leader DK Shivakumar's claim that the saffron flag replaced the Tricolour at a government college in Shivamogga district during protests against Muslim girls wearing hijabs to colleges.

Deep Sidhu death: Police say truck driver identified, arrest soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 16



Deep Sidhu

A BOARD of three doctors Wednesday conducted a post-mortem examination of Punjab actor and activist Deep Sidhu's body at Sonipat's civil hospital. The body was handed over to his family members afterwards.

Sidhu, who shot into limelight following the Red Fort violence during farmers' rally on Republic Day last year, was driving a Mahindra Scorpio that crashed into the back of a truck on Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) highway. His friend Reena Rai, who was accompanying him from Delhi to Punjab at the time, survived.

Rahul Sharma, Superintendent of Police (Sonipat), said, "Our team that inspected the scene of the accident found a partially consumed liquor bottle from the car. It is not yet known if Sidhu had consumed it... The viscera has been sent for chemical examination. His family has left for Ludhiana, where they will perform the last rites. They also met his co-passenger (Rai) at the hospital".

"The driver has been identified and we are in the process of arresting him. We have registered a case on charges of rash and negligent driving causing death," Sharma said. Police said the truck was moving at the time of the incident and there were 25-30 metre long skid marks at the spot, apparently from Sidhu's car. Police teams are reconstructing the scene and will submit a report to the district police chief.

Police have recovered CCTV footage from a toll plaza on KMP, which shows Sidhu's vehicle at 7.15 pm. "There were reports that streetlights on the highway were non-functional at the time. We are checking with Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) to verify if there was a power cut in the area or some other reason," Sharma said.

Asked if there was a possibility of foul play, he said, "Preliminary investigations so far indicate it was a case of an accident. There does not appear any foul play, as of now. Even his family has not raised any apprehensions of foul play. The driver of the truck, once arrested, will be thoroughly questioned."

A day after the farmers' protest on Republic Day last year, Delhi Police had registered 25 FIRs against farm union leaders and protesters for allegedly storming Red Fort and vandalising property. One of the FIRs named Sidhu and gangster-turned-politician Lakhbir Sidhana for allegedly "orchestrating" the incident and "inciting" farmers. They were booked for rioting, criminal conspiracy, attempt to murder and robbery. Senior police officers had claimed that video clips, posted on social media by protesters, showed Sidhu addressing the crowd on the route of the tractor march.

He was arrested by the Delhi Police Special Cell on February 9 last year. Sidhu was granted bail by a Delhi court in April, but was re-arrested by Delhi Police Crime Branch from Tihar Jail for allegedly "damaging" Red Fort, in a case lodged on complaint filed by the Archaeological Survey of India. The court granted him bail in the second case a few days later, terming the second arrest "vicious and sinister". The court said it "amounts to playing fraud with the established criminal process".

On Wednesday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted: "Deeply saddened to learn about the unfortunate demise of Deep Siddhu. My sincerest condolences for his family and friends. God bless his soul." **ENS**

Safety fears: 40 families in society asked to vacate

Gurgaon: A week after a portion of the sixth floor collapsed at Chintels Paradiso in Gurgaon's sector 109, prompting the government to order structural audits of several societies, the district administration Wednesday directed residents of NBCC Green View group housing society, constructed by state-owned construction firm NBCC in sector 37-D, to vacate houses by March 1 on the grounds of safety.

A structural audit by IIT Delhi in October 2021 had declared the buildings unsafe and asked residents to vacate within 2 months. The deputy commissioner held a joint meeting with residents and officials of National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) Wednesday.

Gurgaon DC Nishant Kumar Yadav, chairman of District Disaster Management Authority, said that considering safety of people, 40 families had been asked to vacate by March 1. "NBCC will bear shifting cost, in case families do not wish to stay in alternate accommodation suggested by NBCC, they can rent a flat as per convenience and rent cost will be borne by NBCC," he said. "For residents who want to take refund for flats, district administration will order NBCC to refund in a month with lawful interest."

Residents said they wanted a legally binding assurance. G Mohanty, president, association of apartment owners, NBCC Green View Group Housing , said, "We're apprehensive NBCC won't easily refund money. We appeal to administration to obtain a legally binding assurance." **ENS**

Court summons five AAP leaders

New Delhi: A Delhi court Wednesday summoned AAP leaders Satyendar Jain, Atishi, Raghav Chadha, Durgesh Pathak and Saurabh Bhardwaj in a defamation complaint filed by a BJP councillor, who has alleged that they made false allegations against the party's leaders ahead of MCD elections in the city.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Pandey summoned the five on March 14. The complainant, Chhail Bihari Goswami, is a councillor from North MCD's Naraina ward. He has alleged that Pathak, in criminal conspiracy with the others, held a press conference in which he made defamatory statements claiming that there was corruption of Rs 1400 crore in the MCD.

It was alleged that others had made defamatory statements on different dates and levelled "false allegations so that the image of the complainant and image of the other party leaders may be tarnished and with sole motive to achieve wrongful gain". "Delhi government... to gain political mileage in upcoming municipal corporation elections, is not releasing consolidated due funds of Rs 13,000 crores to the 3 corporations ..." he has alleged. **ENS**



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Call Option Notice to holders of "9.40% Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited 2025 Tranche-II" Unsecured, Non-convertible, Redeemable, Taxable Bonds

Notice is hereby given to the bondholders of 2926 Nos. "9.40% Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited 2025, Tranche-II" Unsecured Non-Convertible Redeemable Taxable Bonds (NCDs) of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited ("the Company"), issued on Private Placement Basis, that the Company is exercising 'Call Option' to fully redeem the NCDs pursuant to the Disclosure Document dated 11th March 2013 which states that "these bonds also carry a Put and Call option at the end of 9th year and would be fully redeemed at the end of 9 years if either of the put or call option is exercised". The specific terms related to bond issue and redemption are given below:

ISIN No.	INE572F08048
Security Name	9.40% Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited 2025, Tranche-II
Face Value (Rs./Bond)	Rs. 10,00,000/-
Coupon Rate	9.40% p.a.
Deemed Date of Allotment	22nd March 2013
No. of Bonds issued	2926
Issue Price & Redemption Price	At Par
Tenure	12 Years from the Deemed Date of Allotment
Date of Maturity	30% on 22nd March 2023 30% on 22nd March 2024 40% on 22nd March 2025
Put/Call Option for seeking early redemption	At the end of 9th year from the Deemed Date of Allotment
Call Option Date	22nd March 2022
Record Date for determining the Beneficial Owners for the purpose of payment of principal amount and final interest accrued thereon	05th March 2022 (Scheduled Record Date 06th March 2022 being holiday)
Listed on	BSE
Depositories	NSDL and CDSL
Registrar & Transfer Agent	Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd.

The redemption amount shall be paid to beneficial owners of above NCDs, as existing on the record date, by crediting the redemption amount to the bank account appearing in demat account of respective beneficial owners.
Address/Bank Particulars in the demat account as appearing in the details provided by National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") / Central Depository Services (India) Limited ("CDSL")/Registrar & Transfer Agent ("R&TA") only will be considered for payment of redemption amount, pursuant to exercise of Call Option.
The bonds shall be taken as discharged on payment of the redemption amount by the company to the beneficial owners as existing on record date. The Company's liability to the bondholders towards all their rights including payment or otherwise shall cease and stand extinguished from the due date of redemption in all events.

Place:- Jaipur
Date:- 16-02-2022
RRVPN/TR-5352/2022
Raj.Samwad/C/21/11798

(Vijay Mathur)
Jt. Director (Corporate Affairs) cum Company Secretary

Petronet LNG Limited
Regd. Office: World Trade Centre, Babar Road, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi – 110001 Phone: 011-23411411,
Fax: 011- 23472550, CIN: L74899DL1998PLC093073
Email: investors@petronetlng.in, Company's website: www.petronetlng.in
PAN: AAACP8148D GST: 07AAACP8148D1ZI

REQUEST TO THE SHAREHOLDERS FOR REGISTRATION/ UPDATION OF EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 110 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rules made thereunder and Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company is conducting a Postal Ballot for obtaining the approval of the shareholders for appointment of Directors. Petronet LNG Limited has appointed four Directors as Additional Directors on the Board of the Company, disclosure of which was made to the Stock Exchanges on 15.01.2022 and 09.02.2022.

Further, pursuant to Regulation 17(1C) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, approval of Shareholders for appointment of a Director on the Board is required to be obtained either at the next General Meeting or within a time period of three months from the date of appointment, whichever is earlier, therefore the approval of shareholders shall be obtained through the said Postal Ballot within statutory time limit.

In view of the above and pursuant to General Circular nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021 and 20/2021 dated December 8, 2021, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars"), (including any statutory amendment(s), modification(s), variation(s) or re-enactment(s) thereof for the time being in force, and as amended from time to time), the company is bound to provide a process of registration of e-mail addresses of members and state so in its public notice.

Accordingly, the Company has provided the facility to its Members for registration/updation of their email addresses in the following manner and urge them to register/ update their email addresses, so as to timely receive the Notice of Postal Ballot/ Shareholder's Meeting and other related communications:

(a) Members holding shares in dematerialised mode, who have not registered/updated their email addresses with their Depository Participants, are requested to register/ update their email addresses with the Depository Participants with whom they maintain their demat account. Further, the Company has provided the said facility to the shareholders through the depositories i.e. National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) under which respective depositories shall be sending SMS with a link to the shareholders whose emails are not registered. The link shall ask shareholders to update their email address upon verification of OTP.

(b) Members holding shares in physical mode, who have not registered/ updated their email addresses are requested through this advertisement to register/ update the same by writing to the RTA/Company with details of folio number, name and attaching a self-attested copy of PAN card at investor@bigshareonline.com or investors@petronetlng.in.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 16th February 2022

For Petronet LNG Limited
Rajan Kapur
Company Secretary

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Circle Sastra Patna North: 2nd Floor, Chanakya Tower, R-Block, Patna-800 001

POSSESSION NOTICE
Possession Notice for Immovable Properties of borrower by the Authorised Officer
(For Immovable property)

Whereas
Punjab National Bank/ the Authorized Officer/s of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned in the account calling upon the borrower to repay the amount as mentioned in the account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of said notice(s).
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred to him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned in the account.
The borrower's/ guarantor's/ mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.

Name of the Branch	Name of the Account/ Borrower	Name of the Owner of the property	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on date of demand notice
Barh	**M/s Arun Galla Bhandar Prop.: Sri Radheshyam Prasad Singh S/O Late Tripit Narayan Singh A/c No.-** 0569008700002816	Smt. Ramsakhi Devi W/O Late Tripit Narayan Singh.	EM of Land and Building situated at Mouza-Bajitpur Chondi, Pragana-Gyaspur, Thana & Sub Division & Sub Registry Office-Barh, Sadar Registry Office and Distt-Patna, Jamindar-Bihar Sarkar, Ward No.-12, Holding No.-37, Tauzi No.-7838, Thana No.- 59, Khata No.-154, Khesra No.-620, Area-6.75 Dhur, Vide Deed No.-6593 Dt. 28.08.1995 pertaning to Smt. Ramsakhi Devi, W/O Late Tripit Narayan Singh. Bounded By:- North-Kharidar No Haza, South-Kharidar No Haza, East-Yogeshwar Vishwakarma, West-Road.	29.09.2021	14.02.2022	**Rs. 13,26,457.00** (Rs. Thirteen lakh twenty six thousand four hundred fifty seven only)
Barh	**Sri Md. Mokhtar Alam S/o Md. Sardar Ahmed & Md. Mehtab Alam S/o Md. Sardar Ahmed A/c No.-** 056900NC20062126	Md. Mokhtar Alam S/o Md. Sardar Ahmed & Md. Mehtab Alam S/o Md. Sardar Ahmed	EM of Land and Building situated at Mouza-Wazidpur, Thana No.-59, Khata No.-336, Ward No.3, Tauzi No.-7838, Plot No.-406 & 407, Holding No.-448k/114, Area-6 Decimal, Vide Sale Deed No.3306 Dt 01.12.2013. In the Name of Md. Mokhtar Alam S/o Md. Sardar Ahmed & Md. Mehtab Alam S/o Md. Sardar Ahmed. Boundry:- N-Pyare Mistry & others, S-Md. Kamruddin, East-Mustry Khatoon, W-Rasta.	27.09.2021	14.02.2022	**Rs. 8,79,375.00** (Rs. Eight lakh seventy nine thousand three hundred seventy five only)
Morcha Road	**M/s Ranjan Polytubs Prop.: Sri Om Prabhat Ranjan S/o Sri Rajeev Kumar Ranjan A/c No.-** 1775250000499	Sri Rajeev Kumar Ranjan S/o Chandradev Prasad	EM of Land and Building situated at Mouza-Simli Murarpur (North of NH), PO-Jhauganj, PS-Malsalami, Distt-Patna, Tauzi-Bihar Sarkar, Thana No.-38, Circle No.-215, Ward No.-71/54/35/30 under Patna Regional Development Authority now Patna Municipal Corporation, Sheet No.-280, Municipal Survey Plot No.-1959, Sub Registry Office Patna City & Sadar Registry Office & Distt.-Patna, Area-06 Dhur 3.25 Dhurki in the name of Sri Rajeev Kumar Ranjan S/o Chandradev Prasad vide Sale Deed No.-9024 Dated 13.12.2016. Boundary:- N-Sri Lallu Yadav, S-7 Feet Road, E-Sri Arun Mehta, W-Smt. Shanti Devi.	23.11.2021	15.02.2022	**Rs. 31,96,445.07** (Rs. Thirty one lakh ninety six thousand four hundred forty five and seven paise only)
Morcha Road	**M/s Sakshi Enterprises Prop.: Sri Kundan Kumar Jain S/o Sri Ravindra Kumar Jain A/c No.-** 2916008700004841	Smt. Rekha Devi Jain W/o Sri Ravindra Kumar Jain	EM of Land and Building situated at Mohalla-Tathagat Nagar, Patna City, Thana-Malsalami, Sub Registry Office-Patna City, Sadar Registry Office and Distt-Patna, Circle No.-226, Holding No.-33/37(P), Badahu Holding No.39/31(p), Present Holding No.-39B/31, Ward No.-71/56/37/32, Sheet No.-282, Thana Code-471, Municipal Survey Plot No.-693(P), Volume No.-229, CD No.-46/ year 2011, Pages From-387 to 400, Book No.-1, Area-12 Dhur 9.50 Durki (1.9492 Decimal) Vide Sale Deed No.-17273 Dated 24.06.2011. Pertaining to Smt. Rekha Devi Jain W/o Sri Ravindra Kumar Jain. Boundry:- N-Corporation Gali, Municipal Survey Plot No.695, S-Koli Badahu, Sri Jaggu Paswan, E-Sri Rajesh Kumar Jaiswal, Part of Said Plot and Koli Badahu Sri Jaggu Paswan, W-Sri Braj Kishore Jaiswal, Part of Said Plot and Koli.	29.06.2020	15.02.2022	**Rs. 15,91,792.66** (Rs. Fifteen lakh ninety one thousand seven hundred ninety two and sixty six paise only)

Date : 16.02.2022
Place : Patna

(Authorised Officer)
Punjab National Bank

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS **89,670**

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 419

OXYGEN SUPPORT	96
VENTILATOR SUPPORT	38

DELHI: TOTAL CASES **18,53,428**

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	15,306	14,901
ICU BEDS	4,462	4,266

	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Feb 15	756	830	5	49,792
Feb 16	766	901	5	56,112
Total	3,197*	18,24,145	26,086	3,57,75,643

*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA	Feb 15	Feb 16
Cases	70	78
Deaths	0	0

GURGAON		
Cases	337	217
Deaths	2	0

BRIEFLY

DU students challenge reopening, HC says time to open

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Wednesday declined to interfere with Delhi University's decision to hold examinations for the even semester in physical mode from May 2022, and asked the varsity to inform it whether hybrid classes would continue after the physical reopening. Four students have challenged the orders issued by DU for the resumption of physical classes and the decision to hold exams in physical mode from May.

Delhi HC dismisses Ansals' applications

New Delhi: Stating that Sushil and Gopal Ansal have been convicted in an "extremely serious offence" that can "shake the confidence" of the public in the judicial system, the Delhi High Court Wednesday refused to suspend the seven-year jail sentence of the real estate barons in the evidence tampering case in connection with the 1997 Uphaar cinema fire.

Vaccination picks up pace

New Delhi: The Covid-19 vaccination drive in Delhi has picked up pace again over the last ten days but precaution doses (third dose or booster dose) accounted for less than 8 per cent of all doses, according to data from the CoWIN portal. More than 91,000 doses were administered on average over the last two days, up from the daily average of 89,800 doses last week, barring the weekend when only 12,800 doses were administered. **ENS**



At North Campus on Wednesday, a day before Delhi University starts offline classes for students. *Praveen Khanna*

DU is buzzing again

At North Campus, rush of students and parents is keeping PG accommodations busy

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

AFTER A nearly two-year long lull, Delhi University's North Campus and student hubs surrounding it are back to pulsing with life as colleges prepare to open for offline classes from Thursday.

Walls and street lights have been plastered with flyers advertising services for incoming students – some PGs promising 'all premium facilities with budget' and others promising 'luxurious five star accommodation'; tiffin services; and IAS coaching centres.

Kamla Nagar, one of the primary centres of student life near North Campus, was buzzing on Wednesday with students and parents milling around looking for PGs and checking into them.

At University Girls PG, Wednesday afternoon was a busy one, with a constant stream of people walking in and some students loading their suitcases, bags and blankets into the elevator to move into their rooms.

"Around 25 students have booked rooms and moved in today itself. Before this, around five girls had moved in over the last four days," said J P Singh, who runs the PG accommodation. He is also the president of the Delhi Student Housing Association.



Ramjas College classrooms getting sanitised. *Praveen Khanna*

"I have 14 PGs near DU colleges, and 70% of the seats are booked already… A lot of PG operators weren't ready for business when the DU notification was issued and needed to do renovation work, so all might not be available right now. Even we needed to do minor work like carpentry but people are already moving in," he said.

This was reflected in Stanza Living's PG located at Kamla Nagar's busiest chowk, where all rooms but one were booked even as the last minute construction work was underway.

"Most of the bookings have been done online. Colleges are opening tomorrow but the communication we got from most students is that they're planning to come by the 25th so the property will be ready by 21. If they come before the rooms are ready, we will put them up in alternate accommodation of ours till then," said Shivam, residence captain at the managed student accommodation provider, which has 29 properties at North Campus.

Many parents also preferred coming to the capital themselves to look for suitable accommodation for their children, who are coming to campus for the first time since they joined the university. A father of a second-year student of Ramjas College said his wife had arrived a few days back to "survey" options in the area before they decided on the Nivedita Kunj PG on Wednesday and moved their daughter in. "They show something online, and in reality, it's something else. The rates are not cheap but we want our daughter to have all facilities, safety and proximity to the college," he said.

At the student hub of Vijay Nagar, Harish Sharma of Jolly Properties — one of the prominent broker services in the area — said most properties are booked. "I have no properties available anymore. Queries started pouring in from February 10 and I showed photos and videos of flats to students. There has also been a race among brokers and four flats have been booked through me… One thing is that landlords are not willing to rent out to third-year students since they'll be completing college in just three months," he said.

With pre-bookings having started from as long as a year ago, the Seven Sisters PG start-up — for students from the North East — has more than 100 of its 130 beds booked. "Today itself, some six students have moved in since morning and we're rushing to make sure that everything is ready for them. We're constantly getting queries but we're almost out of space, there's too much of a rush," said Suwodi Suria Borah, a member of the team.

The rush for accommodation and the revival of activity in the area has meant better business for others whose livelihoods revolve around students as well.

Shawarma Wala, a popular rolls joint at Kamla Nagar, had shut down its seating area because business had dried up during the pandemic but it reopened around 25 days ago anticipating that the university would open. "With people coming to see PGs, we've had a lot more business in the last 3-4 days. Things are already looking better," the owner said.

Amar Singh, who has been riding a rickshaw in the area for 20 years, said the influx of students in the last week has meant that his daily earnings have gone up from the low of Rs 250-300 to more than Rs 500.

Delhi Police probed riots fairly and strictly, says Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

SPEAKING AT the 75th Raising Day Parade of the Delhi Police on Wednesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the force for handling the pandemic and the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots efficiently. Shah and Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana released a special postage stamp to commemorate the force's 75 years of service on the occasion.

"The Delhi Police faces difficulties because it serves the national capital. I have seen how it worked during the pandemic. From supplying medicines to taking people to the hospital to conducting cremations, the police did a commendable job… I congratulate Delhi Police for the role it played during the pandemic and the Delhi riots, particularly for fairly and strictly investigating the riots," he said.

Shah witnessed the parade at Kingsway Camp, New Delhi, along with Union Minister (Communications) Devusinh J Chauhan.

"Delhi Police faces many challenges in maintaining law and order and ensuring the security of constitutional authorities, VVIPs and diplomats. Delhi Police has transformed itself with the passage of time and has faced challenges successfully. I want the Commissioner to now make a roadmap for the next five years, build a perception management cell… They worked very hard during the riots and also averted many terror attacks," said Shah.

The new postage stamp celebrates the platinum jubilee of the force by showing a policeman helping two visually impaired men cross a road while a PCR van stands across the street.



The stamp released on the occasion

Asthana also addressed the gathering and congratulated his force for their commendable work over the past year, especially during the lockdown. He felicitated several officers for their bravery and service.

"Safety of women and vulnerable sections is our top priority. We have a target to raise the participation of women police personnel to one-fourth of the total strength by the year 2025. Over 79 police personnel lost their lives during the pandemic. We were at the frontline with doctors and healthcare workers… We have more than 30 digital platforms to cater to different crimes and investigation mediums. The police have already cut the PCR call response time from 8 to 4 minutes…" said Asthana.

A special medal was dedicated in the memory of head constable Rattan Lal, who died during the Northeast Delhi riots. Shah and the Commissioner presented medals to 62 personnel for their gallantry, distinguished services and meritorious service. Lal's wife, Poonam Parik, received the Gallantry medal.

The parade saw different platoons marching to songs such as *'Kadam Kadam Badhaye Ja'* and *'Badhe Chalo'*. Women officers on cycles, riot prevention and cyber cell vehicles, and the K-9 dog squad were among other highlights of the parade.



At the 75th Raising Day Parade of Delhi Police. *Praveen Khanna*

Some colleges decide to offer students a more flexible approach

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

WITH DELHI University set to reopen today, some colleges have decided to adopt a flexible system for first-year students while some have decided to give outstation students a little more time to reach Delhi.

While DU had notified that offline classes would begin for all undergraduate and postgraduate programmes on February 17, it also notified that the examinations for first-year students — scheduled to begin on March 23 — will be conducted online in open book mode.

This means that these students would just have 20 days offline before breaking for online examinations.

Several colleges, such as Miranda House, have asked outstation students not to panic and have decided to keep the online option open for them.

"We are not issuing a notification that we are adopting the hybrid model for first-year students but have just told students not to panic and that they will not miss out academically if they don't arrive on campus. We have received several requests from students, especially those who live far away. We are not pressuring them since there are only 20 days of classes left this semester," said principal Bijayalaxmi Nanda.

On the other hand, Motilal Nehru College has issued a notification that the remaining semester for first-year students will be conducted online.

Besides, it has given them a two-hour window on Fridays to visit college "in case anyone needs to interact with teachers and work in office/library".

Rajdhani College had also issued a similar notification Tuesday but withdrew it Wednesday with a fresh notification that said, "Keeping in view the huge requests of the students of the first year for online classes and reviewed decision taken in the emergent meeting… all classes including I year, I semester will be held in offline with effect from 17.02.2022."

Some colleges have offered flexibility in a different way. Daulat Ram College is giving "relocation time" of a week to outstation students and offline classes will start on February 23 instead of this week. Online teaching-learning will be suspended from February 17 to 22 to give students time to reach Delhi.

Delhi govt receives 5,500 suggestions for fund allocation in budget

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

USING SCHOOL buildings for adult education programmes, starting mohalla libraries and holding entrepreneur-investor conclaves and programs for small businesses are among the suggestions that the Delhi government has received for the 2022-23 budget.

The government had asked people to send ideas for the upcoming budget and received 5,500 suggestions.

According to government officials, among the ideas was a conclave for small businesses, along the lines of its Business Blasters programme for government school children, where they pitched their ideas to investors.

Officials also said that several suggestions have been received for popularisation of electric vehicles, which have been a major focus of the AAP government.

"A resident has called for a policy to mandate electric vehicles for porters and couriers. They say that porters and transporters work at a large scale from wholesale to retail markets and such a system could be covered by EVs easily. Similarly, another resident has called for cheaper parking for EVs. A young student has suggested that e-bikes be promoted by putting up e-bike rental points near educational institutes and crowded colonies," the official said.

Khalid Saifi to court: Prosecution trying to communalise riots case

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

FOUNDER OF the United Against Hate campaign, Khalid Saifi, who is accused in a UAPA case in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots, told a Delhi court through his lawyer that the prosecution is attempting to communalise the narrative.

Appearing on behalf of Saifi before Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat, the submissions for bail were made by senior advocate Rebecca John. The court will pronounce its order on the bail arguments after her rebuttals to the prosecution's arguments are complete.

On allegations that Saifi attended a protest at Jantar Mantar, John said, "Jantar Mantar was a protest site opened for public, nothing secretive about it. Since time immemorial, people have gone there to air their grievances."

Regarding the prosecution's claims that Saifi met Umar Khalid, John said there was no evidence, and on allegations of Saifi having addressed a meeting, John said, "Assume that's true, even then that's not evidence of any robust kind which can corroborate their story of conspiracy."

John read out messages from a WhatsApp group called DPSG, wherein participants had mentioned how they should protest outside the CM's office over police inaction. "How this incriminates me beats my reasoning or imagination. I own the message. The message only says that the police have not been able to control riots and there should be accountability. Even if I have asked the CM to hold a press conference, that's within my rights as an Indian citizen," John argued.

Rejecting the argument that the protest was communal, not organic, and that it was a conspiracy of silence, John said, "The protest was not communal except that the persons who were against the Bill belonged to a particular community."

John stated that the prosecutor was selectively reading WhatsApp chats: "Either you read it together or don't. But I object to the attempt made by the prosecution to take out messages in isolation. In the same chat, there are messages about Delhi Police and paramilitary forces attacking peaceful protesters. Why is the prosecution attempting to communalise the narrative? Don't lay the narrative on one community..."

DAY AFTER DEATH OF 4

Boys run over by train had been recording videos for social media: Kin

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 16

A DAY after the death of four teenagers who were run over by a train, allegedly while clicking selfies on the railway track near Basai Dhankot station, relatives and family of two of the boys said they had been going to the railway tracks for past 2-3 days to make videos for social media.

Police said all of them were friends and lived close to each other at Devi Lal colony. All four of them were minors, aged 15, 16, and 17.

Raja, a cousin of the 15-year-old, said the boys had been going to the tracks at sunset for the past three days to record reels for their Instagram accounts. "The security guard at the construction site near the tracks told us he had warned them it was dangerous as several trains pass through, but they continued to click photographs and of passing trains," said Raja, as he showed an Instagram video of his cousin walking on the railway track, with a song playing in the background. The video was uploaded on his cousin's Instagram account two days ago.

Another minor had uploaded a picture of himself sitting on the track recently.

Mohammad Irshad, a labourer, whose 16-year-old son was among the deceased, said his son got a phone call from a friend around 4 pm and went to meet him.

"I was asleep at the time. He was studying in class IX and we had given him a mobile phone since classes had been going online due to Covid. I was not aware that he was so active on social media or uploaded pictures sitting on railway tracks. All children these days use social media," said Irshad.



Police said they recovered only one SIM card from the spot. *Express*

Irshad added that he was informed of the incident by a neighbour, whose son had also died.

"When my son did not return to attend his coaching class, I tried calling him, but his phone was not reachable. We kept looking for him for an hour before police contacted us," he said.

Parvez, the maternal grandfather of the 15-year-old boy, said his grandson worked at a garments shop. "He left at 4 pm yesterday, saying that he was going out to play. We were not aware that he was going near railway tracks," he said.

Government Railway Police (GRP) said a preliminary probe has found that the boys were run over by Jan Shatabdi Express (12066) that was going from Sarai Rohilla, Delhi to Ajmer. "At 5.05 pm, the train passes from Basai Dhankot station. The four boys had taken a scooter from one of their relatives and were clicking selfies on a track when a goods train arrived and blared its horn. It seems the boys saw the goods train and were about to switch to another track when the passenger train ran them over. All four were killed at the spot and their bodies were mutilated," said a police officer.

Police said they recovered only one SIM card from the spot. "The incident is so tragic. Four lives snuffed out… Our entire lane is in mourning," added Irshad. Police said the bodies were handed over to their families after the post-mortem on Wednesday.

I HEREBY DECLARE



OKRAM IBOBI SINGH
ex-CM, Congress candidate from Thoubal, Manipur

TOTAL ASSETS:
Self: ₹1.8 crore
Wife: ₹1crore

MOVABLE ASSETS:
Self: ₹90.7 lakh (includes a 9mm pistol)

IMMOVABLE ASSETS :
Self: ₹98 lakh
LOANS FROM BANKS: ₹27 lakh
CRIMINAL CASES: 4 (pending)

SOURCES OF EARNING: Nil



HAJI IRFAN SOLANKI,
SP, Sishamau (Kanpur)

TOTAL ASSETS
₹ 9.63 crore

MOVABLE ASSETS
Self: ₹ 39.25 lakh (includes a rifle and a revolver)
Wife: ₹ 8,28 lakh

IMMOVABLE ASSETS
Self: ₹ 8.64 crore
Wife: ₹ 52 lakh

CRIMINAL CASES: 3

SOURCES OF EARNING:
Self: MLA salary & leather factory
Wife: Trading

EDUCATION: Intermediate



NEELKANTH TIWARI,
BJP, Varanasi South

TOTAL ASSETS
₹1.62 crore

MOVABLE ASSETS
Self: ₹ 65.31 lakh
Wife: ₹ 4.77 lakh
Children (2): ₹ 2.76 lakh

IMMOVABLE ASSETS
Self: ₹ 90 lakh

CRIMINAL CASE: 1

SOURCE OF EARNING: MoS salary

EDUCATION: PhD (2003)

— BALLOTIN —

EC notice to BJP MLA for threatening voters in UP

New Delhi: The EC on Wednesday issued a notice to Telangana MLA T Raja Singh for allegedly threatening to run bulldozers over those who do not vote for the BJP in the UP elections. The poll body has asked the MLA to provide an explanation within 24 hours on why action should not be initiated against him. In the notice, the EC has relied upon a video clip by Singh being circulated on social media platforms.

ENS

POLL PRAYERS









(Clockwise from top) PM Narendra Modi performs aarti at the Ravidas temple in New Delhi; Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi, and senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at the Ravidas temple in Varanasi to mark Ravidas Jayanti, on Wednesday. *Anand Singh and PTI*

TRACKING COVID IN ELECTION-BOUND STATES

	UTTAR PRADESH	PUNJAB	UTTARAKHAND	GOA	MANIPUR
Deaths	23,414	17,635	7,664	3,782	2,088
Deaths Today	10	12	4	5	2
Cases	2,403 → 824	634 → 326	624 → 271	221 → 118	148 → 104
	Feb 7 – Feb 16	Feb 7 – Feb 16	Feb 7 – Feb 16	Feb 7 – Feb 16	Feb 7 – Feb 16

Along Bundelkhand E-way, waiting for jobs to come by, tackling stray cattle

LALMANI VERMA
ETAWAH, AURAIYA, JALAUN, HAMIRPUR, MAHOBA, FEB 16

IN THE Yogi Adityanath government's development narrative, the Bundelkhand Expressway holds special place, for being the first expressway project to be conceptualised and rolled out under it. For the backward region, it comes with the promise of not just a four-lane road but also a defence corridor.

However, with almost 86% of the work done, there is no special enthusiasm among villages along the expressway, which are waiting for the benefits to first reach them.

There is bigger appreciation for the Adityanath government's crackdown on criminals, particularly demolition of their properties – earning the Chief Minister the title of "bulldozer wale baba".

However, the praise for the improved law and order runs up against a problem in village after village here: the stray cattle menace, destroying crops. In the absence of jobs, families depend on farming for a living.

The seven districts touched by the 296-km expressway – Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah – have 19 Assembly seats. The BJP had won 18 last time in this area considered a bastion of the Samajwadi Party. The SP had ended up with only the Yadav-dominated Jaswantnagar.

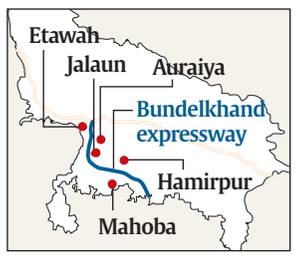
This showed a huge swing for the BJP from 2012, when the SP had won nine seats, the BSP and Congress four each, and the BJP only two.

At Takha village in Jaswantnagar, where five-term MLA and Mulayam Singh Yadav's brother Shivpal Singh Yadav is contesting on the SP symbol, farmer Ajeet Singh Yadav says they gave land for the expressway but got hardly any benefits bar compensation (the amount varies district to district). "The contractors are from outside and they refuse to hire locals," Ajeet complains.

Mohd Anees says that with no exits or entry roads to the expressway at Takha, for them the road has no meaning. They could not even put up temporary shops catering to travellers, Anees, a farmer, says.



Villagers in Rath assembly seat, Hamirpur district



However, Anees's bigger hope is that an SP government would get them relief from the stray cattle, whose numbers have been rising since the BJP government put curbs on slaughter. "Once the SP comes back, we will get relief within 10 days," he says.

Farm labourers Lallan Khan and Rajendra Kumar were hired by Mohammad Shabbir to erect a fence around his 2 bigha land to keep out the cattle, a day after they destroyed his wheat fields.

While Khan and Kumar say they sought work at the expressway but couldn't get it, Shabbir regrets that he gave 15 bighas for the project, only to see it pass the village by. "The BJP has neglected us because this is the home district of Akhilesh Yadav."

Lalpura village in the same constituency, dominated by Kumhars (OBCs), had voted for the BJP in 2017. However, the shine has worn off, says Rakesh Prajapati, an Arts graduate who runs a grocery shop. The expressway can only help when industries follow, while he has not even heard of the defence corridor, Prajapati says.

Prem Chand, who gave 4.75 bighas for the expressway, is also worried about jobs. "The SP government took bribes but at least gave work. The BJP government calls itself honest but we keep seeing examinations get cancelled because questions papers were leaked."

Prajapati says it is unclear if the gains on law and order and the free rations since Covid, popular across castes and communities, will help the BJP offset this. What might play a bigger role, he says, is caste. "Non-Yadav OBCs are supporting the BJP to counter the unity of Yadavs and Muslims behind the SP."

The area is dominated largely by OBCs, including Shakyas, Lodh Rajputs and Yadavs, apart from Dalits.

In Hirapur village in Dibiyapur seat in Auraiya district, where Yadavs are minimal, this divide is apparent. Mahtab Singh Rajpoot, a firm Adityanath supporter and a pea farmer, says they have no problem of either stray cattle or criminals "because the village has no Yadavs".

Prempal Singh Kushwaha in Narchha village in Orai (SC-reserved) says women are now safer and toilets have reached every household. However, Kushwaha's primary concern too is jobs, apart from the region's perennial water scarcity. A pipeline from Betwa river ends outside the village, and connectivity is expected now only after the elections.

SP spokesperson Rajendra Choudhary says the lack of jobs is haunting the BJP. "Its government copied the concept of Akhilesh Yadav's Lucknow-Agra expressway but could not create employment."

State BJP spokesperson Alok K Verma says previous governments only "exploited" Bundelkhand region and that change was round the corner. "When connectivity improves through the Bundelkhand Expressway, industries and jobs will come."

In Kanpur, swept by BJP last time, Opp banks on demonetisation, job losses

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 16

THE HEART of Uttar Pradesh, and one of its major industrial hubs, Kanpur had voted overwhelmingly for the BJP in the 2017 Assembly and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, even putting behind it the setbacks of demonetisation. In an acknowledgment of Kanpur's importance, the BJP had made two of its seven MLAs, who had won from Kanpur's 10 seats, Cabinet ministers. Hoping to repeat its performance in the February 20 polls, the BJP is talking of development, and wishing that the anger over unemployment would not swamp it.

The Cabinet Minister for Infrastructure and Industrial Development, Satish Mahana, an MLA from Kanpur since 1991, who is trying to win his eighth Assembly election, is the star campaigner across the district. In nukkad meetings, he talks about the recently inaugurated first stretch of the Metro Rail (for which the Samajwadi Party too takes credit) and the "24-hour electricity supply".

"Before 2017, when it was not our government, people would never get power. Now, there are no power cuts. Everyone gains from it," he says campaigning in the Kanpur Cantonment seat.

Not "everyone", says the SP, which has been trying to highlight the ruling BJP's "bias" towards a caste and religion. The region continues to talk about the 2020 encounter in which gangster Vikas Dubey was killed along with seven others, and how their family members were "mistreated". The Yogi Adityanath government has often faced allegations of a pro-Thakur bias, alienating other influential upper caste of Brahmins.

Trying to cash in on this, the Congress has fielded the sister-in-law of one of Dubey's aides killed in the encounter, from the Kalyanpur seat.

Others see in the choice of candidates a sign that the BJP will not do a 2017 repeat in Kanpur. For example, take Ghatampur, which the party left for ally Apna Dal after reportedly failing to find a replacement for its sitting MLA, Kamal Rani, who died of Covid. The SP candidate is turncoat BJP sitting MLA from Bilhaur, Bhagwati Prasad Sagar.

While Kanpur was once regarded as a Congress stronghold, the fight is now largely between the BJP and SP.

2017 RESULTS

Bilhaur (BJP)	42%
Bithoor (BJP)	49%
Kalyanpur (BJP)	48%
Govind Nagar (BJP)	60%
Kidwai Nagar (BJP)	54%
Maharajpur (BJP)	56%
Ghatampur (BJP)	49%
Sisamau (SP)	47%
Aryanagar (SP)	48%
Kanpur Cantt (Cong)	46%

Says Irfan Solanki, the SP candidate from Sishamau, "Public was fooled during demonitisation but not this time. Covid has taken away employment, farmers have not forgotten how the BJP treated them. The public has also seen how the BJP wants to create a divide between Hindus, Muslims. The rise in electricity bills, they would have to answer for all that."

At her roadshow on Wednesday, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also talked about demonetisation and its effect on Kanpur's leather industry.

Denying the allegations of the BJP destroying the economy, Mahana says, "The SP could not bring a single major industry to Kanpur. But I am happy I have been able to shift the discussion from caste-based politics to industrialisation and employment. We are developing leather clusters, an industrial freight corridor."

The main contests:

MAHARAJPUR: Formed after delimitation in 2009, the seat was won by the BJP's Satish Mahana in both 2012 and 2017. He is up against the SP's Sikh Fateh Bahadur, 36, who caught the state's eye when he held a protest against rising unemployment outside Mahana's house last year and was arrested.

BILHAUR (RESERVED): The largely rural constituency with a dominant population of Scheduled Castes and OBCs was won by the BJP's Bhagwati Prasad Sagar in 2017. However, the SP remains a formidable force here, having won the seat in 2012. Now, its hands are further strengthened due to Sagar's defection to it. The BJP candidate is Rahul Baccha Sonkar.

KALYANPUR: A seat dominated by OBCs, it has been a strong seat of the BJP. Party leader Prem Lata Katiyar had won it four times till 2012 before the SP's Satish Nigam defeated her. In 2017, Katiyar's daughter Nilima Katiyar wrested back the seat for the BJP. This time, Nilima and Nigam are pitted against each other.

SISHAMAU: A Muslim-dominated seat, Sishamau voted for the SP in 2017 – the only other seat apart from Aryanagar that it won in Kanpur. The SP's candidate is Irfan Solanki, who won the seat in 2012 as well as 2017. The BJP candidate is former Aryanagar MLA Salil Vishnoi.

KANPUR CANTONMENT: This was the only seat won by the Congress in Kanpur as well as surrounding regions in 2017. The party has again fielded the winning leader, Suhail Ansari. The BJP has fielded Raghunandan Singh Bhadauria, who had won Kanpur Cantonment in 2012.

POLITICS & REGION

Punjab border seats veer towards AAP, say don't talk drones, talk jobs

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA & DIVYA A
DERA BABA NANAK, SARAI AMANAT KHAN (TARN TARAN), FEBRUARY 16

IT IS an unlikely place to wash your car but two young men are busy doing that at the deserted railway platform of Dera Baba Nanak. The almost defunct railway station, the last one before the Pakistan border here, is being put to good use by the two youth who come from families with different political ideologies but now united behind the Aam Aadmi Party.

Families of Karanbir Singh, 24, and Prince Kumar, 27, are traditional supporters of the Akali Dal and Congress, respectively. Prince Kumar is doing an MA in English while Karanbir holds a Diploma as well as a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education.

Like them, across the constituencies of Raja Sansi, Ajnala, Fatehgarh Churian, Dera Baba Nanak and Gurdaspur, all falling in border districts, voters for traditional parties of Punjab say they are now going to vote for AAP. As for concerns around the border, raised by the BJP and ally Amarinder Singh, they call them "political stunts".

Sarai Amanat Khan in Tarn Taran is located just a few kilometres short of the border. Sitting around on cots, sipping tea, villagers say every man there was part of the farmers' protests at Delhi borders. "They kept saying we are separatists, politically motivated, but the fact is we left our farms to take part in the agitation," says a villager.

"*Bill to vaapas le liye hain par Modi man se utar gaya hai* (They may have taken back the laws, but we have turned against Modi)," says Baljit Singh Cheema, on the Prime Minister and the BJP's chances.

But if there is anger against the BJP over the farm laws, there is similar despair at the Congress's "corruption and laziness". "No work gets done, there is no system. We neither get pension, nor ration," says a woman serving the group tea. The incumbent MLA here is the Congress's Dharambir Agnihotri.

Says Sukhnam Gill, who runs a grocery shop, "I am eligible for rations but can't get Aadhaar made without a bribe, my neighbour is bedridden and can't go to collect her pension, we have a dispensary but no doctors, we have a school but no teachers. We have everything but no system... AAP is promising that; we want to give them a chance".



Friends Karanbir and Prince in Dera Baba Nanak. *Express*

About the shrill concerns raised by the BJP and ally Amarinder Singh over drones being used to drop drugs and arms from across the Indo-Pak border, Gurbachan Singh dismisses those. "I have served in the Army in insurgency areas. There is so much BSF deployment in Punjab along the border, there is fencing, and yet drugs and arms are coming from Pakistan! Why not from across the border in Rajasthan, Gujarat or J&K?"

Gurbachan adds: "The issues for us here in the border belt are padhai aur dawai (education and health). Both are non-existent. Why does the Captain not talk about them? He and the BJP are out to use the security threat issue to create a vote bank."

He is not saying there are no drones, he adds. "I am saying it is a ploy to create fear by politicians by overplaying the threat."

A few kilometres down the road to Gurdaspur lies the village of Agwan, home to Indira Gandhi's assassin Satwant Singh. A memorial gurdwara is coming up on the roadside with a shrine of sorts to the three killers of the former PM – Satwant Singh, Beant Singh and Kehar Singh. Jagir Singh, who is passing by, says we are were just honouring "our martyrs". "That has nothing to do with Khalistan. It (Indira Gandhi's killing) was a reaction to the 1984 riots. We are living peacefully now."

For Congress supporters, the situation is a bit perplexing since many admit that development work has been done in many villages here. The same holds true for the villages and towns falling under Dera Baba Nanak constituency, represented by Deputy Chief Minister with Home portfolio, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa. He is credited with having ensured civic works in his constituency, yet he has a fight on his hands against both the Akali and AAP candidates.

Prince and Karambir, the friends cleaning cars, say one reason is the unfettered sale of illicit liquor in the area, seen as happening with the patronage of local Congress leaders.

Unemployment is another major factor. "*Kee laggange?* (What job can we get)? Security guard? We will have to work in factories in Jalandhar. Our friends work in shops for Rs 5,000-6,000. AAP has done well in Delhi, they will do something here, we hope. There is a secret vote for them," says Karambir.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



FOCUS PUNJAB

WHILE CONGRESS leaders claim that the party could emerge as the single largest in both Uttarakhand and Goa, it is Punjab which is worrying the leadership no end. Leaders say the feedback from the ground is not at all optimistic. The party has now decided to carpet bomb its leaders in Punjab for the last two days of campaigning. Both Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will be in the state on Thursday. While Rahul will address meetings in Fatehgarh Sahib, Priyanka will be in Ludhiana and Pathankot. The Congress is also now focusing all its attack on Aam Aadmi Party as it feels the AAP is surging ahead.

OFFICE, OFFICE

WORKING HOURS in government offices in Delhi are from 9 am to 5.30 pm, with a 30-minute lunch break from 1 pm. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which has a sprawling, leafy campus in south Delhi, is no exception. However, post noon, deserted office corridors and empty cabins are a common sight, as employees soak in the winter sun, much beyond the stipulated lunch hours. This compelled the NCERT administration to issue a circular on Wednesday, reminding officials that their conduct was against Central Civil Service (Conduct) Rules 1964.

BACK IN BUSINESS

INDIA'S FLAGSHIP defence industry exhibition DefExpo will take place in Gandhinagar next month. Till a few weeks ago, there was a question mark about it, as the Omicron variant was raging across the country. As cases ebb, officials are now saying that this will be among the largest defence industry events in the world in the beginning of the year. Last year, the Aero Show was also among the first global shows that was held immediately after another wave, they said.

Govt says looking to arrange more flights out of Ukraine

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

INDIA WEDNESDAY said it was working to arrange more flights to get its nationals out of Ukraine amid that country's tensions with Russia. The Ministry of External Affairs also set up a control room to assist Indians in Ukraine.

New Delhi's move came a day after the Indian Embassy in Kyiv issued an advisory asking citizens to leave. Many worried students and parents then reached out to the government, seeking help in getting flights from the country.

Meanwhile, Russia has announced the end of its Crimea military drills, news agency AFP reported Wednesday. NATO, however, is yet to confirm reports of a Russian pullback from the Ukrainian border.

The Indian embassy in Kyiv said it is planning to get more flights introduced from the eastern European nation, acknowledging that it has been receiving calls on their non-availability. The embassy has also set up a 24-hour helpline for Indians.

"The embassy of India has been receiving several appeals about non-availability of flights from Ukraine to India. In this regard, students are advised not to resort to panic, but book the earliest available and convenient flights to travel to India," it said in a statement.

It said Ukrainian International Airlines, Air Arabia, Fly Dubai and Qatar Airways are currently operating flights from Ukraine.

"To meet the additional demand, more flights are being planned in the near future, including from Ukrainian International Airlines, Air India, etc. Details on the same would be shared by (the) Embassy as and when confirmed," the embassy said.

The MEA said its control room will provide information and assistance to citizens.

The contact details of the control room in Delhi are:

Phone +91 11 23012113, +91 11 23014104, +91 11 23017905 and 1800118797 (toll free). Email: situationroom@mea.gov.in.

The contact details of the helpline in the Indian embassy in Ukraine are:

Phone: +380 997300428, +380 997300483, Email: cons1.kyiv@mea.gov.in.

Official sources said the government is exploring the possibility of increasing the number of flights between India and Ukraine to facilitate the return of Indians from that country.

Discussions are underway with civil aviation authorities and multiple airlines on how to increase the number of flights between India and Ukraine, the sources said.

There are about 20,000 Indian students in Ukraine and many of them study in medical colleges — some near Ukraine-Russia border towns as well.

The embassy Tuesday advised Indian citizens, especially the students, to temporarily leave that country in view of the uncertainties of the current situation.

It also asked Indian nationals to avoid all non-essential travel to and within Ukraine.

Responding to concerns

EXPLAINED

INDIA'S ADVISORY has come under some criticism from Indian students, who felt it came a little too late. New Delhi is now attempting to respond to these concerns — opening helplines and trying to arrange additional flights. It is also keeping an eye on the fluid situation, with Russia seemingly dialling down tensions.

WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

Environmental sustainability only possible through climate justice: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

INAUGURATING THE 21st World Sustainable Development Summit on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated India's stand that developed countries needed to fulfil their commitments on finance and technology transfer, pointing out that environmental sustainability could be achieved only through climate justice.

"Energy requirements of the people of India are expected to nearly double in the next 20 years. Denying this energy would be denying life itself to millions. Successful climate actions also need adequate financing. For this, developed countries need to fulfil their commitments on finance and technology transfer. Sustainability requires co-ordinated action for the global commons. Our efforts have recognised this interdependence. Through the International Solar Alliance, our aim is 'One Sun, One World, One Grid', we must work towards ensuring availability of clean energy from a world-wide grid everywhere at all times,'' said the Prime Minister in his inaugural speech.

The summit is organised annually by The Energy and Research Institute (TERI).

"Environment and sustainable development have been key focus areas for me all through my 20 years in office, first in Gujarat and now at the national level. We have heard people call our planet fragile. But it is not the planet that is fragile. It is us. We are fragile. Our commitments to the planet, to nature, have also been fragile. A lot has been said over the last 50 years, since the 1972 Stockholm Conference. Very little has been done. But in India, we have walked the talk," he said.

Modi said that more than 90 million households have been provided access to clean cooking fuel through Ujjwala Yojana, renewable energy has been made available to farmers under the PM-KUSUM scheme, and India's LED programme, running for seven years now, has helped save "more than 220 billion units of electricity and 180-billion tonnes of carbon dioxide".

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Yati gets bail in another case, to walk out of prison today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 16

A WEEK after granting bail to Dasna Devi temple chief priest Yati Narsinghanand in connection with the controversial Haridwar Dharma Sansad hate speech case, a Haridwar court, on Tuesday, granted him bail in the case related to alleged derogatory comments on women from a specific community.

Due to some pending documentation process, Narsinghanand will still spend the Wednesday night in jail and is expected to be released on bail on Thursday, said general secretary of Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati Foundation Trust, Udita Tyagi.

Earlier on February 8, a Haridwar court granted him bail in connection to the hate speech given during the Haridwar Dharma Sansad organized from December 17 to 19 last year.



Yati Narsinghanand

Narsinghanand got bail in the case in which an FIR was registered against him on the complaint of one Ruchika, earlier this month, that he made an objectionable remark against women of a particular community in some social media post on Jan 4.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, general secretary Tyagi had earlier said that bail applications in both the hate speech case and the case of the objectionable comment were denied last month by the CJM court.

On January 15, police had arrested Narsinghanand from Sarvanand Ghat where he was sitting on a hunger strike to protest against the arrest of Waseem Rizvi aka Jitendra Narayan Tyagi on January 13. Tyagi too was named in the hate speech case.



POLL PROMISE

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav in Kanpur Dehat on Wednesday. He also addressed a rally in nearby Auraiya where he criticised the Uttar Pradesh government over bail being granted to Union minister Ajay Mishra's son, Ashish, in the Lakhimpur Kheri case. He promised that if voted to power, the SP government would pursue the case "in such a manner that not only the one who took the life of farmers will go to jail but also those patronising them". *Express*

Gangster-turned-politician Dhananjay files nomination from Malhani on JDU ticket

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 16

AFTER PLAYING hide-and-seek with the UP police for a year over his alleged role in the murder of former Mau block pramukh Ajit Singh in Lucknow in January 6 last year, gangster-turned-politician Dhananjay Singh on Wednesday filed his nomination from the Malhani Assembly seat in Jaunpur on the Janata Dal (United) ticket.

After finding Dhananjay's alleged involvement in Ajit murder case, the Lucknow police had obtained an arrest warrant against him in February last year.

A day after police announced a reward of Rs 25,000 for his arrest in March last year, Dhananjay surrendered in an Allahabad court in a 2017 case lodged against him in Jaunpur and went to jail. The Lucknow police had then not filed the warrant against him in the court.

After coming out of the jail on bail after 25 days, Dhananjay helped his wife Srikala Reddy win Zila Panchayat president election from Jaunpur. In July, a Lucknow court declared him a proclaimed absconder.

On January 6, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav shared a purported video of Dhananjay in which he was seen playing cricket amid many people. Taking a dig at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Akhilesh tweeted, "BJP's work: Criminals roam free. Baba ji, make a list of the top ten of your closest mafia and then make a team. Like the IPL, you should start an 'MBL' meaning 'Mafia BJP league'. The city police chief has already laid out the pitch for him, and he is the captain. This completes the eleven."

AAP: Vishwas remarks on Kejriwal malicious

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, NEW DELHI
FEBRUARY 16

THE AAM Aadmi Party described as "malicious" and "unfounded" allegations made by rebel party leader Kumar Vishwas against AAP chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, whom he accused of hobnobbing with separatists.

Speaking to ANI, Vishwas said that during the 2017 elections, he warned Kejriwal not to go with "fringe elements", separatists and forces associated with the Khalistani movement. "But he said, nahin ho gayeja (it will be done). One day, he told me... 'ya toh main ek swantatra suba ka mukhyamantri banoonga (I'll either be the chief minister of an independent state)...' I then told him that's separatism... To which he said, 'Theek hai, toh mein swantantra desh ka pehla pradhan mantri nbanoonga (Ok, then I'll be the first PM of an independent nation'."

Calling the allegations defamatory, Raghav Chadha, AAP's Punjab in-charge, tweeted, "Malicious, unfounded, fabricated, inflammatory insinuations made by Mr. Vishwas are not only demonstrably defamatory but redolent of promoting hatred ill-will, hostility in society and in particular against AAP, as well as supporters as also intending to create a situation of unrest."

Asking the media not to report Vishwas's allegations, he said, "In view thereof, it is forcefully submitted that in case any channel publishes/ circulated aids or provide platform to disseminate the same we shall be found forced to take stringent legal action which shall include the commission of the offences of abetment/ aiding him."

Despite a deep rift with the party leadership, Vishwas, a founding member of the AAP and at one point among party leaders closest to Kejriwal and Sisodia, remains a member of the AAP, never having resigned. The party, too, has not expelled him.

Talk of Vishwas's differences with Kejriwal and Sisodia started late 2016 amid murmurs from his camp that he was not being given responsibilities matching his stature.

In 2017, when AAP lost the Punjab polls and, a few months later, the Delhi municipal polls, the rift came out in the open. While senior AAP leaders alleged that Vishwas was in touch with the party's Punjab MLAs and had tried to broker a deal between them and the BJP, he alleged a conspiracy against him.

While an uneasy calm prevailed between the two sides, with Vishwas even being made the AAP's Rajasthan in-charge ahead of the 2018 Assembly polls, the relationship broke down when, in January 2018, the party didn't nominate him to the Rajya Sabha.

Foodgrain production likely to hit record high for 2021-22: govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

THE TOTAL foodgrains production in the country is pegged to reach an all-time record high of 316.06 million tonnes as per the Second Advance Estimates of production of major crops for the agricultural year 2021-22, released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on Wednesday.

The estimated foodgrains production for agricultural year 2021-22 (July-June) is 1.71 per cent higher than 310.74 million tonnes recorded in 2020-21 and the target set for the current year, show the estimates. It shows that wheat production is also expected to reach at the highest ever level of 111.32 million tonnes during 2021-22, which is 1.58 per cent higher than 109.59 million tonnes during the last year. The total production of rice (kharif and rabi both) is also expected to reach an all-time record high of 127.93 million tonnes, which is 2.86 per cent higher than the last year's rice output of 124.37 million tonnes.

In 2021-22, the production of 9 oilseeds–groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, nigerseed, soyabean, sunflower, rapeseed & mustard, linseed and safflower– is estimated to at 371.47 million tonnes, which is 3.34 per cent higher than 359.46 million tonnes recorded during the last year.

The rabi oilseed production is expected to reach 133.32 million tonnes in the current year, which is 9.06 per cent higher than the last year's figure of 122.24 million tonnes. The production of rapeseed & mustard, which is the main rabi oilseed crop, is expected to reach at a record level of 114.59 million tonnes–12.24 per cent higher than last year's figure of 102.10 million tonnes.

The increase in rapeseed and mustard production is significant because the edible oil prices, particularly mustard oil prices, have soared to a record high in recent months. According to the data available on the Ministry' website, on 16th February, 2022, the all-India average retail price of groundnut oil was reported at Rs 179.42 per kg, mustard oil at Rs 190.11 per kg, vanaspati Rs 141.10 per kg, soya oil Rs 147.39 per kg, sunflower oil 160.83 per kg and palm oil Rs 131.06 per kg. The average retail prices of these six edible oils are higher in the range 10.34% to 30.49% when compared to the prices a year ago.

The pulses production is estimated to increase by 5.87 percent to 26.96 million tonnes in 2021-22 from 25.46 million tonnes in the last year. Among pulses, gram production is estimated to reach at 13.12 million tonnes during the current year from 11.91 million tonnes during the last year.

In a statement, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said that the "new record" of foodgrains production in the country is the "result of hard work of farmers, efficient research of scientists and farmer friendly policies of the Government."

Collegium elevates 16 advocates as Bombay, Madras HC judges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

THE SUPREME Court Collegium Wednesday approved a proposal to elevate 16 advocates as judges in the Bombay and Madras High Courts.

Advocates Nidumolu Mala, Menezes SA, Kamal Rashmi Khata, Sharmila Uttamrao Deshmukh, Arun Ramnath Pednekar, Sandeep Vishnupant Marne, Gauri Vinod Godse, Rajesh Shantaram Patil, Arif Saleh Doctor and Somasekhar Sundaresan will be Judges in the Bombay High Court.

The Collegium is headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana and also comprises Justices U U Lalit and A M Khanwilkar

On Wednesday, it also cleared the elevation of Justice Ahanthem Bimol Singh, Additional Judge of the Manipur High Court, as a Permanent Judge.

Two of Kerala CPM's best known young leaders set to get married

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 16



MLA Sachin Dev and Thiruvananthapuram mayor Arya Rajendran

ARYA RAJENDRAN took charge as the mayor of Thiruvananthapuram in December 2020 at the age of 21 – the youngest in the country to get elected to the office. Five months later, K M Sachin Dev became the youngest legislator of the current Kerala Assembly, aged 27.

Two of Kerala CPI(M)'s young faces, who have known each other from their days in Balasangam, the party's outfit for children, and bonded over the party's ideology, have now decided to tie the knot.

Confirming this, Arya told reporters, "A decision on the wedding was recently taken after being friends for several years. That we are part of the same political ideology helped both of us to understand each other. That understanding would help us to sail together."

"For me and Sachin Dev, family and party are equally important. We have communicated our decision to the party and the families. Date of the marriage will be fixed after consulting the party and the families," she said.

At present, Sachin Dev, who represents Balussery in Kozhikode district, is the state secretary of SFI, the student wing of CPI(M), while Arya is a member of its state committee. She is also the state president of Balasangam.

Arya was 21 when she was fielded as a CPI(M) candidate for the Thiruvananthapuram municipal corporation elections in 2020. The party's decision to field more young faces in the civic bodies helped Arya to become the youngest mayor.

'Ideology no problem... When we're objective, there's no bias'

DINESH PRASAD SAKLANI took charge as the director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on Monday. He will steer NCERT at a time when the autonomous body under the Ministry of Education will closely work with the committee set up to revise the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), based on which changes will be brought in school textbooks.

Speaking to **SOURAV ROY BARMAN** on Wednesday, Saklani said implementing the National Education Policy, 2020 and ensuring the smooth completion of the NCF revision exercise are among his priorities.

You have taken charge at a time the gradual implementation of the National Education Policy is ushering in changes in the education system. What are your immediate priorities?

The mandate of our NEP is our mandate. For that purpose, the National Curriculum Framework is being revised and a steering committee is working on it. They have formed 25 focus groups which are going to frame the guidelines for the position papers. The guidelines are almost final. We will have a meeting in the first week of March for getting the guidelines from the committee. Once the guidelines are out, then work on position papers will start. And after that, the path will be clear for syllabi preparation, and simultaneously, we will identify scholars for writing the books...

What are the changes that you plan to introduce in NCERT?



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW
WITH
DINESH PRASAD SAKLANI
NCERT DIRECTOR

We cannot introduce change. We are implementing the proposals in the NEP in toto as per the timeframe. But in order to implement the NEP within the stipulated time frame, the institute needs to gear up. So, re-energising NCERT is a high priority. By re-energising, I am essentially referring to the need to fill more than half the positions that are vacant. If we do not have teachers, how do we deliver the curriculum?

How many posts are vacant?

Taking all the constituent bodies of NCERT, such as the five Regional Institutes of Education, the National Institute of Education and the Institute of Vocational Education, there are around 1,075 vacant posts.

Coming back to NCF, curriculum and syllabi revision exercises in the past have always drawn charges of ideological refashioning. What is your take on this?

Ideology is something different. We are professionals. We are not going to indulge in any ideological sort of thing. What we will do is we will follow the guidelines of NEP. Ideology is not a problem for us.

A member of the NCF steering committee said recently that Indian students are not exposed to the country's rich intellectual and artistic heritage

You see, he also said objectivity is important. It also means professionalism. When we are objective, then there is no bias. When we are subjective, then there are biases. Objectivity is the approach of a professional.

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

'Digitisation and re-skilling are key tools in empowering women, creating new booming sectors'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

"DIGITISATION AND re-skilling are key tools in not just empowering women to rejoin the workforce in the post-pandemic era but also in creating new booming sectors in the economy," said Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology. Chandrasekhar was delivering the keynote address at the inaugural edition of *The Indian Express* Thinc series on Gender.

The online session was titled "Gender-responsive economic recovery and bouncing back better." Chandrasekhar added that his government was directing its skill programmes and the New Education Policy to ensure more and more women participate in hitherto untapped areas. "We are offering skills to men and women equally and it is for them to use those skills to create opportunities for themselves either in employment or micro-entrepreneurship," he said.

The minister also elaborated how the recent Budget had proposed ways of bringing credit online, getting micro enterprises and MSME credit delivery online.

Talking about the initiatives taken by his ministry to upskill more women to join the workforce, he said, "We have today in the skill ecosystem over 4,500 courses and trades that are being taught. I have given my ministry a target of 10,000-15,000 (courses). As long as the ecosystem provides more and more innovative trades, more and more innovative skills of the future, we create visibility and aspirations around those skills, we create opportunities around those skills. It is for a young Indian to decide what he or she is excited by." He cited the example of how smartphones had prodded women in remote locations, particularly in the Northeast, to drive new food businesses and how skilling had helped women break the male stronghold in traditional sectors like plumbing, where they are now becoming sales executives and product managers.

The address was followed by a panel discussion with Renana Jhabvala, Chair of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA Bharat), Manish Sabharwal, Chairman, Team Lease and Avani Kapur, Fellow, Centre for Policy Research. Jhabvala emphasised the importance of accurate counting of the women workforce on the ground and highlighted the big gap between official survey figures and ground realities. "There needs to be a definitive way of identifying them. We can look at a safety net by way of cash transfers, look at practical ways of funding micro-entrepreneurship, encourage women-owned businesses because they naturally give opportunities to other women, extend digital and financial literacy and urge the private sector to include women enterprises in their supply chains, she said."

Sabharwal talked about the work-from-home option as opening up more opportunities for women and argued for a decentralised budgetary allocation after a mapping of needs and improving wages. Kapur spoke about public investment and infrastructure support while emphasising the need for an urban employment guarantee scheme and tracking the end result of such a scheme. The discussion was moderated by Aanchal Magazine, Special Correspondent, *The Indian Express.*



Rajeev Chandrasekhar speaks at the session. *Express*

First coordinator for national maritime security appointed, to report to NSA

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

FORMER VICE Chief of Navy Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar, who retired last year, has been appointed as India's first National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC).

Proposed after the 26/11 terror attacks, the NMSC will be part of National Security Council Secretariat, and will report to National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

As the NMSC, Kumar will have the responsibility of coordinating between all the agencies involved in maritime security and maritime civil issues. He will also be tasked with improving the country's blue economy needs. He will look at all aspects of maritime security, and will be the nodal point for all issues related to it.



Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar retired in 2021

He will also be mandated to ensure better coordination between different authorities that work independently on maritime issues. At the Centre, the ministries of Defence, Home Affairs, External Affairs and Shipping are some of the main stakeholders; states have their own agencies, along with authorities such as customs, police and intelligence agencies.

The need for such a coordinating agency was first expressed by the Group of Ministers formed after the Kargil War. The GoM had recommended that an "apex body for management of maritime affairs should be formed for institutionalised linkages between the Navy, Coast Guard and the concerned ministries of the central and state governments", and had asked the Defence Ministry to "take necessary action to constitute the apex body".

After the 26/11 attacks, Defence Ministry proposed creation of a Maritime Security Advisory Board, and appointment of a Maritime Security Advisor, but that was kept pending. In November 2021, the Cabinet Committee on Security finally cleared the creation of the NMSC.

Kumar retired as Navy Vice Chief in July 2021. An NDA alumnus, he was commissioned in the Navy's executive branch in 1982.

GOVT. OF BIHAR

BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD
I.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.

POST GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (PGMAC)-2021
for MD / MS / PGD / DNB (Degree & Diploma) in Govt./ Private Medical Colleges of Bihar

Advt. No.-BCECEB(PGMAC)-2021/06 Dated : 16.02.2022 Website : bceceboard.bihar.gov.in

Notice for 2nd round counselling

In the light of letter of ADG (ME), DGHS, Govt. of India Ref. no. U-12021/06/2021-MEC dated 12.02.2022 and in continuation to Adv. No. BCECEB(PGMAC)-2021/05 Dated: 08.02.2022, it is to inform all concerned candidates of PGMAC-2021 the important dates for offline 2nd round Counselling of PGMAC-2021 is hereby re-scheduled as follows;

Important Rescheduled dates for PGMAC-2021 :

Sl.	Programme	Earlier published Schedule Date	Re-scheduled Date
i.	Free exit from Govt. Colleges :	up to 17.02.2022	up to 18.02.2022
ii.	Willingness for 2nd round counselling :	06.02.2022 to 10.02.2022	up to 20.02.2022
iii.	Result / counselling programme publication of 2nd round counselling :	16.02.2022	23.02.2022
iv.	Seat Matrix uploading :	18.02.2022	25.02.2022
v.	Proposed date of counselling / admission :	from 19.02.2022	from 26.02.2022

(2) Rest of the Terms & Condition of earlier published Advertisements will remain the same.

Controller of Examination

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

OA NO 51/19 **DATE: 07.02.2022**
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK **APPLICANT**
VERSUS
SHRI NARENDRA PAL & ANR. **RESPONDENT**

To,
DEFENDANTS
1. **SH. NARENDRA PAL S/O SH. RAM VIR SINGH PAL**
R/O HOUSE NO. 12/56, SECT.-9, RAJ NAGAR GHAZIABAD UP - 201001.
ALSO AT: C-96, GOVINDPURAM GHAZIABAD UP
2. **SH. MUKESH GOSWAMI S/O SH. KAMAL KUMAR GIRI.**
R/O C-157, C-BLOCK WEST KARAWAL NAGAR DELHI - 94.

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of **Rs.1,04,05,849/- (RUPEE ONE CRORE FOUR LAKH FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY NINE ONLY)** against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on **16.08.2022 At 10.30 A.M.**

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through video Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the **"Cisco Webex"** application/software:
(ii) **"Meeting ID"** and **Password** for the date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/ Recovery Officer-I/and Recovery Officer-II shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in
(iii) In any exigency qua that the Advocate/Litigants can contact the concerned official at **Ph. No. 23748478.**

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this the **7TH day of Feb., 2022.**

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL,
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, DRT-II, DELHI.

This is to inform all Members who have cleared their dues upto 2020-2021 that the 17th Annual General Body Meeting of Okhla Industrial Area CETP Society (Regd.) Regd, office C-141, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi-110020 will be held as per agenda mentioned below:
Date & Day: Saturday, 12th March 2022 Time : 11.30 AM Venue: At the Registered Office of the Society, to transact the following Agenda:
AGENDA : (1) To approve and confirm the Minutes of the last General Body Meeting. (2) To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Balance Sheet and Auditors' Report for the financial year 2020-2021 and appoint the Auditors and fix their remuneration. (3) To discuss and implement up-gradation of the Plant as per the direction of NGT, CPCB and DPCC. (4) Repairs and maintenance and replacement of equipment of the CETP as the Plant have outlived its life and needs heavy repairs, media replenishment and up-gradation. Also to adopt alternative treatment process to improve the quality of treated effluent as per EPA parameters. (5) To participate, visit, organize national and international seminars, conferences and exhibitions to understand new technology and modify the plant and to improve the quality of treated water to meet all parameters as per the norms (6) To take action against defaulters for recovery of dues as per the CETP Act 2000 and other punitive legal measures against who have not paid their dues. (7) Any query may be forwarded 10 days in advance at Regd. office before the meeting for proper response. (8) To employ office staff for better administrative operations and to employ field staff for survey and recovery of dues from defaulters. (9) To approval of daily allowances to the Governing Body members to look after the operation and maintenance of the Plant including legal, administrative work, medical allowance, attending official meetings of the Society, participating in seminars, travelling expenses, conveyance and mobile charges etc. (10) The Balance sheet has been sent to all the members on their email available with us those who have paid their up to date dues till March-2021. Further the Members who desire to have a copy of the Balance sheet are requested to collect their copy of the Balance Sheet from the Regd. Office of the Society or authorizing on their letterhead to be collected by their representative between 11 AM to 3 PM on all working days till 02.03.2022. (11) To discuss the takeover of the Plant by Govt. of NCT of Delhi. (12) To discuss to hold the elections of the Governing Body Members for the next term. (13) Any other matter with the permission of the Chair.
In case of lack of quorum, the Meeting will be adjourned for half an hour and will be re-convened at 12.00 PM at the same venue. Members present will form the quorum. Lunch will be served after the AGM. Please confirm your participation to make arrangements accordingly at our email: cetpokhla@gmail.com.
Those Members who have paid their up-to-date dues for the financial year 2020-21 shall be qualify to participate in the AGM. Those who have not cleared their upto date dues will not allowed to participate in the AGM.

Kuldip Khanna, President

EXPRESS Careers

राष्ट्रीय औषधीय शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान गुवाहाटी
National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Guwahati

Advt. No. NIPERG/Project/2022/Feb/1 Date: 15/02/2022

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR PROJECT POSITION

NIPER-G invites promising candidates to fill the position of **Research Associate-II** in DBT sponsored project through Walk-in-interview (contractual basis):
Project: Establishment of GMP accredited Pilot Scale extraction facilities for development of physopharmaceutical products from the Medicinal Plants of NE India
Date and Time of Interview : 28-02-2022, from 10 AM onwards.
Venue : NIPER, Guwahati (Changsari) campus
For detailed qualifications and other requirements please visit website:
www.niperguwahati.ac.in

Registrar i/c

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LTD.
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
CIN: L45203DL1976GOI008171, Web: www.ircon.org

E-Procurement Notice (National Competitive Bidding)

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

i. e-Tender No.: IRCON/ELECT/5037-5038/NCRTC/OHE_STEEL_3/OT/54 Dated: 07.02.2022
"Design, Manufacturing and Supply of Hot Dip Galvanized OHE Steel Masts, Portals, SPS etc for Delhi - Ghaziabad - Meerut RRTS Corridor of NCRTC (Package - 19, Stage 1 & Stage 2, Lot 1 & 2)"

Estimated Cost of the work	₹ 7,24,92,200/- (inclusive of all applicable taxes except GST)
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission	21.02.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs IST

ii. e-Tender No.: IRCON/ELECT/5037-5038/NCRTC/APF/OT/55 Dated: 16.02.2022
"Design, Detail Engineering, Supply, Testing and Commissioning of IGBT based Active Power Filter (APF) system at 33 kV Voltage level along with converter duty coupling transformers & all other associated equipment's including integration with existing protection and SCADA system at Receiving Sub-stations (RSS) of Delhi – Ghaziabad – Meerut RRTS Corridor of NCRTC"

Estimated Cost of the work	₹ 7,75,00,000/- (inclusive of all applicable taxes except GST)
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission	02.03.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs IST

For further details, visit website **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

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

P&E/2021-22/Empanelment Architect/177

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Local Head Office, Guwahati
Premises & Estate Department, Dispur, Guwahati - 781006

EMPANELMENT OF ARCHITECTS / CONSULTANTS

State Bank of India invites applications for **Empanelment of Architects/Consultants for Building projects and Interior projects** in two different categories, for their branches; offices and residences spread over the seven North-East States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura) under the North Eastern Circle of State Bank of India. Intending applicants may download the application form, eligibility criteria and other documents from Bank's website **www.sbi.co.in** under "Procurement News" or may collect the same from Premises & Estate Department, 3rd Floor, A Block, State Bank of India, Local Head Office, Dispur, Guwahati - 781006, Assam on all working days during office hours from 17.02.2022 to 18.03.2022. **The last date of submission of the application and other documents complete in all respect is 18.03.2022 up to 2.00 pm.** The Bank reserves its right to accept or reject any or all the application(s) without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever.

Guwahati
Date: 17.02.2022

Sd/- Assistant General Manager
(Premises & Estate)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI
(ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION)

CS(OS) 335/2019 & IA No. 9026/2019 (U/O 39 R 1 & 2 CPC).

Sachin Choudhary & Anr. Plaintiffs
V/s
R. Narayan & Ors. Defendants

To

Defendant No. 1 - R. Narayan, R/o. Palam Village, South Delhi-110045.

Defendant No. 3 - Kunal Shekhar, S/o. Chandra Shekhar Chaudhary, R/o. Flat No. 01, Ground Floor Behind Sainik Public School ITI Road, Sector-11, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301.

WHEREAS the above mentioned plaintiffs have instituted a **SUIT FOR INJUNCTION** the court, hereupon issued notice/summon in suit on 08.07.2019 & 22.07.2019 against you, the above named Defendant and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of this Court that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice/summon is given by way of publication directing you, the above named Defendant to make appearance before the **Hon'ble Court on 24.02.2022 at 10.30 AM.** of this Court.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit/application/s will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court on this the 15.01.2022.

Assistant Regist.rar (J)(O)
For REGISTRAR GENERAL
RK

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that our client is intending to enter into a transaction with M/s. Therapiva Private Limited, **("Therapiva")** in respect of purchase of a business undertaking of Therapiva, which includes the scheduled property located at Plot No., 218 & 219, Pashamylaram Village, Phase-II, Sangareddy District, Telangana – 502307 **("Scheduled Property")** and Identified assets, assumed liabilities, contracts and employees in relation to such Scheduled Property **("Business Undertaking").**

All or any persons including any banks, financial institutions or any other party or person, having any valid and legal claim, right, title, demand or interest in the Business Undertaking are required/called upon to convey their objection/s in writing to the address (physical or electronic) mentioned below, within 15 (fifteen) days from issuance of this notice, along with all supporting documents relating to such claim, failing which it shall be presumed that there is /are no claim/s and such claim/s if any, shall be considered to be waived and abandoned in respect of the Business Undertaking or any part thereof.

DETAILS OF SCHEDULED PROPERTY:

Plot No. 218 & 219, measuring 29,276.46 sq. mts. situated at Pashamylaram Village, Phase-II, Chemical Zone, IDA Pashamylaram, Sangareddy District, Telangana – 502307 (Survey No. 219 (Part)).

Boundaries: North: Plot No. 217, **East:** 18.30 M Road, **South:** 30 M Road and **West:** TSIIC (previously APIIC) Land Phase-III.

Hence this Notice.

On behalf of
SPICE ROUTE LEGAL

ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION
Spice Route Legal
201, 2nd Floor, Pinnacle Corporate Park
Off BKC CST Link Road, Next to Trade Centre
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East
Mumbai – 400051
Email: legal_notice@spiceroutelegal.com

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय,जयपुर/ **Integrated Regional office, Jaipur**

सत्यमेव जयते

ए 218 & बी 216 "अरण्य भवन", झालाना संस्थानिक क्षेत्र, जयपुर-302004/ **A-218 & B-216, "ARANYA BHAWAN", Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur- 302004**
दूरभाष /Tel No: 0141-2713858, 2713786 Email: iro.jaipur-mefcc@gov.in

पत्र संख्या-8बी-राज 007/2022-**JPR** दिनांक: 8th February, 2022

सेवा में,
शासन सचिव (वन),
सिविल सविवालय, राजस्थान शासन,
जयपुर, राजस्थान

(Online Proposal No: FP/RJ/ROAD/140782/2021)

विषयः Diversion of 3.579 ha. of forest land for construction road from Ghoda Ghati to Meharangarh Fort in favour of Executive Engineer, Jodhpur Development Authority, Jodhpur In Jodhpur District of Rajasthan.

सन्दर्भः शासन सचिव, राजस्थान का पत्रांक-प.1(96)वन/2021, जयपुर, दिनांक-31.01.2022.

महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषयक संदर्भित पत्र का आशय ग्रहण करने का कष्ट करें जिसके द्वारा प्रश्नगत प्रकरण में वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 की धारा (2) के अन्तर्गत भारत सरकार की स्वीकृति मांगी गयी थी।

प्रकरण के परीक्षणोपरान्त केन्द्र सरकार उपरोक्त विषयांकित परियोजना हेतु 3.579 हे. वनभूमि के प्रत्यावर्तन एवं 245 वृक्षों के पातन की सैद्धान्तिक स्वीकृति (In-principle/Stage-I approval)

A: Conditions which needs to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Fofrest Department:

1. The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in advance with the Force Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
2. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for the **3,579 ha** forest area to be diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30/01/2002, 01/08/2003, 28/03/2008, 24/04/2008 and 09/05/2008 in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letters No. 5-1/1998-FC (Pt.II) dated 18/09/2003, as well as letter No. 5-2/2006-FC dated 03/10/2006, 5-3/2007-FC dated 05/02/2009 and **revision of NPV vide Ministry letters No. 5-3/2011-FC (Vol.-I) dated 06.01.2022** in this regard.
3. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
4. The non-forest land proposed for CA shall be transferred and mutated in favour of State Forest Department.
5. The non-forest land which is transferred and mutated in favour of State Forest Department for the purpose of compensatory afforestation shall be declared as Reserved Forest under Section- 4 or Protected Forest under Section- 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section(s) of the State Forest Act prior to Stage-II approval.
6. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
7. The KML file of the area to be diverted and the CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details, before issuing working permission towards linear projects or submitting compliance report for seeking Stage-II approval, as the case may be.
8. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal.

B: Conditions which needs to be strictly complied on field after handing over of forest land to the User Agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:

1. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 3.579 ha non-forest land at Village- Rawra, Tehsil-Baap, District- Jodhpur of Rajasthan at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and mono-culture of any species may be avoided.
3. User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to 245 trees/ minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
4. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
5. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
6. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
7. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
8. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
9. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
10. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
11. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
12. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India.
13. The User Agency shall submit the annual self compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government and Integrated Regional Office, Jaipur by the end of March every year.
14. The User Agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
15. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11- 42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018.
16. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife.
17. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (**https://parivesh.nic.in/**).

After receipt of compliance report on fulfillment of all of the above conditions from the State Government, proposal will be considered for Final/Stage-II approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The User Agency shall take up the work as per the guidelines in force and after ensuring that all necessary clearances for the entire stretch are in place. Working permission, if any issued, shall be intimated to IRO, Jaipur. Transfer of forest land shall not be effected till Final/Stage-II approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Further, it may also be noted that this in-principle / Stage-I approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this In-principle approval shall be revoked after five (05) years.

हस्ता./-
(श्रवण कुमार वर्मा)
उप महानिरीक्षक / क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी

Shikshana Prasaraka Mandali's
PRIN. L. N. WELINGKAR INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH
L. Napoo Road, Matunga (Central Rly.), Mumbai - 400019.

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POST OF
DIRECTOR
FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022.

UN-AIDED

The above post is open to all however candidates from any category can apply for the posts.

Reservation for women will be as per **University Circular No.BCC/16/74/1998 dates 10th March, 1998. 4% reservation shall be for the persons with disability as per University Circular No. Special Cell/ICC/2019-20/05 dated 05th July, 2019.**

Candidates having knowledge of Marathi will be preferred.

The Educational Qualification, Experience & pay-scale for the post of Director is as prescribed by the University of Mumbai, AICTE & DTE from time to time.

Please refer University Circular No. मशिमाक/विशिमाक/तंत्रशिक्षण/११/२०२०–२०२१ दिनांक ११ जानेवारी, २०२१ for qualifications and experience at the time of interview.

Applicants who are already employed must send their application through proper channel. Applicants are required to account for breaks, if any in their academic career.

Applications with full details should reach the **Secretary, Shikshana Prasaraka Mandali's, PRIN. L.N. WELINGKAR INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH, L. Napoo Road, Near Matunga Railway Station, Matunga (E), Mumbai - 400 019.** within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. This is University approved advertisement.

Sd/-
Secretary

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
Corporate Office, Bengaluru – 560 029

RECRUITMENT - MANAGING DIRECTOR

Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India, having its Registered & Corporate Office at Bengaluru and Banknote printing presses at Mysuru in Karnataka and Salboni in West Bengal. BRBNMPL, wishes to appoint Managing Director, for Bank Note Paper Mill India Private Limited (BNPMIPL), a joint venture Company of BRBNMPL and Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL), engaged in production of Bank Note Papers, having its manufacturing facility, Registered and Corporate Office at Mysuru, Karnataka.

The post is unreserved. However, candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/PH (Only OH) / Ex-SM categories are free to apply for the post provided they satisfy all the eligibility conditions. The selected candidate will draw Basic Pay of ₹1,77,400/- per month in the Pay level 14 of 7th CPC Pay matrix. He/she will also be entitled for a Special Compensatory Allowance of ₹13,600/- counting for superannuation benefits. Exceptionally meritorious candidate could be started at higher level of Pay solely as per the discretion of BRBNMPL. He/she will be eligible for perquisites as per rules, as applicable to the General Manager In-Charge of BRBNMPL.

For detailed advertisement and format of the application for the above post please refer to the complete advertisement No.**1/2022** displayed in the Career page of the BRBNMPL's website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. Any corrigendum to the advertisement will be displayed only on the Company's website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. Application complete in all respect should be sent to The Managing Director, BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN PRIVATE LIMITED, Corporate Office, No. 3 & 4, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru – 560 029 superscribed with Application for the Post of Managing Director - BNPMIPL.

The last date for receipt of the applications is March 14, 2022.

(Hindi version of this advertisement will be available in Dainik Jagran)

Man rams car into Doval residence gate; police say mentally disturbed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16



National Security Advisor Ajit Doval

A 43-YEAR-OLD Bengaluru man — who claimed he was being remote controlled — rammed a rented car into the gate of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's residence in the national capital on Wednesday morning, sending security agencies scrambling.

The man, who police say is mentally disturbed, was nabbed by security personnel after the incident. Security was also stepped up outside Doval's Tughlak Road residence, with the police checking all vehicles.

A senior police officer said they came to know about the matter at around 7.35 am. "Local police and a team of special cell immediately rushed to the spot. He was picked up and taken to the Special Cell's office in Lodhi Colony."

This officer said a team of intelligence agencies also arrived at the Special Cell office.

"They started questioning him and he disclosed his identity. The police then approached the Bengaluru police to verify all the facts," the officer said.

The man's family has also been contacted.

According to the police, the man seems to be suffering from mental health issues. "He came to Delhi on February 13 from Kolkata and searched for Doval's address on the internet. He then took a car on rent and reached his home on Wednesday morning. His father was a lawyer and he is unmarried," an officer said.

"He claimed to be operated via remote control after someone implanted a magnetic chip in his body. His magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) test was also conducted in a hospital and nothing was found," the officer said.

After questioning, he was handed over to the Tughlak Road police station. The police there are taking legal opinion before lodging an FIR.

Gujarat: Official suspended for holding elocution on Godse for school students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SURAT, AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 16

A YOUTH officer was suspended on Wednesday after an elocution contest on Nathuram Godse was held for students from class 5 to 8 of government and private schools in Valsad district on February 14.

According to sources, the elocution contest on the topic — "Maro Adarsh Nathuram Godse (My idol Nathuram Godse)", held at Kusum Vidyalay in Valsad, was organised by District Yuva Vikas Adhikari (youth development officer) Neetaben Gavli and prizes were given to six students.

The department of Youth Services and Cultural Activities of the Gujarat government suspended Gavli on Wednesday and initated an inquiry into the incident.

Education Minister Jitu Vaghani said, "Minister of State for Sports, Youth Service and Cultural Activities Harshbhai (Sanghavi) has taken initiative and the officer concerned has been suspended."

The event was held at Kusum Vidyalaya, a self-financed school, as part of the district level Bal Pratibha Shodh Spardha (child talent search competition), under the youth service and cultural activities department of the Gujarat government .

Trustee of Kusum Vidyalaya, Vivek Desai said they had only lent the school premises to host the event and nobody from the school participated in it. Students between 8 years to 12 years of age from 25 government and private schools in the district participated in the event where competitions were held under 13 categories, including elocution. The news of the contest, however, went viral on social media.

Valsad District Collector Kshipra Agre saiad "We have suspended the officer concerned, Neetaben Gavli, with immediate effect... They have also started an inquiry into the incident."

District education officer BD Baraiya said, "We were not aware of the event organised at Kusum Vidyalaya, as it was planned and implemented by the District Yuva Vikas office..."

Condemning the incident, the Congress state president, president Jagdish Thakor said, "The incident in Valsad have left us hurt and saddened..."

Godse was executed in 1949 for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

So many religious symbols, why single out hijab: Petitioners to HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 16



A group of students in a Udupi college who were not allowed to enter the classrooms on Wednesday. *PTI*

WHEN NO uniform is prescribed for pre-university colleges, and when there is no prohibition on hijab as a consequence, a move by the Karnataka government and colleges in the state to prevent Muslim girls from wearing hijab in classes is discrimination based on religion, a counsel for a group of college girls from Udupi who were prohibited from attending classes in hijabs told Karnataka High Court on Wednesday.

Ravi Varma Kumar, a former state advocate general, told a full bench of the High Court that efforts to prevent Muslim girls from attending classes wearing hijabs – in the absence of any state-prescribed uniforms – amounted to discrimination based on religion, which is prohibited under Article 15 of the Constitution.

"Hindus have their religious symbols, Sikhs have their religious symbols, Christians have their religious symbols. I want to highlight the plurality and diversity that exists in our society. Why has the hijab only been chosen for this hostile discrimination? Is it not because of religion?" Kumar told the court, citing Article 15 which says the state should not discriminate against citizens on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex, birth-place.

Efforts to prevent Muslim girls from attending classes in hijab is "only because of religion since a dupatta is not banned, a bangle-wearer is not sent out of the classroom, a bindi-wearer is not sent out, a Christian girl carrying the crucifix – every Christian girl wears a crucifix around the neck or a pendant – is not touched – why only these girls?" Kumar said.

"It is a draconian decision where universal education is desired – particularly girls education. The court may take judicial note of the fact that among girls, Muslim girls are the least educated and the least represented in classrooms. If they are shut out on the grounds of such discrimination that would amount to the doomsday for their education," he said. He also argued that the aim of education is to promote plurality not uniformity. "It is about unity in diversity," Kumar said. There is no prohibition in the Karnataka Education Act of 1983 or rules on hijabs since there are no uniforms for pre-university colleges, he said. "What I want to know is how I am being kept out of class and under what rule? Who has authorised such an act?"

Another senior advocate, Yusuf Muchhala, who argued on behalf of the Udupi college students, said a government order that prescribes a ban on girls attending classes with hijab amounted to what is recognised by courts as "manifest arbitrariness" and not in line with the "doctrine of proportionality".

ED registers money laundering case against ABG Shipyard

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED) on Wednesday registered a money laundering case against Gujarat-based shipping firm ABG Shipyard and its directors in connection with over Rs 22,800 crore loan default by the company.

The ED case is based on the FIR registered by the CBI on February 7 in which it has alleged that the company diverted loans handed to it by a consortium of 28 banks, and used its sister concerns to round-trip funds and service other loans instead of using them for the purpose they were taken.

Sources said the ED case has named the same accused, including ABG CMD Rishi Agarwal, as in the CBI FIR.

"A case has been registered under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Further action will be taken as per law," an ED official said.

The Indian Express had on Tuesday reported that the ED was examining documents related to the case in order to register a money laundering case.

The CBI has already opened lookout circulars against the accused to prevent them from fleeing the country.

Sources said the ED may follow suit.

The CBI has found that ABG allegedly used as many as 98 related companies in routing of funds, which ED officials say clearly point towards money laundering. The ED has powers to attach assets of companies and individuals involved in money laundering.

BJP hits back at Cong: ABG Shipyard fraud took place in UPA time

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16



Sudhanshu Trivedi

FACING CRITICISM from the Congress regarding the alleged bank fraud case involving ABG Shipyard, the BJP on Wednesday hit back saying that the fraud took place during the time of the UPA government at the Centre.

"ABG Shipyard became NPA (non-performing asset) on November 30, 2013. This was the period of Congress rule. Most of the rigging took place between 2005 and 2012, in which they were given a big deal of the Navy by the UPA government, which was cancelled by the BJP government. The audit report came in 2016 and they were declared frauds during our government's tenure," Sudhanshu Trivedi, BJP national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP, said at a press conference at the party headquarters.

The CBI booked Gujarat-based ship-building company ABG Shipyard and its directors for alleged fraudulent loan default to the tune of Rs 22,842 crore.

Pointing out that the scam started in 2012, Trivedi said: "ABG Shipyard's loan was rescheduled in March 2014. Rs 970 crore in June 2011, Rs 500-crore order placed in January 2012, and restructuring done in March 2014. It is believed that the company's promoters had close relations with a former political adviser to the Congress president."

Trivedi's allegation come days after Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said the central government was running a "loot and escape" flagship scheme for bank fraudsters.

BRIEFLY

CHHATTISGARH

6 dead, 3 injured in Raipur mishap

Raipur: Six women died and three others were injured in a road accident in Chhattisgarh's Abhanpur Wednesday. The women, residents of Bhilai, were going to Rajim for Maghi Punni festivities. **ENS**

JHARKHAND

Top Maoist operative killed

Ranchi: A top Maoist operative, said to be involved in killing at least 15 security personnel in Jharkhand, was killed in a gunfight with security forces on Wednesday, police said. CPI (Maoist) leader Ravinder Ghanjhu was killed in an operation by police and CRPF. **ENS**

Stopped at airport: Mishra

Ranchi: BJP's Kapil Mishra Wednesday alleged on Twitter that Jharkhand Police was not allowing him to leave Ranchi airport. He had landed there to meet the kin of 17-year-old Rupesh Kumar Pandey in Hazaribagh, who was allegedly killed on February 6. **ENS**

NEW DELHI

900 exhibitors at DefExpo 2022

New Delhi: DefExpo, the government's biennial defence manufacturing event, to be held in March, has got a confirmation from over 900 exhibitors, officials said. **ENS**

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHANKAR VIHAR
(NEAR MAHIPALPUR) DELHI CANTT-10
TELE NO – 011-26153559/8
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
EOI is solicited from the leading vendors for supply and installation of Water Cooler 500 Ltrs with sensor. Details for the above and EOI form are available at school counter against DD/POS machine/UPI of ₹ 500/- each. Forms duly filled be submitted by 28 Feb 2022.
Chairman

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि० ई-निविदा सूचना सं०-14/वि०जा०पा०ख०/आगरा/2021-22 के समय विस्तार हेतु कोरिजेण्डम का प्रकाशन E-Tender Notice No. 14/ECTD/Agra/2021-22 पर अंकित ई-निविदायें जिनकी ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण सं०-38/वि०जा०पा०ख०/आ/2021-22, 39/वि०जा०पा०ख०/आ/2021-22 एवं 40/वि०जा०पा०ख०/आ/2021-22 है, जो कि दिनांक 16.02.2022 समय 12:00 बजे प्राप्त कर दिनांक 17.02.2022 समय 12:00 बजे खोली जानी थी। अपरिहार्य कारणों से उक्त निविदाओं की तिथि व समय को विस्तारित किया जाता है जिसमें निविदाओं को प्राप्त करने की तिथि 23.02.2022 समय 12:00 बजे एवं निविदा को खोलने की तिथि 23.02.2022 समय 15:00 बजे (03:00 बजे अपरान्ह) निर्धारित किया जाता है। अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेगी। निविदा सम्बन्धित विवरण विभागीय वेबसाइट http://etender.up.nic.in से भी प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाएं" हस्ता/-अधिशासी अभियन्ता (जानपद) आगरा पत्रांक-395/वि०जा०पा०ख०/आगरा दिनांक 16.02.2022

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)
Email id: eemah-phe-cg@nic.in Telephone:- 07723-223731
क्र. 362/व.ले.लि/जि.ज.स्व.मि./का.अ./2021/महासमुन्द दिनांक : 20.01.2022
ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (द्वितीय/तृतीय आमंत्रण)
एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
कार्य का नाम:- महासमुन्द जिले के विभिन्न ग्रामों में जल जीवन मिशन अन्तर्गत सिंगल विलेज तथा मल्टी विपेज में शामिल रेट्रोफिटिंग नल जल प्रदाय योजनाओं के समस्त कार्य।

निविदा क्रमांक व दिनांक	सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)
1	2	3	4
566/20-01-2022	90976	ग्राम अरण्ड विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा	73.88
567/20-01-2022	91110	ग्राम भुतहाबाहरा विकासखण्ड बसना	39.87
568/20-01-2022	90978	ग्राम करांभावना विकासखण्ड बसना	38.02
569/20-01-2022	90979	ग्राम अछोला विकासखण्ड महासमुन्द	118.46
570/20-01-2022	90980	ग्राम खडसा विकासखण्ड महासमुन्द	65.53
571/20-01-2022	90981	ग्राम मोंगरा विकासखण्ड महासमुन्द	98.02
572/20-01-2022	90982	ग्राम साल्हेभाठा विकासखण्ड महासमुन्द	46.83
573/20-01-2022	90984	ग्राम मोरधा विकासखण्ड महासमुन्द	56.21
574/20-01-2022	91038	ग्राम मुरकी विकासखण्ड महासमुन्द	59.55
575/20-01-2022	91043	ग्राम नवापारा विकासखण्ड महासमुन्द	46.62
576/20-01-2022	91049	ग्राम परसदा विकासखण्ड महासमुन्द	88.53
577/20-01-2022	91059	ग्राम मुडियाडीह विकासखण्ड महासमुन्द	59.76
578/20-01-2022	91064	ग्राम सौरम विकासखण्ड महासमुन्द	83.13
579/20-01-2022	91065	ग्राम मुडमार विकासखण्ड महासमुन्द	47.46
580/20-01-2022	91066	ग्राम उमरदा विकासखण्ड महासमुन्द	52.85
581/20-01-2022	91067	ग्राम बोंदानवापाली विकासखण्ड सरायपाली	135.61

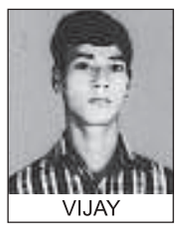
2. उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यो की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।
3. निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 21.02.2022 सायं. 5.30 बजे तक तथा निविदा खुलने का दिनांक 25.02.2022.
स्वा/-
कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, महासमुन्द
67870

CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
E-mail ID:jkcivilaviation@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS NO.CAW- 01 OF 2022.
JAMMU, 12 FEB,2022.
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, E-Tender for the Maintenance Contract of two helicopters (one Bell 407 Helicopter, VT-L.JK and one Agusta-109E Helicopter, VT-JKA), are invited from reputed and registered aviation Maintenance Organizations, duly approved by the DGCA as per CAR-145, for the term of two years w.e.f. 01.04.2022 with an option for renewal/extension on same term & conditions for the period of Six months, after approval is granted by the competent authority.

Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	12/02/2022 03:30 PM
Period of Downloading of Documents	12/02/2022 06:30 PM
Date of pre- Bid Meeting	15/02/2022 02:00 PM
Start Date of submission of bids	16/02/2022 02:00 PM
Last date of Submission of bids	22/02/2022 05:00 PM
Date of Opening Technical bid	25/02/2022 02:00 PM

"Instruction for Online Bid Submission"
1. The tender document along with other Terms and Conditions of the NIT and relevant documents can be downloaded from the Union Territory Website http://jktenders.gov.in
2. The tender shall be deposited in electronic format on the Union Territory website http://jktenders.gov.in.
3. The tender uploaded on the website will be opened on 25-02-2022 at 02:00 PM or any other subsequent date convenient to the Tenderer/Committee in the Office Chamber of Director Finance, Civil Aviation Department, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Civil Secretariat, Room No. 3/50, Jammu.
4. The complete bidding process will be online.
Director Finance,
Civil Aviation Department
E-file No. CAW/Estt/161/2021-5
JAMMU, 12 FEB, 2022
DIPJ-13067

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
4/1, Siri Institutional Area,
August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
Email: warehouse@nic.in, Tel: 26524100
Warehousing for Everyone
No: CWC/MIS-HR Application/2016-12-2020 Date: 15.02.2022
Notice inviting bids
Central Warehousing Corporation invites bids for migration of data from old HRMS system to new HRMS system, training, hosting of Human Resource Management System (HRMS) application including payroll, CPF, pension, HR activities along with right to use of web-based application software on software as a service (SaaS) model for 15 locations in India.Further details may be seen and downloaded from Government e-Marketplace (GeM) vide bid no. GEM/2022/B/1954474 dated 15.02.2022 and response may be submitted online at GeM upto 1300 hrs. on 08.03.2022. All corrigenda/clarifications would be published on GeM only.
Group General Manager (System & Personnel)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

VIJAY
General public is hereby informed that one person Namely **Vijay S/o Gore Lal** R/o 353 Mother Dairy Budh Bazar, Narela Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from his House since 02.11.2021.In this regard, a case **DD No 122A dated 21.12.2021 has been registered at P.S. Narela Delhi.** The description of the missing / kidnapped person are as under.
Age: 26 years, **Height:** 5'8", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing :** Gray colour pant and black colour jacket. And Khaki Colour shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the kidnapped/missing person then please inform P.S. Narela, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in, providing clue about the person.
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
Sd/- SHO
Narela, Delhi
DP/1551/ON/2022 PH.011-27280435

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPED

Jyoti Jha
General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Jyoti Jha, **D/o:** Phool Jha, **R/o:** Pakki Gali No.8, Santosh ka Mkan Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. **Aged:** 17-1/2 years has been missing/kidnaped. In this Regard a case vide **FIR No.: 1132/2021, u/s 363 IPC Dated 28.12.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Samapur Badli, Delhi.** Her physical description is as under:
Height: 5'2" feet, **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Yellow Suit & Salwar.
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/kidnaped girl, may inform SHO, **Samapur Badli, Delhi** at **E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641**
S.H.O
P.S. Samapur Badli, Delhi
DP/1570/ON/2022 Ph.: 011-27854757,27854799

WESTERN RAILWAY-VADODARA
E TENDER NOTICE
For & on behalf of the President of India. Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction III, Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004, invites e-tender as per the details given below: **i) E-Tender No. :** DY.CE/C/III/BRC/CTD-DHAR/115 **ii) Name of the work :** Preparation of plan for Forest Diversion proposal as per Forest Conservation Act. -1980 for forest land with obtaining Stage-I & Stage-II clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forest (Govt. of India). Tree enumeration and obtaining forest department's permission for cutting of trees in Railway land In DHAR District in connection with CTD-DHAR new Line project. **iii) Approximate cost work :** Rs. 849.56 lakhs. **iv) Earnest Money to be deposited :** Rs. 5,74,800.00 **v) Availability of online Tender for bidding :** 08.03.2022 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Date of opening & Time :** 08.03.2022 at 15.30 hrs. **vi)** Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, Similar Nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit **www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.** BRC-241
Follow us: www.twitter.com/WesternRly

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
e-tender Notice No. 72 of 2021-22 (Open) - Engg/DDU
On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/ Engg/ DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.
Tender No. 40-DDU-DEN-HQ-21-22
(i) Name of work with its location : Construction of 6 Units transits in European Colony at DDU under ADEN/HQ/DDU. **(ii) Approx. cost of the work:** ₹ 17432281.84, **(iii) Earnest Money:** ₹ 237200.00, **(iv) Closing Date & time for submission of e-tender :** 11.03.2022, Up-to 12:00 hrs., **(v) Website particulars of e-tendering : www.ireps.gov.in**
Divisional Railway Manager,
Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhaya Division
PR/1689/DDU/Engg./T/21-22/36

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Ref. No. NFL/CO/ IMP/RFP/MOP/2022-23/01 Date: 17.02.2022
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR ENTERING INTO LONG TERM AGREEMENT/MoU WITH MANUFACTURERS OF MOP (FIRM QUANTITY- 2,00,000 MT).
For more details, visit our website- **www.nationalfertilizers.com, www.eprocure.gov.in** under open Tender category.
Last date of Submission of RFP – 21st March, 2022, 14:30 hrs.
Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, shall be published on above websites only.
Executive Director (Marketing)
@NFL_Kisan @nationalfertilizers National Fertilizer Limited

A.P.TOWNSHIP & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
4th Floor, Bus Bhavan, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
Request for Proposal Notification Dt: 14.02.2022
The RFP proposals invited for providing STPs in 37 locations in 7 packages i.e West Godavari, Guntur, Prakasam, Krishna, Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam & Kurnool Districts in Andhra Pradesh vide RFP.Notice.No.06 /CTO-I/APTIDCO/ 20-21, Dt:14.02.2022 and Ananthapuramu & Kadapa Districts vide in RFP. Notice.No.05/CTO-I/APTIDCO/20-21,Dt:14.02.2022 on E-Procurement Platform http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in if any other particulars please contact Contact CTO-I during office working hours.
Sd/- 14.02.2022, Managing Director, APTIDCO, Vijayawada.
DIPR No.635/PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt.16/02/2022

सी.एस.आई.आर – केन्द्रीय चर्म अनुसंधान संस्थान
CSIR-CENTRAL LEATHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद् Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
अडयार, चेन्नै, तमिलनाडु Adyar, Chennai - 600 020, Tamil Nadu
दूरभाष Telephone: 91 - 44 - 24437420, 24437193, 24437257, 24437162 ई–मेल Email :spo@clri.res.in
No.7(43)/2020/Pur, 28(17)/2021/Pur & 7(33)/2021/Pur Date: 15/02/2022
GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE
Director, CSIR - Central Leather Research Institute, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020, INDIA, (CLRI) invites encrypted bids on **gem.gov.in / etenders.gov.in** from manufacturers, their authorized distributors for purchase of items listed below. The tender is open for local suppliers in terms of Make in India, **Order No. P-45021/2/2017-PP (BE-II) dt 16th September, 2020 and Non-local suppliers (those not meeting the local content, Foreign OEM, Foreign principals or their authorized Indian agents)**

Sl. No.	Tender No. & CPP Portal / GEM Tender ID	Description of items	Qty.	Single/ Double bid	Tender Floated	Due Date & Time, Opening Date & Time
1.	7(43)/2020/Pur/T-183 & 2022_CSIR_105632_1	Supply, installation and commissioning of Flash Chromatography System	1 No.	Double Bid	CPP Portal	Due Dt - 14.03.2022 at 3.00 P.M Opening Dt - 15.03.2022 at 3.00 P.M
2.	7(33)/2021/Pur/T-196 & 2022_CSIR_105627_1	Supply, installation and commissioning of Multi-block PCR Machine	1 No.	Double Bid	CPP Portal	Due Dt - 14.03.2022 at 3.00 P.M Opening Dt - 15.03.2022 at 3.00 P.M
3.	28(17)/2021/Pur/T-184 & GEM/2022/B/1949629	Supply, installation and commissioning of Automated Microbial Identification and Sensitivity System with Susceptibility Testing Analyzer.	1 No.	Double Bid	GEM Portal - Pre-Bid conference on 21.02.2022 through MS-Teams. Link available in Tender document	Due Dt - 14.03.2022 at 3.00 P.M Opening Dt - 14.03.2022 at 3.30 P.M

The bid document can be downloaded from **www.etenders.gov.in / gem.gov.in & www.clri.org. Tenders should be submitted through CPP / GeM portal respectively as above.**
STORES & PURCHASE OFFICER
(For & on behalf of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)

ARMED FORCES MEDICAL STORES DEPOT, DELHI CANTT – 110010
1. The Commandant AFMSD Delhi Cantt- 110010, invites applications for inclusion in VENDOR DATABASE & PROFILING for FY 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 for supplying stores in following categories:
(a) Human medicines and veterinary drugs.
(b) Surgical consumables.
(c) Ophthalmology stores.
(d) Dental stores.
(e) Aseptic furniture.
(f) Orthopedic implant/ stores.
(g) Laboratory kits.
(h) Radiology films/ consumables.
(j) Non-Expendable medical and veterinary stores.
(k) General Stores.
(l) IT stores and computer peripherals.
(m) Supply of spares and repair of medical and veterinary equipment.
2. Application forms may be collected from **Reception office (Main Gate) of AFMSD Delhi Cantt, Sadar Bazar, New Delhi-110010 w.e.f. 18 Feb 2022 till 03 Mar 2022** upon production of a valid ID proof. Validity of registration will be from 01 Apr 2022 till 31 Mar 2024.
3. The completed application forms along with required documents, in sealed envelopes, will be accepted by post/ by hand at **Reception office (Main Gate) of AFMSD Delhi Cantt, w.e.f. 21 Feb 2022 till 07 Mar 2022.** Applications should be addressed to **Commandant, AFMSD Delhi Cantt-110010** and should be having a self addressed envelope having a postal stamp of Rs. 40 (Rupees Forty only) for receiving receipt.
4. All applications must be marked **"VENDOR DATABASE & PROFILING"** 2022-24 on top of the envelope.
5. Vendors already registered for FY 2020-2021 and FY 2021-2022 will have to apply afresh and no renewal application will be entertained.
Please note that: Commandant AFMSD Delhi Cantt, reserves the right to accept/reject any application without assigning any reason.

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

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

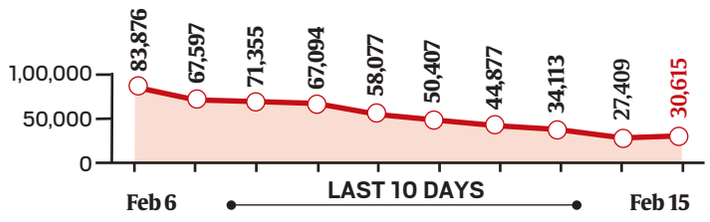
DASHBOARD, AS ON FEB 15

716 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

New cases	Active cases	Deaths
30,615	3,70,240	514

Weekly CFR: 0.30% | Overall CFR: 1.22% | Total deaths: 5,09,872

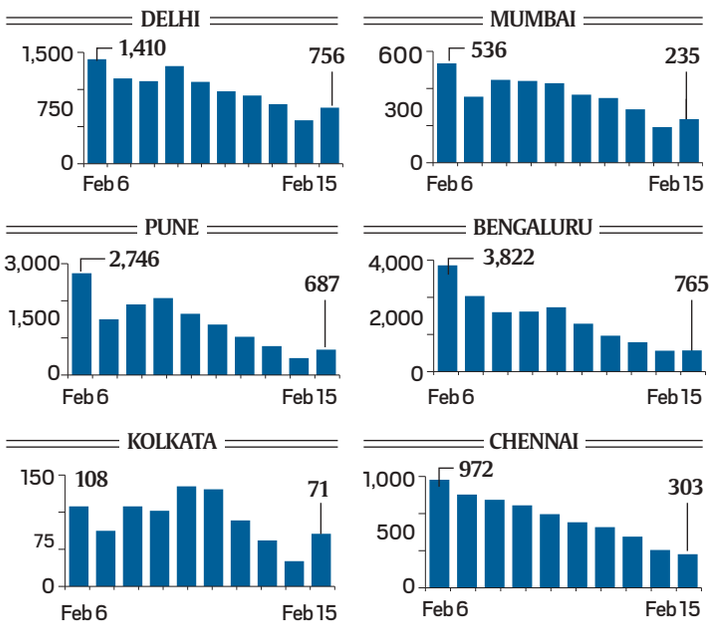
NEW CASES, DAILY



SURGE IN THE STATES

State	ON FEBRUARY 15			Weekly positivity
	New cases	Active cases	Deaths	
Kerala	11,776	1,24,603	20.48%	304
Maharashtra	2,831	30,547	3.62%	36
Mizoram	1,616	11,469	25.40%	1
Karnataka	1,405	26,866	3.20%	26
Rajasthan	1,387	17,976	6.45%	12

CASES IN THE CITIES, LAST 10 DAYS

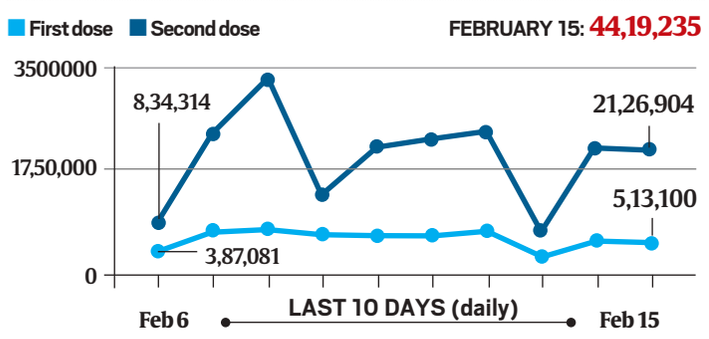


TOTAL TESTS 75,42,84,979

TESTS ON FEB 15	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	OVERALL POSITIVITY
12,51,677	3.26%	5.66%

INDIA TOTAL DOSES 173,86,81,675

(Adults 1st dose: 90,57,00,325; 2nd: 74,47,14,995; 15-18 age group 1st dose: 5,27,06,855; 2nd: 1,75,85,751; precautionary: 1,79,73,749)



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Admissions open at all our regional centres
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For more details: +91-9910812719 | www.shubhraranjan.com

SIMPLY PUT

Ukraine: why Germany matters

Russia has announced withdrawal of some troops from the Ukraine border, but US concerns remain around the Russia-to-Germany Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline. A look at the economics and the geopolitics involved.

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 16

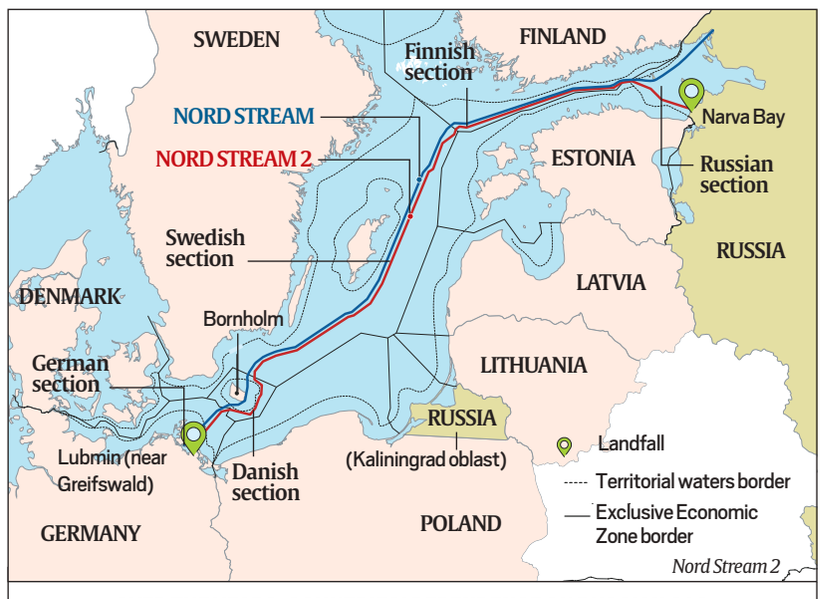
THE UKRAINE crisis appears to have turned a corner with Russia declaring it has withdrawn some troops from the border, but an elephant in the room remains. Called Nord Stream 2, it is an undersea gas pipeline from Russia to Germany, but is perceived by some as a geopolitical weapon.

Ukraine is angry with the pipeline because it bypasses the country and thus denies it transit fees for Russia's gas exports. It has also raised fears that Russia could cut off gas supplies to Ukraine without endangering its own gas exports to Europe. It could give Russia complete dominance over gas supplies to Europe, and leverage and influence over these countries. It has also awakened old fears in some countries about Russia and Germany coming together against the rest of Europe.

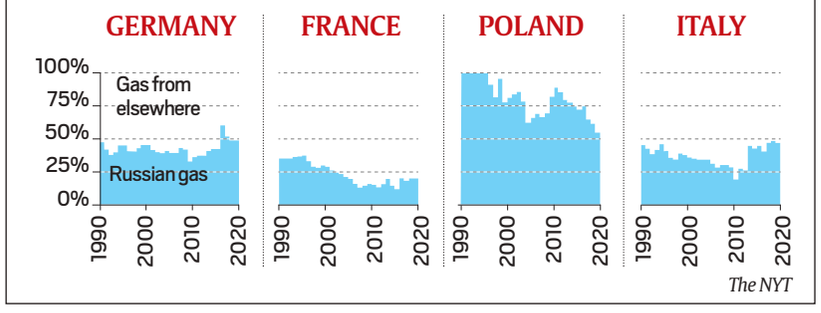
Some EU members have security concerns about Russian presence in their waters, required to guard the 1,222-km pipeline that goes under the Baltic Sea past Finland, Sweden, and Poland before entering Germany.



A section of pipeline is lowered to the Baltic Sea floor by a pipelaying vessel near Ruegen island, Germany. *Nord Stream 2*



OVER THE YEARS, COUNTRIES' DEPENDENCE ON RUSSIAN GAS



America's concerns

The US believes the pipeline could give Russia too much leverage and influence over Europe, increases the threat of a Russian invasion of Ukraine, and hinders its own efforts to contain Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

The US has been opposed to the project from the start, but Germany under then Chancellor Angela Merkel pushed ahead with it. Despite the strain in Moscow-Berlin ties over the Alexei Navalny affair – Merkel blamed the Kremlin for the attack on the Russian opposition leader – the $11-billion pipeline was completed in September 2021; it it is awaiting German certification to become operational.

Even before the Ukraine crisis, the US had imposed some sanctions against it, although in May 2021, the Biden Administration waived two sanctions that would have torpedoed it entirely, in a bid to give diplomacy a chance.

In July, President Joe Biden and Merkel sat down to talk, agreeing in broad terms that Russia would not be allowed to use the pipeline as a weapon against Ukraine. But Merkel also said the two sides had "come to different assessments as to what this project entails".

The two leaders were seen to have prevented a breakdown of the transatlantic alliance that US sanctions against Germany and other supporters of the pipeline in Europe — notably France, Austria and the Netherlands — might have brought about. But some also saw it as a surrender by the US.

Over the last few weeks, Biden and other US officials have been vocal that if Russia invades Ukraine, Nord Stream 2 would be among the first casualties . "If Russia invades, that means tanks or troops crossing the border of Ukraine again, then there will be – there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2," Biden said during a joint news conference with the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. "We will bring an end to it ... I promise you we will be able to do it."

According to some analysts, the US sees the coming together of Russia and Germany in an economic partnership as a precursor to upending its role as the guarantor of security in Europe, and Nord Stream 2 as a threat to an arrangement that has existed from the end of World War II and the start of the Cold War.

Scholz's diplomacy

Scholz, who undertook the US visit in response to criticism at home and abroad that he has been "missing in action" during the Ukraine crisis even as French President Emmanuel Macron took the lead with his shuttle diplomacy between Kyiv and Moscow, held out the reassurance that Germany was not about to break away from its NATO allies.

"We're one voice, and do things together and we made it very clear if there was military aggression against Ukraine, this will entail severe consequences that we agreed upon together," Scholz said. But it was noticed that he did not utter the word Nord Stream during his visit.

Like Macron, Scholz also held talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and proceeded next to Moscow for talks with Putin. Even as they reiterated their different positions and demands, , Russia announced on the same day that it had "partially" withdrawn troops from the Ukrainian border. It is unclear if Russia's troop withdrawal had anything to do with Scholz, but it has helped salvage some of his image as a leader of Europe.

US, EU and gas

The US's insistent opposition to Nord Stream 2 over three administrations — Obama, Trump and now Biden – has revived discussion on an old question asked whenever the US enters an arena of conflict – "is it all about the oil", or in this case gas.

The EU imports less than 5% of its gas from the US (the top four suppliers are Russia at 41%, Norway at 16%, Algeria at 7.6% and Qatar at 5.2%, according to 2019 figures). But as a net exporter of LNG since the middle of the last decade, the US wants to expand its markets and reach in the continent. According to one estimate, 23% of US exports of gas are to the EU now, and in 2021, hit a high of 21 billion cubic metres (bcm). Among the buyers are France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal and host of smaller countries. US exports are seen by some as vital to the diversification of Europe's energy supplies, and its energy security. In January, in a war-like atmosphere, Europe imported more gas from the US than from Russia.

Nord Stream capacity

Nord Stream 2 is an expansion of Nord Stream, which became functional in 2011. Like the first pipeline, Nord Stream 2 comprises two pipelines with the identical combined carrying capacity of 55 bcm of gas per year. Russia is reported to have exported 168 bcm to Europe through this and other pipelines transiting through Ukraine in 2020. Germany was the biggest buyer at 56 bcm, Italy bought 20 bcm and the Netherlands 11 bcm.

Russia's economy is mainly dependent on exports of oil and gas, and Europe is its largest buyer. Nord Stream 2 can cut both ways. This is perhaps why Scholz was moved enough to say it was his "damned duty" to prevent war.

90 years ago, the sacrifice of Tarapur's 34

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, FEBRUARY 16

BIHAR CHIEF Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday said February 15 would henceforth be commemorated as "Shahid Diwas" in memory of the 34 freedom fighters who were killed by police in Tarapur town (now subdivision) of Bihar's Munger district 90 years ago. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had referred to the Tarapur massacre in his *Mann ki Baat* radio address of January 2021.

What happened

On February 15, 1932, a group of young freedom fighters planned to hoist an Indian national flag at Thana Bhavan in Tarapur. Police were aware of the plan, and several officers were present at the spot. Around 2 pm, even as the police carried out a brutal lathicharge, one Gopal Singh succeeded in raising the flag at Thana Bhavan. A 4,000-strong crowd pelted the police with stones, injuring an officer of the civil administration.



Statues of the 13 identified freedom fighters in Tarapur. *Express*

The police responded by opening indiscriminate fire on the crowd. After about 75 rounds were fired, and 34 bodies were found at the spot. Only 13 could be identified, however: Vishwanath Singh (Chhatrahar), Mahipal Singh (Ramchua), Sheetal Chamar (Asarganj), Sukul Sonar (Tarapur), Santa Pasi (Tarapur), Jhonti Jha (Satkhariya), Singheshwar Rajhans (Bihma), Badri Mandal (Dhanpura), Basant Dhanuk (Laudhia), Rameshwar Mandal (Padbhada), Gaibi Singh (Maheshpur), Asharfi Mandal (Kastikri), and Chandi Mahto (Chorgaon). The other 21 remain unidentified.

The recognition

The Samyukta Socialist Party MLA from Tarapur, B N Prashant, first sought recognition for the freedom fighters in 1967. But it was only in 1984 that the Bihar government earmarked 100 sq feet for a memorial in front of Thana Bhavan, and installed a marble plaque with the names of the 13 identified dead.

Under the Nitish government, 13 statues were erected. On Tuesday, the CM announced that another 21 statues, symbolising the unidentified dead, would soon be erected.

The Chief Minister's announcement is an attempt to recognise and to take pride in the modern history of the state. The mention of the police firing by the Prime Minister provided urgency to the project to develop and beautify the site. It has also been pointed out that those killed by the police were mainly members of Scheduled Castes and OBCs, a fact that political parties would like to appropriate.

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Rise and fall of Gujarat's ABG Shipyard, now under probe for fraud

AVINASH NAIR
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 16

ONCE CONSIDERED a powerhouse in shipbuilding with an order book of Rs 16,600 crore, Gujarat's ABG Shipyard is now under probe for fraud. On a complaint by State Bank of India, the CBI recently booked ABG Shipyard, its directors, and ABG International Pvt Limited for allegedly causing losses of Rs 22,842 crore to a consortium of 28 banks.

A decade of losses

Until the end of 2012-13, ABG Shipyard was thriving, with a net profit of Rs 107 crore. The slide started the following year, with a loss of Rs 199 crore. By March 2016, its net loss had mounted to Rs 3,704 crore, up from Rs 897 crore in 2014-15. Revenues had fallen to Rs 37 crore, from Rs 401 crore a year earlier.

The company undertook a debt restructuring exercise in 2013-14. In its annual report that year, it cited cancellation of new ship/vessel orders, reduced lending from banks, high borrowing cost, low capacity utilisation of the Dahej shipyard in Surat, and the expiry of the Centre's shipbuilding subsidy scheme in 2007.

An independent auditor's report, annexed with ABG Shipyard's annual report for 2015-16, mentions legal proceedings by some creditors, and a showcause notice from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Mumbai that alleged fraud by ABG employees. The report said the auditor and the management had not noticed or reported any fraud.

Growth

Registered with the Registrar of Companies in Ahmedabad, ABG Shipyard Ltd was incorporated as Magdalla Shipyard Pvt Ltd in March 1985. It became ABG Shipyard Pvt Ltd in May 1995 and ABG Shipyard Ltd in June 1995.

Between 1990, when it delivered its first ship, and 2013, it built over 165 ships, 80% of them for international customers. In 2000, it got its first government order to build two inceptor boats for the Coast Guard; in 2011, the Centre gave it a licence to build defence ships including submarines.



ABG Shipyard in Magdalla, Surat. *Hanif Malek*

By February 2012, ABG Shipyard had an order book of Rs 16,600 crore. Its main shipyard was spread over 35 acres on the banks of the Tapi in Magdalla, Surat. It later set up a second shipyard in Dahej, Bharuch, 150 km from Magdalla, following an MoU with Gujarat Maritime Board for long-term lease of land and waterfront usage.

The company signed MoUs for large projects at Vibrant Gujarat summits, including one of Rs 2500 crore for a third shipyard.

Acquisitions & subsidiaries

ABG Shipyard acquired UAE-based Crossocean Ship Repair Limited, FZE, Fujairah on January 22, 2006, but sold it off in March 2008. In 2007-08, ABG acquired Vipul Shipyard adjacent to its Magdalla shipyard.

A key acquisition was of Western India Shipyard Limited (WISL), Goa, through a deal with ICICI bank and other lenders. ABG held a 60.15% controlling stake in WISL, which repaired ships of the Navy, Coast Guard and private players. It recorded its highest turnover of Rs 114 crore in 2010-11, before slipping into the red in 2012-13. The company suspended ship repair operations in 2016. In 2015-16, its promoters decided to disinvest from it.

ABG International Pvt Ltd was the holding company. ABG Shipyard had a controlling stake in Eleventh Land Developers Pvt Ltd, ABG FPSO Pvt and Vipul Shipyard. At various points, it had over 55 subsidiary companies.

Seizure and liquidation

In 2007, ABG Shipyard had inked a Rs 50-crore MoU for a maritime university. On Monday, the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) on Monday took possession of 1.21 lakh sq m land allotted in Icchapore, Surat, for the university. "We have taken back possession of land as it was not used for the purpose allotted to the company," GIDC vice-chairman M Thennarasan said.

The plot had been allotted at Rs 700/ sq m, 50% of the prevailing premium price of Rs 1,400/ sq m, a concession red-flagged in the CAG report tabled in the Assembly in 2014. The CAG had also found the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) not taking action against the shipbuilder for non-payment of lease rental. GMB officials confirmed that dues from ABG Shipyard are still pending.

In an order on April 25, 2019 in *ICICI Bank vs ABG Shipyard*, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) ordered the liquidation of the company under Section 33 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. In December 2020, the NCLT's Ahmedabad bench allowed the liquidator to carry out private sale of assets, after an auction found no bidders. Apart from five ships, the assets being liquidated are 92,000 sq m residential land in Bharuch and Gaviar, 4.14 lakh sq m industrial land near Magdalla port, and 27 acres agricultural land in Diamond Harbour, Kolkata.

INPUTS FROM KAMAAL SAIYED, SURAT

WORDLY WISE

MUSIC IS TRULY UNIVERSAL AND HAS NO BOUNDARIES.

— BAPPI LAHIRI

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

NSE'S FAILURES

SEBI's order points to glaring governance lapses at stock exchange, calls for instituting checks and balances

LAST WEEK, THE Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) passed its final order in a sordid saga, involving the country's largest stock exchange. The order, strongly censuring senior officials of the NSE, including its former MD and CEO Chitra Ramkrishna, throws light on a series of governance lapses at the stock exchange. The stock exchange regulator has levied fines on the parties involved in acts of impropriety, and also barred NSE from introducing any new products for a six-month period. Given the scale of misgovernance, including the violation of several rules and regulations, however, harsher penalties were called for. More worryingly, the episode has exposed the absence of checks and balances at the stock exchange.

SEBI's order revolves around the irregularities in the appointment of Anand Subramanian who held key posts at the stock exchange between 2013 and 2016. It notes that Subramanian was given "an exorbitantly higher compensation/salary package", despite him having "no relevant experience in the position in which he was appointed." The investigation has found Ramkrishna guilty of giving Subramanian "frequent, arbitrary and disproportionate increases in the compensation". But this, as the probe report reveals, was more than corruption by individuals at the helm. That "concerns regarding delegation of substantial power" to Subramanian, who was merely a consultant, were not raised at the NSE board reveals serious institutional failings. It's mystifying that Ramakrishna shared confidential information such as "organisational structure, dividend scenario, financial results, human resources policy and related issues, response to regulator" with an "unknown person" through an unofficial email id. This unknown person "significantly influenced the decision making" of the stock exchange's MD and CEO. According to Ramkrishna, the unknown person was one Yogi Paramahansa, who was "maybe largely dwelling in the Himalayan ranges". A forensic investigation by E&Y has, however, revealed that this "unknown" person and Subramanian were the same — a finding that the NSE has concurred with.

These are not crimes of omission. The SEBI order exposes the complicity of the board in the unseemly episode. It notes that the board was "aware of the exchange of confidential information" with an unknown person. However, the NSE and its board took "a conscious decision to not report the matter to SEBI and keep the matter under wraps." It is apparent that the board, packed with well-known figures in financial circles, failed to discharge its duties. Steps must be immediately taken to ensure that such failings do not recur and aspersions are not raised on NSE's status as an independent institution.

ONE MORE EXIT

Ashwani Kumar has flagged what's wrong with the Congress. No marks for guessing whether the party is listening

ASHWANI KUMAR HAS had a solid career in public service, mostly under Congress governments. He was appointed the youngest Solicitor General of India in 1991, served multiple terms in the Rajya Sabha and as a Union minister. Kumar was also seen as being close to party president Sonia Gandhi, a veteran "old guard leader." His decision to leave the party in the middle of a crucial set of Assembly elections is likely to be dismissed by some within the party as "opportunism". Indeed, a leader has taken a swipe at him saying he wants a Rajya Sabha seat. Yet, the issues Kumar has flagged — he's not the first one to do so — reinforce that the reason so many leaders, young and old, have left the Grand Old Party is that it has ossified, is ill-equipped to take on the BJP juggernaut, and has little space for those who ask questions.

"The Congress has ceased to be the mouthpiece of national aspirations and does not promise a transformative leadership to the nation... The internal processes of the party diminished individual leaders, which collectively debilitated the party. Hope for correctives stands belied," Kumar told this newspaper. The reasons are not far to seek. No visible introspection despite multiple electoral defeats and calls to do so by a group of 23 senior Congress members (G-23); an ideological moving away from the centre on many issues; a disconnect from key protest movements; inability to attract allies; all have cast an unflattering light on the party's top leadership. Even after two resounding defeats in Lok Sabha elections, the leadership crisis seems interminable. For much of her current term since 2019, Sonia Gandhi has served as the "interim president". Despite calls for internal democracy and "collective leadership structure", the party seems unable to look beyond "the family" for a leader to steer it. The decline in the Congress's electoral fortunes has been matched by its ideological confusion on issues like Article 370 and the Ram Mandir. In state elections, erstwhile allies— like the SP in Uttar Pradesh and the RJD in Bihar — seem to view the party as a drag.

Being out of office for the better part of a decade does reduce the ability of a political party to provide inducements to its leaders. But the Congress leadership's failures are of a different order. It does not seem to realise that the contours of Indian politics have shifted substantially. Its central pole is now a formidable, ideologically driven BJP, not the Grand Old Party. A parliamentary democracy, especially in a country as diverse as India, requires a robust national opposition. The Congress, even in its current state, remains a party with a pan-India presence. To play its role as the prime Opposition force, however, it will need to apply several correctives. For starters, the party's top leadership must listen to voices that demand change as well as come up with a narrative that captures the voters' imaginations and strikes a chord with their aspirations. It could begin by not trashing those who leave -- but listen to what they say.

KING OF DISCO

Bappi Lahiri introduced a vibrant new sound to Hindi film music. He showcased his versatility in unforgettable melodies

IN DISCO DANCER, a 1982 film written by Rahi Masoom Reza, protagonist Anil (Mithun Chakraborty) – a wedding and street singer from Mumbai's (then Bombay) slums – metamorphoses into Jimmy, the disco dancer, after being spotted by a talent manager. On stage, he plays the guitar, and sings "*Zindagi mera gaana, main isi ka deewana*… I am a disco dancer," dressed in a glittering jumpsuit. The crowd goes berserk, gyrating along with the synth heavy tune as Jimmy is propelled to stardom. The country was still in the era of the "angry young man". But Jimmy took on the system with something different: His song and dance, especially disco, a genre that was just about finding its feet in India. Giving music to Jimmy's song was Bappi Lahiri, who passed away on Wednesday.

With *Disco Dancer*, Lahiri was attempting to redefine Hindi film music after beginning his career with melody-driven pieces in *Zakhmee*, *Chalte Chalte* and *Aap ki Khatir*. The film's songs captured the imagination of people in the Soviet Union and China, countries that wouldn't allow anything Western and American inside their boundaries, and made Mithun Chakraborty a household name there. Even today Russians sing songs from *Disco Dancer*. Lahiri followed it up with songs like "Jawani jaan-e-man", "Raat baaki" (*Namak Halaal*), "Zoobi zoobi" (*Dance Dance*), "Yaar bina chain" (*Saaheb*), the songs of *Sharaabi* among others. There was also an attempt at composing ghazals with "Kisi nazar ko" (*Aitbaar*). He worked extensively with Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, his maternal uncle Kishore Kumar, Usha Uthup and Alisha Chinai.

A lover of fish curry and gold chains, Lahiri never paid much heed to accusations of plagiarism and basked in the glory that his career and the love of masses offered him. He made it to the jury of the Grammys in 2012 — the first Indian musician to do so. The king of disco will be fondly remembered.

Ukraine on the brink

Though war hysteria has been dialled down, differences between Russia and NATO remain



M K BHADRAKUMAR

OUR EMBASSY IN Kyiv has notified that given "the uncertainties of the current situation" in Ukraine, Indian nationals "may consider leaving temporarily." It reads like a precautionary step judiciously pre-empting accusations of apathy. At the same time, the war hysteria appears to be petering out. There was never going to be any Russian invasion, after all. Rather, the Russian objective is — has been — to prevent Ukraine's induction as a NATO member, which could bring the alliance's missiles to within five minutes of striking distance from Moscow and that unhappy land's evanescence as a strategic buffer.

Yet, do not rule out a Russian intervention in Ukraine. Arguably, there may even be an inevitability about it if Washington continues to ignore Moscow's key demands for security guarantee — NATO's non-expansion, non-deployment of strike weapons that are a threat to Russia and, in general, Europe reverting to the military and military-technical configurations of 1997 positions when Russia and NATO signed the Founding Act. But the good part is, intervention remains a hypothesis as of now.

The Indian advisory comes at a time when tensions appear to be easing somewhat, following US President Joe Biden's call with Russian President Vladimir Putin on February 12. The torrential flow of (good) news since then signals a shared interest to pull back from the precipice as if protagonists peered into the abyss below and didn't like what they saw. Putin has decided to take up certain proposals Biden made to him, although they "did not really address the central, key elements" of Russia's security guarantee. In essence, the Kremlin is responding positively to the White House offer to keep the dialogue track running. Of course, Moscow is also interested in following up the US offer to discuss secondary issues such as measures to address the problems of land-based short- and intermediate-range missiles and proposals on a range of measures to reduce military risks, confidence-building measures and military transparency (which are actually almost entirely old Russian proposals that Washington had previously ignored).

At a Kremlin meeting on Monday, Foreign Minister Lavrov told Putin that "there is always a chance" to come to terms with the US on the core issues, and "our opportunities are far from exhausted… I think we should still continue to pursue and build on them at this point." This breaking news evoked a rare positive utterance from the White House: "We (US) are actively working to reach a diplomatic solution, to de-escalate the crisis… The path for diplomacy remains available if Russia chooses to engage constructively… It remains unclear which path Russia will choose to take… Clearly, we would prefer the path of diplomacy." Lavrov has since spoken to the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the latter's initiative. The Russian readout says: "On our part, it was stressed that it is necessary to continue joint work… (Lavrov) called for a pragmatic dialogue on the entire spectrum of issues raised by Russia, with a focus on the principle of indivisible security."

> The current situation is still fraught with grave uncertainties. The 50-minute press conference at the Kremlin Tuesday evening after a three-hour meeting between Putin and visiting German Chancellor Olaf Schulz clarified that the tensions in Russia's relations with the West cannot dissipate easily as the two sides radically differ on the fundamental question of what constitutes security. Simply put, Washington insists on the primacy of absolute security that allows the right of individual states to choose ways of ensuring their own security and joining any military unions or alliances. Moscow invokes various post-Cold War European covenants on collective security, which enshrine the key principles of equal and indivisible security.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defence Ministry also announced on Tuesday that the Russian troops that have completed their drills in Belarus will begin returning to their places of regular deployment. Similarly, the troops of Russia's Southern Military District have begun returning to their permanent bases too after drills in Crimea.

This hints at a critical mass accruing at the diplomatic level. Indeed, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told CNN that Putin is "willing to negotiate." It is tempting to conjecture that the dark clouds are dissipating and the sun is struggling to break through. So, is the Indian travel advisory a case of delayed reflex action?

The answer is, the current situation is still fraught with grave uncertainties. The 50-minute press conference at the Kremlin Tuesday evening after a three-hour meeting between Putin and visiting German Chancellor Olaf Schulz clarified that the tensions in Russia's relations with the West cannot dissipate easily as the two sides radically differ on the fundamental question of what constitutes security. Simply put, Washington insists on the primacy of absolute security that allows the right of individual states to choose ways of ensuring their own security and joining any military unions or alliances. On the contrary, Moscow invokes various post-Cold War European covenants on collective security, which enshrine the key principles of equal and indivisible security and uphold the liability of every country not to strengthen one's security at the expense of the security of other countries.

This contradiction cannot be wished away and it poses a conceptual hurdle to reaching common ground apropos of Moscow's December proposals on security guarantees. Equally, perhaps, there is a criticality in the situation within Ukraine itself, which is hidden from view. The regime is shaky and is adrift, speaking in multiple voices, and the political climate remains combustible with the rising insecurity and growing tendencies of authoritarianism. Kyiv balks at attempts to force it to implement the Minsk agreements, especially its simplified version known as the Steinmeier Formula (named after the present German president) calling for elections to be held in the separatist-held region under OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe) supervision and providing for a self-governing status for those territories. Russia complains that the West failed to put pressure on Kyiv to move in that direction.

Then there are the dark forces of neo-Nazi extreme nationalists with covert external support who wield big street power and are virulently anti-Russian. What form a backlash may take is the "X" factor. The worst-case scenario could be ethnic cleansing or genocide directed against ethnic Russians (which is already happening sporadically). Equally, the fascist forces may stage some incident against the self-proclaimed Donbass republics and force Russia to intervene to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe on its borders.

Moscow has kept ready the parliamentary approval for recognising the two breakaway Donbass republics just in case a need arises. From the Russian perspective, the two most powerful warriors are patience and time, to borrow the words of Leo Tolstoy. Things are on a razor's edge. India's stance at the Quad ministerial last week in Canberra is commendable, as apparent from External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's reported hesitancy to identify with the US hyperbole about "Russian aggression" and to the strong advocacy to insert a Russia template into its so-called Indo-Pacific strategy. According to Australian media, if the Quad joint statement failed to condemn Russia, it was solely on account of India's rejection of it.

The writer is a former diplomat who worked on the Iran-Pakistan-Afghanistan desk in the Ministry of External Affairs

THE GIRLS AT THE COLLEGE GATE

Rising anxiety over visible assertion of Muslim women spills over in hijab ban



SHAYMA S

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER scene of intimidation for the hundreds of Muslim girls and women across Karnataka who find themselves locked out of schools and colleges, threatened, isolated, and even segregated into classrooms. They face a challenging route in the courtroom as well, with the Karnataka High Court placing an interim stay on all religious clothing in classrooms. The court has effectively suspended the fundamental rights of a group of citizens, ensuring that until the case is resolved, the girls must choose to remain at home or step into classrooms without what they believe is an essential part of faith and modesty.

Is the question here of religious freedom; or of the hijab, of "uniformity" or of uniforms? Is it about the fact that coastal Karnataka is a heavily polarised region, where organisations like the Bajrang Dal and VHP have played off communities against each other while sowing the seeds for Hindutva majoritarianism? Right-wing supporters argue that the hijab violates uniform, and consequently, uniformity. The Karnataka government order says that students cannot wear clothes that violate public law, order and integrity. Can a tilak, Sikh turban or hijab violate public order? As one of the girls from Kundapura asked: Does my hijab make any noise?

The advocate for the students of a Kundapura college in the Karnataka HC case pointed out that religious symbols have always been a part of public life in India, alluding to the Indian model of positive secularism rather than the European model of negating religion from public life. Most fundamentally, on grounds of Articles 14, 21, 25 and the promise of the Right to Education enshrined in the Constitution, denying access to Muslim girls merely because they wear a headscarf is patently unconstitutional and illegal. Several judgments have defended the right to wear religious symbols in educational institutions, and the essentiality of hijab in Islam has been proven in courts.

> The advocate for the students of a Kundapura college in the Karnataka High Court case pointed out that religious symbols have always been a part of public life in India, alluding to the unique Indian model of positive secularism rather than the European model of negating religion from public life.

With exams in two months, it appears that the entire burden of maintaining "public order" and defusing "polarisation" has fallen on young Muslim women. The state has failed to maintain public order, allowing young men to heckle these girls, harass them and physically corner them as they try to enter their schools. The dispute has been projected as a "controversy" or a "row" of competing protests. But the Muslim girls have been observing hijab and attending school and college for years. They have not protested their classmates wearing saffron scarves, or the BJP leaders who wear religious symbols in Parliament. All they seek to do is enter their classrooms.

Some commentators and BJP lawmakers in the state have begun to argue that the girls are mere "pawns" in the hands of some organisations. This is an age-old argument. Muslim women, in particular, are seen as incapable of choosing for themselves — whether it was in the case of the Shaheen Bagh protests, where it was alleged without any proof that the residents of the area were being paid Rs 500 each to sit there; or Hadiya, the homeopathy doctor in Kerala who embraced Islam and was put under house arrest. The urge to rescue Muslim women, often from Muslim men, who are portrayed as oppressive and violently orthodox, is dominant in Hindutva discourse. But Muslim women who enter higher education and speak for themselves are a double threat; impossible to "rescue" and difficult to silence.

So, perhaps, it is not about the hijab, or about public order. Perhaps, it is the rising anxiety over Muslims and other minorities in the public sphere, who are fighting their way into educational institutions and jobs.

In 1960, a six-year-old Black girl, Ruby Bridges, became the first girl from her community to enter an all-white school in New Orleans, US. To be able to do so, she needed field marshals to defend her. Do we wish that Muslim women in hijab be heckled, attacked and humiliated as they enter schools and colleges? All because they follow their faith, a right enshrined in the Constitution.

The writer is a researcher at JNU in law and governance

FEBRUARY 17, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO


INDIAN EXPRESS

Anjiah to quit as AP Chief Minister

ANJIAH TO QUIT

WITHIN MINUTES OF the arrival of the Union Industries Minister N D Tiwari and the AICC(I) general secretary G K Moopanar in Hyderabad, T Anjiah announced that he had informed the party high command of his desire to step down as chief minister. The two observers from Delhi drove from the Lake View guesthouse to the Praja Bhawan, the official residence of the CM for consultations. Emerging from the room while the discussions were on, Anjiah beckoned the reporters and made the announcement. He said that he communicated his desire to step down two days ago. He is likely to submit his resignation to the governor after the observers submit their report.

TEXTILE STRIKE

THE CENTRE AGREES with the Maharashtra government that there can be no talks with the trade union leader Datta Samant to end the textile workers strike. The stand of the Centre against the Antulay supporter was made clear by Commerce Minister Shivaraj Patil who also holds the textiles portfolio. The minister maintained that talks will have to be with "recognised unions" and not with "unrecognised people". He admitted that the Indian Cotton Mills Association had made some suggestions and they have been advised to hold talks with the recognised unions.

VIOLENCE IN PUNE

SPORADIC INCIDENTS OF violence were reported in Pune as Chief Minister Babasaheb Bhonsle addressed an all party peace meeting at the city's town hall.

FRUGAL NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND WILL close its high commission in Delhi to help lower the government's spending, Prime Minister Robert Muldoon said.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The problem is not a lack of means, but of will: relief is an easier political sell in the US, which is also believed to have blocked other countries from unfreezing funds."
— THE GUARDIAN

A case for specialists

Economic policymaking needs to be insulated from politics and vested interests of business. Breaches in NSE underline the need for experts in regulatory bodies



RAJAT KATHURIA AND MANSI KEDIA



C R Sasikumar

THE SUDDEN WITHDRAWAL of farm laws last year and the repeal of the land acquisition ordinance in 2015 are two examples of policy backsliding in an otherwise decent record of policy continuity since 1991. One might justifiably quibble over tariff increases over the last several budgets to promote Atmanirbhar Bharat, but the overall trajectory of tariffs has been downward and average tariffs are now below 10 per cent compared to over 400 per cent before 1991. However, there is no reason to believe that what has not happened in the past will not occur in the future. Given the fact that political input in economic policymaking is becoming dominant as regional and state-level issues assume overriding significance, it's perhaps time to consider sheltering economics from politics and vice versa. We might add for good measure that politicians and economists have a love-hate relationship; they can't do without each other, and yet politicians routinely mock economists as living in their ivory towers, while economists deride politicians as lacking analytical tools for making robust public policy choices. This may be an oversimplification, but you get the drift.

History is replete with examples of political influence in the legislative process as well as in the implementation of policy. While most such instances are discouraging, like the ones cited above, there are rare cases of creative use of multilateral commitments to engage in tricky domestic reform. As a favoured rule, domestic policy priorities should not be held hostage to external pressures, but they can and ought to be used to push through difficult and desirable domestic reform. For example, India's entry into the WTO mandated recognition of product and process patents that were politically hard to embrace when the dominant model in manufacturing was one of "reverse engineering". It was possible to offload the political fallout to a non-negotiable multilateral commitment. For similar reasons, crisis-driven reform has a lot of resonance in almost all environments, including ours.

Relying on chance events to drive reform might work in rare circumstances, but not when the aspiration is to become a $10 trillion economy by 2030. Realising this target or even coming close to it will require sustained growth of over 15 per cent per annum in nominal GDP — that's no mean task. Recall that the golden period of India's growth fetched an 8.1 per cent increase in real GDP between 2004 and 2009. Even during this period, the growth story was cut short by the global financial crisis and devilled intermittently by institutional weaknesses. The coal scam and the 2G scam are examples of the inability of institutions to keep pace with rapid growth. This is a characteristic of most market-based economies in which institutions play "catch up", since institutional change is much slower. As growth occurs, institutions also require sophistication, knowledge, and some (not complete) protection from political interference.

For example, the promulgation of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in 2016, replaced RBI's internal decision-making driven by the central bank governor to include three external experts appointed by the central government to strengthen and bring transparency into monetary policy decisions. MPC minutes are published for wider consumption. This can be extended to other important government functions, such as the budgetary process. Successive finance commissions and the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Review Committee have recommended the creation of a fiscal council that, like the MPC, will bring transparency in the budget-making process. The idea is simple, moderate the influence of the political agenda and powerful interest groups that could, and often do, capture the process.

Policymaking is nothing if not art that invokes science when expedient. However, science ought to become more integral to the policy formulation process in India, and for that to happen crucial changes are necessary in the ecosystem. Domain experts should be an integral part of the formulation process. Implementation, of course, can be left to the executive. We have often heard a cliché in policy circles: Policy is too important to leave to the experts. That, no doubt, is a clever turn of phrase but it's not helpful. When the TRAI was first set up, it had a healthy combination of domain experts and public policy professionals, resembling a specialised regulatory agency that reflected a serious intent to strengthen capacity. Capacity was limited then, but the intent was clearly visible. In the quarter century since, more and more professionals are now available in India as universities offer courses on regulation and public policy. The diaspora has always been available to fill the gap. Instead of going down the chosen path, TRAI has reversed gear and today resembles a government department. In fact, this is the same affliction with almost all regulatory and policy institutions that are now a feature of India's increasingly market based economy. As more sectors (for example, the Gati Shakti initiative) engage the private sector, lessons from the last quarter-century should not be wasted — domain expertise is conspicuous by its absence in regulatory and policy institutions.

Relying on chance events to drive reform might work in rare circumstances, but not when the aspiration is to become a $10 trillion economy by 2030. Realising this target or even coming close to it will require sustained growth of over 15 per cent per annum in nominal GDP — that's no mean task. Recall that the golden period of India's growth fetched an 8.1 per cent increase in real GDP between 2004 and 2009. Even during this period, the growth story was cut short by the global financial crisis and devilled intermittently by institutional weaknesses.

Commissions tend to be made up of retired civil servants or retired judges. This is worrying and, therefore, it is vital to create a cadre of professionals with technical expertise for the complex tasks of managing the policy processes. Lest we be misunderstood, we have nothing against retired officers. Retired bureaucrats could be excellent for policy institutions, but not as is the case now, as an entitlement. The net needs to be cast wider so that politics and policy are distanced, not completely but certainly more than it is today. The recent unravelling of a bizarre episode of regulatory breaches at the National Stock Exchange is just another example of why we need more regulatory expertise. India should not be in a situation in which it is in perpetual hostage to vested interests of politics and business. When agencies tasked with protecting public interest identify with priorities against the interest of the public, they fail to protect the public.

Kathuria is dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University and Kedia is fellow, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

Dancing with Bappi Lahiri

He made our lives less dull with his music and larger-than-life persona. That was his greatest gift



SANDIP ROY

DURING THE 2014 election campaign, I saw Narendra Modi, Rahul Gandhi, Arvind Kejriwal, and even L K Advani on the campaign trail. But none compared to Bappi Lahiri, who died on Wednesday at the age of 69.

At the time, he was the BJP candidate for the Sreerampur constituency in West Bengal. Modi himself had come down to give Bappi-da a boost. But it wasn't really necessary. Lahiri, with his sunglasses and gold chains, was *chamak-challo* enough. He just took his old songs and turned them into election anthems. "'D' se hota hai 'dance', 'I' se hota hai 'item', 'S' se hota hai 'singer'" from *Disco Dancer* was turned into "'B' se hota hai 'Bharatiya', 'J' se hota hai 'Janata', 'P' se hota hai 'Party'." "De de pyar de" from *Sharaabi* became "BJP ko vote de, Bappida ko vote de." Followed by "Inteha ho gayi, intezaar ki, aa gaya Modiji, pranaam Modiji."

Bappi-da lost the election but that was one rally from which everyone left grinning.

We knew that his repertoire of hits was sometimes, to put it politely, "influenced" by other songs. In 2002, Saregama and Bappi Lahiri sued Universal Music Group and Dr Dre for the unauthorised use of Lahiri's "Thoda resham lagta hai" in the song "Addictive". And they won. "Thoda resham lagta hai" was from the 1981 film *Jyoti*. That film, ironically, also had the song "Chidiya chon chon" which was, says *Film Companion*, "an unabashed copy" of the calypso hit "Mary Ann" by Roaring Lion. Then, 10 years after *Jyoti*, Bappi Lahiri used the song again, this time for "Whole day, whole night" in *Yodha*.

Imitation was the sincerest form of flattery at a time when Levis jeans rip-offs were being sold as Lavis in India and Campa Cola was filling in for Coca Cola. We weren't snooty about copies. We just wanted a good one with "the great Indian taste" as Campa Cola claimed. That was where Bappi-da shone. He was a bit of a magpie but whether it was Europop, Bengali kirtan, Rabindrasangeet or folk, he gave it his own Bappi Lahiri spin. He was like baby Gopal caught with a lump of stolen butter. Except, instead of protesting "*Main nahin makhan khaya*", he disarmingly said, "It is a tradition. Salil Chowdhury also copied Mozart. S D Burman also copied, R D Burman copied a lot." And we collectively chuckled and kept grooving to "Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy" (aka "T'es OK" by the French group Ottawan).

We sometimes forget that the man who gave us "Taaki re taaki" also gave us songs that sounded very "un-Bappi" — the lilting "Awaaz di hai" in *Aitbaar* or the poignant "Zid na karo" from *Lahu Ke Do Rang*. Or the genre-bending 12-minute "Ke pag ghungroo", regarding which Kishore Kumar complained that he had been made to sing four songs for the price of one. Alokesh (Bappi) Lahiri was a serious musician. His father Aparesh Lahiri gave Bengalis one of their greatest patriotic hits — "Ekbaar biday de Ma". Lata Mangeshkar apparently suggested that Bappi Lahiri train under the tabla maestro Samta Prasad. He composed his first song at the age of 11 and at 14 he had a Bengali film, *Dadu*, under his belt as a music director. The "un-Bappi" songs may be examples of his unrealised potential but, in the end, he knew what the box office wanted. This was a time of pelvic thrusts and non-stop gyrations on screen. And he kept delivering the music to accompany the moves. He once said that his mother, the singer Bansuri Lahiri, baulked at some of his songs but he told her, "I am like a shopkeeper who has to sell what people want from his shop." If he himself had regrets, they were hidden behind his trademark shades.

It was easy to make fun of Lahiri. He was like a disco ball with an unabashed Bengali accent. Everything about him was unabashed, untainted by the false modesty that we are taught is befitting of a well-brought up *bhadralok*. He was over the top, larger than life and unembarrassed about it. One day he was crooning "Don't say goodbye" to Michael Jackson, the next day he was using a Ganesh vandana to sing "Long live our Queen" (Elizabeth II). The Deputy Correspondence Coordinator of Buckingham Palace sent him a note of appreciation, although the Queen regretfully turned down his offer to personally perform for her. People rolled their eyes but he kept rolling along, his finger on the cultural pulse, from *Bigg Boss* to Narendra Modi. He did it so masterfully that by the time he crooned "Ooh la la" in *The Dirty Picture* in 2011, he had become an example of retro-cool. Make that self-made retro-cool.

Javed Akhtar probably came closest to putting his finger on the allure of Bappi Lahiri when he asked, "Have you heard a Bappi Lahiri song that is dull?" That might be his greatest gift to us. He made our lives less dull with his music, his jewellery and his "Bappi-go-lucky" persona. Even on the dreariest day, we cannot but tap our feet and grin when "Koi yahaan aha nache nache" starts playing.

Bappi Lahiri was our guilty pleasure. And a gilded pleasure too.

The writer is a novelist and the author of Don't Let Him Know

An inconvenient fact

Liberal stand on hijab row is hypocritical, inconsistent with past positions



BALBIR PUNJ

WHILE THE imbroglio on the hijab continues unabated, divisive forces are using the opportunity to push their agenda of painting India as "intolerant", demonising the BJP/RSS as anti-Muslim and fascist and insinuating that the hijab is being forced on Muslim women as part of the Sangh Parivar's plan to eventually create a Hindu Rashtra.

The tactics used by the divisive pack are drearily familiar. Rhetoric is routinely used as logic. Facts are twisted or conveniently dropped to build an ideologically suitable narrative — mostly poor in substance and divorced from reality and reason. Views laced with prejudice are presented as facts.

In this politico-ideological war, repackaged as a fight to protect minority rights, the education and careers of Muslim girls are collateral damage. Instead of focusing on studies, students are wasting their energy on emphasising their religious identities — through hijabs and saffron scarves.

Smelling blood, politicians of every hue have jumped into fray, adding to the turbulence. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tweeted, "Whether it is a bikini, a ghoonghat, a pair of jeans or a hijab, it is a woman's right to decide what she wants to wear."

What Gandhi Vadra has said is true, but it's not the complete truth. No right is absolute. Rights are always subject to social norms, vocational and institutional restrictions. Women do have the right to wear a bikini, but it would be unacceptable in a market, workplace or in an educational institution.

What is at stake? Is the Karnataka government guilty of violating the fundamental freedom of students to choose their dress? Is the state denying girl students their right to education by backing the ban on wearing the hijab to college? Is this a ploy by the "wily" BJP to target Muslims and usher in a "Hindu Raj"? The issue is now before a full bench of the Karnataka High Court, which has restrained the students from wearing any kind of religious attire on educational institutions' premises for the time being.

Interestingly what Karnataka is doing now, its immediate neighbour, Kerala, has already done. Why the cowering silence on the issue then, and such a noisy ruckus now? The glaring difference in response on the part of Left-liberal pack underlines real reasons for the present impasse.

Recently, Riza Nahan, a Class VIII student of GHSS, Kuttiyadi, Kerala, contended that the existing SPC (State Police Cadets) dress code is not in accordance with Islamic religious beliefs. She wanted permission to wear cadet uniforms in accordance with her community's customs. She also argued that it is a religious obligation to wear the hijab and full sleeve dress, and it is her fundamental right, provided as per article 25 (1) of the Constitution.

The SPC is a volunteer force operated by the state government for school children. While rejecting Nahan's plea, it said that it aims to create a society where the nation is above all differences to become a constructive platform between police and students and act as a feeder organisation for Kerala Police. It said, "As such, it was decided to have a similar training programme and uniform of the police for the SPC project. In Kerala Police, all police personnel are wearing the same uniform and no religious symbols are permitted in the uniform. The same system is being followed for SPC also."

What colleges in Karnataka are being hauled over the coals for, many enlightened Muslim educational institutions too have done. Kerala's Muslim Educational Society (MES), which controls 150 educational institutions, has banned "any dress that covers the face" for girls on all the campuses it runs. An official circular says "The MES will not encourage any type of veil on its campus. Managers of each MES institution will have to ensure that girl students do not come to the campus with their faces covered."

Can one accuse the Kerala government or the MES of following the Hindutva agenda? Dozens of countries, from China to liberal democracies such as Switzerland, France and Belgium too have banned the hijab in public places in the last few years. Nearer home, the hijab is compulsory in Afghanistan and Iran, optional in Pakistan and banned in Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

Any suggestion that banning the hijab is an effort to target the Muslim community smacks of chicanery. According to Hindu traditions, marriage is sacrosanct, irrevocable and lasts several lives. But the Hindu Marriage Act 1955 (and three other acts) changed this. Divorces between incompatible partners became possible. Ancient scriptural wisdom had to acquiesce to human dignity and changing values.

The tradition of sati was buried deep for the same reason. The ghoonghat, prevalent among Hindu women, is now rarely practiced. Untouchability is a crime, irrespective of what Manu had said. Were these reforms targeting Hindus?

The argument goes, what's the harm in allowing the hijab in classrooms? But then can one say no to skull caps, dhotis, Ram naami chaddars…. the list is endless. Already, the hijab controversy has had a ripple effect. The headmistress of a government school in Karnataka's Kolar district was suspended for allowing namaz in classrooms.

Why the sudden insistence on the hijab? It's part of pan-Islamic the phenomenon of demonstrating and establishing an Islamic identity that transcends geographical and political boundaries, overriding all other identities and concerns.

Is the hijab central to Islam? Recently, in a TV debate, Pervez Hoodbhoy, a renowned nuclear physicist of Pakistan, said about a university of his country, "Forty-seven years ago you'd be hard-pressed to see even one woman wearing a burqa there, but now the hijab and burqas are commonplace." Don't forget, Pakistan is a declared Islamic Republic, and there was hardly any hijab there.

The writer is a former MP and columnist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FEDERAL VIEW

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Questioning the Union' (IE, February 16). BJP members have the habit of picking fragments from the statements of opposition leaders and presenting the same after denuding them of their contexts. Rahul Gandhi's statement on February 1 in the Lok Sabha stresses on a healthy Centre-state relationship. It does not challenge the unity of the country nor does it suggest any negotiability on that count. He is only warning against the imposition of unconstitutional diktats by the Centre on the states, which have their own economical and cultural needs and values, and suggesting that they must be respected and appreciated. The author should have gone into the full speech and understood the context and intention of the speaker in the right perspective.

Pritam Singh, *Jaipur*

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Questioning the Union' (IE, February 16). The idea of invoking civilisational nationalism to bind together a vast nation of continental size is fraught. There will always be communities who find it difficult to fit into the larger narrative, and then there will be a group of people who will claim prominence in it. Civic nationalism is more inclusive and accommodative.

Sudip Kumar Dey, *Barasat*

PAY FOR RESEARCH

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The key driver of self-reliance' (IE, February 16). The vicious cycle of low investments in R&D and poor quality of research can be broken only if the private sector and government invest more in our institutions of higher learning. None of our universities, including the IITs, figure in the top 100 rankings, and very little significant research is produced by them. Our educational and research institutions need stronger handholding by the government and private sector, to enable them to produce world-class scientists and savants, failing which our goal of achieving self-reliance will remain a pipe dream.

Hemant Contractor, *Pune*

SELFISH ACT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Unkind cut' (IE, February 16). The Biden Administration's decision to take away half of the $7 billion dollars in assets of the Afghanistan Bank is baffling. It could easily have compensated the 9/11 victims and their families on its own rather than snatching this money. Taliban-led Afghanistan is in a precarious situation. Ideally, this money should have been used to restore some stability in the lives of the people of Afghanistan.

Bal Govind, *Noida*

RIGHTS IN DANGER

THIS REFERS TO the the article, 'Dharma under siege' (IE, February 16). The fanatical forces of Hindutva in today's India, appear to be bent upon on hunting Muslims. Sometimes their acts are ridiculous, such as the debate over whether actor Shah Rukh Khan "spat" on singing legend Lata Mangeshkar's mortal remains while reciting a prayer. In other cases, their activities threaten the safety and welfare of India's minorities, as the fresh controversy hounding schoolgirls wearing the hijab has revealed. If India is still a true democracy, then it has to ensure that minority communities are allowed to live as per their religious and cultural values, without being harassed. However, if Hindutva has to dominate, then the future of minorities is grim in India.

Vandana Chopra, *Chandigarh*



MEANWHILE

N KOREA CELEBRATES LATE LEADER'S BIRTHDAY

North Korea celebrated the 80th birthday of late leader Kim Jong Il with a concert, fireworks and a rare outdoor ceremony near its border with China on Wednesday. On Wednesday, citizens climbed Pyongyang's Mansu Hill to lay bouquets and to bow before the giant statues of Kim Jong Il and Kim Il Sung.

TOP OF THE WORLD



US president Biden.

USA

Biden orders release of Trump White House logs

Washington: US President Joe Biden has rejected former President Donald Trump's executive privilege claims and ordered White House visitor logs to be released to the panel investigating the Jan. 6, 2021 attack, according to a letter released on Wednesday. In a letter, Biden's White House counsel granted congressional investigators access to the data and ordered the agency to turn over the logs within 15 day. Representatives for Trump did not respond to a request for comment. **REUTERS**

BRAZIL

Heavy rain leaves 34 dead

Rio De Janeiro: At least 34 people died after heavy rain hit Petropolis, a city in the mountainous region of Brazil's Rio de Janeiro state, local government said on Wednesday. City streets were flooded by downpours, while landslides also resulted in fatalities. President Jair Bolsonaro said on Twitter he had asked ministers to help the city and the victims. Rio de Janeiro's Governor Claudio Castro went to Petropolis on Tuesday night. **REUTERS**



Russian army tanks move back to their permanent base after drills in Russia. *AP*

US, NATO say no sign of Russia pullback from Ukraine border

NATO says Russia capable of full-fledged invasion without any warning time

THE NEW YORK TIMES
KYIV, FEBRUARY 16

THE UNITED STATES and NATO said on Wednesday that they had still seen no sign of a pullback of Russian troops from near Ukraine, even as Moscow said it was continuing a partial military withdrawal and Ukraine sought to project national unity in the face of the threat.

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said the US had seen no evidence of a significant Russian military withdrawal from Ukraine's borders, a day after President Vladimir V. Putin said that Russia had decided to "partially" pull back its forces.

"Unfortunately there's a difference between what Russia says and what it does," Blinken said in an interview with ABC News. "And what we're seeing is no meaningful pullback. On the contrary, we continue to see forces — especially forces that would be in the vanguard of any renewed aggression against Ukraine — continuing to be at the border, to mass at the border."

The NATO secretary general, Jens Stoltenberg, echoed the US assessment, saying that Russia remains capable "of a full-fledged invasion of Ukraine without any warning time."

Stoltenberg said that in the past Russia has moved troops while leaving weaponry in place.

"So what we need to see is a real withdrawal of forces, which is lasting and real, and not that they move troops around," he said. "But again, we are monitoring, we really hope that they will withdraw forces, and that will be the best contribution to a political solution.."

The Kremlin spokesman, Dmitri S. Peskov, dismissed NATO's assessment on troop levels, saying that the alliance had not made "a sober evaluation" of the situation. Russia's Defence Ministry announced more troop withdrawals, saying that a train loaded with Russian tanks, armoured vehicles, and howitzers left Crimea and would return to their bases after concluding military exercises.

Foreign fingerprints on cyberattack, says expert

VALERIE HOPKINS
KYIV, FEBRUARY 16

A TOP Ukrainian cybersecurity official said on Wednesday that a cyberattack against the websites of Ukraine's defence ministry and army, as well as the interfaces of the country's two largest banks on Tuesday, was the largest assault of its kind in the country's history and it "bore traces of foreign intelligence services."

Ukraine's minister of digital transformation, Mykhailo Fedorov, said that "vectors of attacks were organised from different countries."

"It is clear that it was prepared in advance, and the key goal of this attack is to destabilise, to sow panic, to do everything to create a certain chaos in the actions of Ukrainians in our country," he said.

The websites and banks targeted on Tuesday evening were hit with a distributed denial-of-service attack, or DDoS, during which hackers flood the servers hosting a website until it becomes overloaded and shuts down. Tuesday's hack was the largest attack of that kind the country has faced, Fedorov said.

While a full investigation is underway, all signs pointed to Russia, said Ilya Vityuk, the Head of the Ukrainian Intelligence Agency's Cyber Security Department.

"We know today that, unfortunately, the only country that is interested in such strikes on our country, especially against the background of mass panic over a possible military invasion is, unfortunately, the Russian Federation," he said.

He added that the attack likely cost "millions of dollars" to execute it, far beyond the capabilities of individual hackers or groups. "Such attacks are usually perpetrated by countries," he said. "Such attacks need infrastructure." **NYT**

WHO INTERNAL DOCUMENT

'Short AstraZeneca shelf life complicates vaccine rollout'

FRANCESCO GUARASCIO & JENNIFER RIGBY
BRUSSELS/LONDON, FEB 16

THE RELATIVELY short shelf life of AstraZeneca Plc's Covid-19 vaccine is complicating the rollout to the world's poorest nations, according to officials and internal World Health Organization documents reviewed by *Reuters*.

The need to turn down vaccines with short shelf lives, along with the initial inequality, hesitancy and other barriers, has contributed to a much lower vaccination rate in Africa where only around 10% of people have been immunised, compared with more than 70% in richer nations.

Many vaccines are arriving with only a few months, and sometimes weeks, before their use-by date, adding to the scramble to get shots in arms. Some countries have had to destroy expired doses, including Nigeria, which dumped up to 1 million AstraZeneca vaccines in November. The problem with a short shelf life largely concerns AstraZeneca, according to COVAX data and officials.

An internal WHO document reviewed by *Reuters* detailing vaccine stocks in several central and west African countries for the week ending Feb. 6 highlighted the problem.

Most of the 19 listed African nations had expired AstraZeneca doses, compared to a handful of countries with expired doses from other manufacturers. Of the total expired doses declared by those countries in the week, about 1.3 million were AstraZeneca, 280,000 Johnson & Johnson, 15,000 Moderna and 13,000 Russia's Sputnik, the document shows.

Many more vaccines are expected to be rejected as African nations and COVAX said that from January they would not accept vaccines with less than two-and-a-half months' shelf life.

Asked about the internal document, seen by Reuters, Phiona Atuhebwe, a vaccine expert at WHO Africa. said: "WHO is fully cognizant of the pressure that short shelf life doses put on delivery strategies and systems amid weak infrastructure and low demand." **REUTERS**



Anti-vaccine mandate protesters gather in front of the parliament building, in Wellington on Wednesday. *Reuters*

NEW ZEALAND VACCINE PROTESTERS DEFY POLICE ULTIMATUM

Wellington: An anti-vaccine mandate protest outside New Zealand's parliament swelled in numbers on Wednesday, with hundreds of people ignoring a warning from police that their vehicles would be towed away if they did not leave voluntarily. "There has been an influx of protesters at Parliament today. However, the crowd had been orderly," police told reporters, estimating there were about 450 vehicles blocking the site. **REUTERS**

WHO: New Covid cases drop by 19% globally in 1 week

Geneva: The number of new coronavirus cases globally fell by 19% in the last week, while the number of deaths remained stable, according to the World Health Organization.

The UN health agency said late Tuesday in its weekly report on the pandemic that just over 16 million new Covid infections and about 75,000 deaths were reported worldwide last week.

The Western Pacific was the only region to report a rise in new weekly cases, an increase of about 19%, Southeast Asia reported a decrease of about 37%, the biggest drop globally. The number of deaths rose by 38% in the Middle East and by about one-third in the Western Pacific.

The biggest number of new cases was seen in Russia. Cases there and elsewhere in Eastern Europe doubled in recent weeks, driven by a surge of the hugely infectious omicron variant. WHO said among the more than 400,000 Covid virus sequences uploaded to the world's biggest virus database in the last week, over 98% were Omicron. **AP**

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL PROJECT ENGINEER
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PHONE No. 07632-247833 E-mail:-dpepiu.balaghat@mp.gov.in

NIT No.-05/2022/CENTRALISED TENDERING/G/APD/ JABALPUR DATE 09-02-2022

Online bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria :

S. No.	Tender Portal No.	Name of work	District	(Total Work Cost) Contract (Rs. in lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs.)	Category of Contractor/ Ferm	Period of completion (in months i/c Rainy Season)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2022_PWPIU_184058_1	Construction of 50 seater trible Senior Girls hostel building at damoh (Block-Birsa) and 50 seater trible Senior Boys hostel building at Bhanderi (Block-Baihar) Distt-Balaghat	BALAGHAT	623,43	623430.00	20000.00	Registered under MPPWD	18
2	2022_PWPIU_184121_1	Construction of 50 seater trible Senior Boys hostel building at Baihar (Block-Baihar) and 50 seater trible Senior Boys hostel building at Gadhi (Block-Baihar) Distt-Balaghat	BALAGHAT	629.32	629320.00	20000.00	Registered under MPPWD	18
3	2022_PWPIU_184122_1	Construction of 50 seater trible Senior Boys hostel building at Chikhalabandh (Block-Khairlanji) Distt-Balaghat	BALAGHAT	328.73	328730.00	15000.00	Registered under MPPWD	12
4	2022_PWPIU 184123_1	Construction of Naveen Higher Secondary school Building at Mohgaon, (Block-Birsa) Distt- Balaghat	BALAGHAT	332.01	332010.00	15000.00	Registered under MPPWD	12
5	2022_PWPIU_184127_1	Construction of 10 Additional Room in Higher Secondary school Building at Bhidi, (Block-Paraswada) Distt-Balaghat	BALAGHAT	248.75	248750.00	15000.00	Registered under MPPWD	12
6	2022_PWPIU_184132_1	Construction of 10 Additional Room in Higher Secondary school Building at Majgaon, (Block-Baihar) Distt-Balaghat	BALAGHAT	253.13	253130.00	15000.00	Registered under MPPWD	12
7	2022_PWPIU_184137_1	Construction of 10 Additional Room in Higher Secondary school Building at Mohanpur, (Block-Paraswada) Distt-Balaghat	BALAGHAT	252.30	252300.00	15000.00	Registered under MPPWD	12
8	2022_PWPIU_184138_1	Construction of 10 Additional Room in Higher Secondary school Building at Dabri, (Block-Baihar) Distt-Balaghat	BALAGHAT	254.05	254050.00	15000.00	Registered under MPPWD	12
9	2022_PWPIU_184141_1	Construction of 10 Additional Room in Higher Secondary school Building at Paraswada, (Block-Paraswada) Distt- Balaghat	BALAGHAT	250.18	250180.00	15000.00	Registered under MPPWD	12
10	2022_PWPIU_184142_1	Construction of 10 Additional Room in Higher Secondary school Building at Dongariya, Distt- Balaghat	BALAGHAT	249.54	249540.00	15000.00	Registered under MPPWD	12
11	2022_PWPIU_184143_1	Construction of 10 Additional Room in Higher Secondary school Building at Gudma, (Block-Birsa) Distt- Balaghat	BALAGHAT	251.05	251050.00	15000.00	Registered under MPPWD	12

1. All details relating to the Bid Document(s) can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the website http://mptender.gov.in
2. Bid Document(s) can be purchased after making online payment of portal fees through Credit/Debit/Cash Card/internet Banking.
3. The Bid Document (s) can be purchased only online from 11-02-2022 (time) 15 PM to 25-02-2022 (date) 6 PM (time). Other key dates may be seen in Bid Data Sheet.
4. Amendment(s) to NIT, if any, shall be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

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G-22725/21

Nepal govt defers tabling of $500mn US deal in Parliament

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, FEBRUARY 16

THE SHER Bahadur Deuba government backed out of its move to table a resolution seeking Parliamentary endorsement of the 500 million dollar US grant amid large-scale protests in the capital and different parts of the country. The security forces lobbed tear gas shells and rained water cannon to quell the aggressive crowd.

The Communist party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) and the Unified socialists said they would pull out of the coalition if Deuba went ahead to seek Parliamentary ratification ignoring their reservation. The parties' youth and student organisations joined the protest shouting slogans against the grant, which ostensibly seeks to enhance power and road quality in the country.

"We cannot be a party to such a move that is detrimental to national interest and sovereignty," said Narayankaji Shrestha, former Deputy Prime Minister and senior leader of the Maoist Centre.

Eight different communist groups, which do not have any presence in Parliament, besides the Pro-Monarchy Rastriya Prajatantra Party ledby its Chief Rajendra Lingden MP, joined the protest outside the Parliament building, barely 200-metres away from the federal secretariat that also houses the Prime Minister's office.

Retired army personnel under the banner of "Council of ex-military personnel" also faced water cannon and tear gas shells.

The Nepal government is under strict warning from the US government that its failure to have the MCC Nepal compact endorsed by Parliament by February 28 , might lead to review of the US policy, including its cooperation with Nepal.



Protesters opposing clash with police outside the Parliament in Kathmandu on Wednesday. *AP*

EXPLAINED

Why the protest?

PARTIES CLAIM the conditions in the grant agreement will prevail over Nepal's laws and strike at the country's sovereignty. They say it's part of Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy, which has military components that could bring American soldiers to Nepal.

US: China not meeting WTO commitments

PAUL WISEMAN
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 16

THE UNITED STATES has accused China of failing to meet its commitments to the World Trade Organization and says it is exploring new ways to combat aggressive Chinese trade practices.

In its annual report on Chinese compliance with WTO rules, the Office of the US Trade Representative said on Wednesday that China isn't keeping the promises it made to open its markets to foreign competition when it joined the 164-country Geneva-based agency in 2001.

"China has instead retained and expanded its state-led, non-market approach to the economy and trade," said US Trade Representative Katherine Tai. "China's policies and practices challenge the premise of the WTO's rules and cause serious harm to workers and businesses around the world."

Among other things, the US repeated longstanding accusations that China uses subsidies and regulations to favour its own companies at the expense of foreign competitors and forces US and other foreign companies to hand over prized technology as the price of access to Chinese markets. **AP**

Pak journalist held on unspecified charges after remarks against Imran

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 16

PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES arrested a senior journalist and government critic under unspecified charges on Wednesday, a week after he made controversial remarks on the prime minister in a television talk show.

Mohsin Baig was among the panellists on the TV One programme hosted by anchor Gharedah Farooqui about the decision by Prime Minister Imran Khan to award 'best performance certificates' to 10 ministers.

Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed was adjudged the top performer. When asked why Saeed was declared top performer, Baig had jocularly cited the book of Reham Khan, former wife of Prime Minister Khan, in which she purportedly made sexually explicit remarks on the relationship between Murad Saeed and Prime Minister Khan.

Baig is the second person to be arrested by the law enforcement agencies in the past week over anti-government comments.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Wednesday conducted a raid at Baig's residence in Islamabad to arrest him after registering a case at the complaint of Saeed, who accused the journalist for using foul words to defame him. **PTI**

With novel treatment, woman becomes third person to be cured of HIV

APOORVA MANDAVILLI
FEBRUARY 16

A WOMAN of mixed race appears to be the third person ever to be cured of HIV, using a new transplant method involving umbilical cord blood that opens up the possibility of curing more people of diverse racial backgrounds than was previously possible, scientists announced on Tuesday.

Cord blood is more widely available than the adult stem cells used in the bone marrow transplants that cured the previous two patients, and it does not need to be matched as closely to the recipient. Most donors in registries are of Caucasian origin, so allowing for only a partial match has the potential to cure dozens of Americans who have both HIV and cancer each year, scientists said.

The woman, who also had leukemia, received cord blood to treat her cancer. It came from a partially matched donor, instead of the typical practice of finding a bone marrow donor of similar race and ethnicity to the patient's. She also received blood from a close relative to give her body temporary immune defenses while the transplant took.

Researchers presented some of the details of the new case on Tuesday at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Denver, Colo.

The sex and racial background of the new case mark a significant step forward in developing a cure for HIV, the researchers said. **NYT**

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹49,254	₹75.09	$94.54	₹63,157

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of February 14

SENSEX: 57,996.68 ▼ 145.37 (0.25%) **NIFTY:** 17,322.20 ▼ 30.25 (0.17%) **NIKKEI:** 27,460.40 ▲ 595.21 **HANG SENG:** 24,718.90 ▲ 363.19 **FTSE:** 7,592.85 ▼ 16.07 **DAX:** 15,434.51 ▲ 21.80

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
AVIATION

Technologically advanced, on time, financially fit: New Air India flight plan

Tata Sons chief's address to staff

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

SETTING THE stage for the turnaround of Air India, Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran laid down a roadmap with four core areas for the new management to focus on: providing "best in class customer service"; making Air India the "most technologically advanced airline in the world"; upgrading aircraft, bringing in new fleet and expanding the airline's network; and ensuring in-flight and off-flight hospitality is "the best".

On Wednesday, Chandrasekaran delivered his maiden address to Air India employees. In a 15-minute virtual speech that was attended by almost 10,000 employees, he said, "...in terms of fleet, we know we have work to do and when I talked to the management team, the commercial director and the engineering leadership, I know we have work to do. We will address it with most urgency ... we will move with utmost urgency and speed in the coming months".

He told them that the airline will need to undergo an organisational redesign that will "require a huge transformation, probably the largest transformation and the change all of you would ever go through". He added that targets will be set at individual, departmental and company levels so that everyone knows what needs to be done, and said: "... and all our goals will come together to achieve the bigger purpose."

On making the airline technologically advanced, Chandrasekaran said, "we will do that by ensuring that we bring in the best of technology in every aspect of Air India — be it in terms of apps, website, mobile channel, social media, Tata Neu app, whatever may be digital reach that we will have to provide for consumers to access Air India, or in our front office systems or back-office systems".

The carrier will use modern cloud infrastructure and deploy the best of artificial intelligence, machine learning algorithms and mine data "to be able to get intelligence on a real time basis and offer the most personalised experience any airline passenger can have", Chandrasekaran added.

The Tata Sons chairman also underscored that any success can come only "when we are financially fit", and said: "...we are not only committed to all the things I say that we are equally committed to make Air India a very strong airline financially. I know this is a very ambitious goal".



PTI file

"I know we have work to do. We will address it with most urgency"

N CHANDRASEKARAN
CHAIRMAN, TATA SONS

Handed over to the Tata group by the government on January 27, the airline had a total debt of Rs 61,562 crore as of August 31, 2021. Of the total amount, the conglomerate took over Rs 15,300 crore.

In terms of consumer experience, Chandrasekaran emphasised on the need for the airline to be "on time". "In the context of Air India, if I may say so, we must start with ensuring that we are on time, every-time," he said. "If we can complement that with a terrific experience in terms of seamless booking, airport experience, boarding experience, lounge experience, all of it, then we will automatically end up providing customer service that the customers want to experience rather, we would exceed that," he added.

Vistara CEO's letter

Meanwhile, admitting that Vistara — a Tata Group and Singapore Airlines joint-venture — fell short of customers' expectations in the last few months, the airline's CEO Vinod Kannan, in a letter to customers, said the airline was addressing some of the gaps, while many changes and enhancements are in the offing.

"We have always wanted to make flying an experience that is not transactional, but a joyous and memorable 'new feeling'. However, I admit that we fell short on this commitment in the last few months and did not live up to your expectations," Kannan wrote.

"I am aware that our website and mobile app couldn't offer targeted solutions to some of the problems you faced. And I also understand that your on-ground experience may not have been up to your expectations on some instances," he added.

BRIEFLY

Paper on WTO

New Delhi: Developing nations should be exempted from being taken to WTO's dispute settlement panel if they implement trade steps to deal with Covid, as per a paper by India, Cuba and the African Union.

DFS Secy, RBI

New Delhi: The government has nominated DFS Secretary Sanjay Malhotra as a director on RBI's board.

NSE co-location

New Delhi: Sebi fined Adroit Financial Services and Silver Stream Equities Rs 6 lakh each for flouting norms over NSE's co-location facility. **PTI**

Ad spending

New Delhi: Ad spending in India is set to be ₹1,07,987 crore in 2022 and media share of digital may reach 45%, as per GroupM India's 'This Year Next Year' report. **ENS**

'MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION TO BE GROWTH DRIVERS'

FinMin report: Inclusive growth; pvt consumption to be cautious

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

THE CAPEX push in the Budget will revive investment activity, including private sector investments, but private consumption will grow cautiously, according to the Finance Ministry's Monthly Economic Review for January released Wednesday. The capex budget, higher by 35.4 per cent over current year's Budget Estimates, and rising to 4.1 per cent of GDP after inclusion of grants-in-aid to states for capital works, will power seven engines of infra investments, it said.

"The fixed investment rate in India's economy is thus poised to rise further from its 2021-22 ratio of 29.6 per cent of Gross Domestic Product," it said, adding that manufacturing and construction will be the key growth drivers.



Sarkhej-Gandhinagar highway, Ahmedabad. The capex budget will power infra investments, the Finance Ministry report said. *File*

"Private consumption will grow cautiously as precautionary demand for money will rise at every hint of a new infection ... Growth in exports will sustain provided the global economy does not slowdown. Key to medium term gains in export growth lies in improving the competitiveness and complexity of India's products," the report noted. It argues that growth will be inclusive and large enough as well, to provide for growing levels of direct income and in-kind support to vulnerable groups. Agriculture, which continues to see a constant rise in net sown area and crop diversification, will strengthen food buffers while benefiting farmers via generous volumes of procurement at remunerative minimum support prices and income transfers through PM KISAN scheme, it added.

Observing that the International Monetary Fund in its January 2022 update has lowered its global growth estimate for 2022, it said India is yet the only large and major country listed by the IMF whose growth projection has been revised upwards in 2022-23. "In a testimony to the resilience of its people and the far-sightedness of its policymaking, the Indian economy that contracted by (-)6.6 per cent in 2020-21 is now projected in 2022-23 to grow the quickest among the league of large nations," it said.

On the impact of third wave, it said, overall economic activity remained resilient and this is reflected in robust performance of several high frequency indicators like power consumption, PMI manufacturing, and exports.

"Once the uncertainty and anxiety caused by Covid recedes from people's minds, consumption will pick up and demand revival will then facilitate private sector stepping in with investments to augment production to meet the rising demand. Barring external shocks geo-political and economic this scenario should play out for the economy in 2022-23," it said.

Economic activity rebounding from Jan moderation; uptick in biz confidence: RBI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 16

THE RECOVERY in economic activity is gaining strength and traction as it emerges from the third wave and the domestic macroeconomic conditions strike a path that is diverging from global developments, the Reserve Bank of India said.

"Both manufacturing and services remain in expansion with optimism on demand parameters and uptick in consumer and business confidence. As businesses return to a new normal, the job landscape is expected to improve," the RBI said in its 'State of the economy' report. Farm sector conditions remain robust albeit with some signs of rural demand slackening, it said.

Even as monetary policy remains accommodative, global spill-overs have led to a tightening of financial conditions, the RBI said.

In conjunction with the decline in new infections, mobility improved in February 2022, with Google and Apple mobility indices surpassing levels sequentially as well as over a year ago, the RBI said. The Google mobility index for mobility around retail and recreation activities, parks, transit stations and workplaces reached pre-pandemic levels, while the Apple mobility index moved upward across all major cities. With the resumption of activity, electricity generation, picked up in the first fortnight of February, surpassing pre-pandemic levels, the RBI said.

It said economic activity in India is recouping from a brief spell of moderation in January in view of the less virulent effects of Omicron. "Better planning and strategy, management of supply chain logistics and accelerated digitalisation helped firms mitigate pandemic risks," the RBI said. Unlike in the first two waves, overall consumer and business confidence stayed resilient on the back of the accelerated pace of vaccination, better prospects on the general economic situation, household incomes and spending, it said.

Notwithstanding this unsettled global environment, the domestic economic situation continues to improve, the report observed. The Budget and the monetary policy announcement of February 10 have set the tone for a durable and broad-based revival, the RBI said. The renewed emphasis on public investment through infrastructure development is expected to crowd-in private investment and strengthen job creation and demand in 2022-23, it said.

It said higher spending and ease of doing business have brightened the outlook. India has once again emerged as the fastest growing economy among the major economies of the world according to the IMF, the RBI said.

'STATE OF THE ECONOMY' REPORT



File

As businesses return to a new normal, the job landscape is expected to improve," the RBI said in its 'State of the economy' report.

'Cos back to pre-Covid incentive levels; 9% increments this year'

Organisations are reverting to pre-pandemic levels of investment in incentives and the industry average for increment in 2022 will likely be 9%, a Mercer survey said



Bengaluru commands a significant premium for software development engineering roles

Increments in tech in 2021 across all employee categories were back to 2019 levels of 9%

Source: Mercer/PTI

Mercer's Total Remuneration Survey was conducted with 988 companies, 5,700 job functions and over 14 lakh employees

Green hydrogen: Policy for producers this week

New Delhi: The government will announce the first part of a green hydrogen policy this week, under which green hydrogen producers will be granted free power transmission for renewable energy projects set up before 2025, Power Minister RK Singh said on Wednesday.

He said the Centre would also come out with mandates, after clearance from the Cabinet, that require replacement of some proportion of grey hydrogen used by sectors such as oil refining, fertilisers and steel. Grey hydrogen is hydrogen produced using natural gas or methane, while green hydrogen is produced through electrolysis using renewable energy.

"To boost green hydrogen manufacturing, we are giving people liberty to set up renewable energy capacity anywhere by themselves or through a developer. We will give them open access, banking for 30 days, and free transmission if that capacity is set up before 2025," Singh said, adding that the policy would be released on Thursday or Friday. Renewable energy banking allows generators to deposit surplus power with a discom and withdraw such power later when required. **ENS**

AIR TRAVEL ON GOVT ACCOUNT

Post AI divestment, govt staff can book pvt airlines

New Delhi: Clarifying its earlier memo regarding air travel by government employees, the Department of Expenditure Wednesday noted that air travel on government account for both domestic and international sectors can be made on private airlines.

On December 31, the department had issued an order regarding booking of air tickets on government account after disinvestment of Air India. It had said that bookings could be made only through one of the three authorised agencies — Balmer & Lawrie, IRCTC and Ashok Travels.

"Several references have been received in this Department seeking clarification regarding booking of air tickets for domestic and international travel by private airlines in view of the disinvestment of Air India. It is clarified that the air travel on Government account both Domestic (LTC) and International travel can be made by private airlines. Tickets shall be purchased only through the above three authorized agents," the expenditure department noted in an office memorandum. **ENS**

Singh, KCR spar over buying green energy: What is the issue

KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

POWER MINISTER R K Singh has dismissed statements by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao that the Centre was "pushing" states to buy solar power from certain developers.

Rao on Sunday had said: "The Prime Minister of this country is lying. He is claiming that electricity will be provided cheaply, but what is actually happening is he is asking states to purchase solar power produced by companies which give funds to his party." "It is a lie," Singh has said.

EXPLAINED

Telangana's concerns

Telangana has been particularly vocal about the "increasing burden" forced upon states by the Centre on account of the clean energy cess imposed on coal and the Renewable Purchase Obligation. The state has also found that the increase in the clean energy cess from Rs 50 to Rs 400 per tonne on coal, which was in 2017 subsumed under the GST compensation cess, had over the past seven year cost the state an additional Rs 7,000 crore. The state has also raised the issue of mandatory purchase of renewables reducing the Plant Load Factor for existing thermal power projects of the Telangana State Power Generation Corporation.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Don't want to rush into making data law: MoS IT

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) does not want to "rush into" making a data protection law and amend it later, Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said.

Speaking during the annual NTLF event organised by Nasscom, he said the government would continue to have conversation on the data protection Bill with various stakeholders and only then decide on the final outcome of when to present the bill for being passed in Parliament. "I think we would be making a big mistake if we move into legislation that is very hard coded, very embedded in terms of principles that may not be necessarily evolvable and are very, let us say current. And so for all those reasons, I think the fact that we need a new digital law."

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY - e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 109/2021-22/KWA/PHC/D4/TVM, 110/2021-22/KWA/PHC/D4/TVM, 111/2021-22/KWA/PHC/D4/TVM (1)AMRUT - Laying Transmission Main and sewer networks in Block J (Karimanal) Collection and Conveyance system - Phase 1 -Laying of 500mm and 630mm HDPE Transmission main from Stilling Chamber to New MH 9 by HDD Method - 1st Reach. (2) AMRUT - Laying Transmission Main and sewer networks in Block J (Karimanal) Collection and Conveyance system - Phase 1 - Laying 630mm HDPE Trunk main from New MH9 to New MH 17 by HDD Method- Second Reach. (3)AMRUT - Laying Transmission Main and sewer networks in Block J (Karimanal) Collection and Conveyance system - Phase 1 -Laying of 630mm HDPE Trunk main from New MH17 to Pump House Karimanal by HDD Method - Third Reach. EMD : Rs. 100000 each, Tender fee : Rs. 7500 each. Last Date for submitting Tender : 28-02-2022 03:00:pm Phone : 0471-2322303

Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in., www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

KWA-JB-GL-6-1057-2021-22 Superintending Engineer PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E- Tendering Process)

Sl. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No. and Description of works/Materials	Due date & time for Submission of Tender
1.	CE/ MECH/ COAL	1.COAL (Ship) - 97 /dt.10.02.2022, Two Self Trimming Panamax Gearless Vessel for a Period of 9 months + 3 months choption +/- 1 month Choption with the following Laydays ; Item No.1 : From 5th April 2022 to 15th April 2022, Item No.2 : From 25th April 2022 to 5th May 2022, 2. COAL (Ship) - 98 /dt.10.02.2022, Two Self Trimming Supramax Geared Vessel for a Period of 9 months + 3 months Choption +/- 1 month Choption with the following Laydays : Item No.1 From 1st April 2022 to 10th April 2022, Item No.2 : From 8th April 2022 to 18th April 2022.	21.03.2022 Up to 14.30 Hours

DIPR/0676 /Tender/2022

The tender Specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website,www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app at free of cost. Tender will be opened through the NIC portal.
கோரலை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்
CHIEF ENGINEER/MECHANICAL/COAL

RAJASTHAN STATE MINES & MINERALS LIMITED
(A Government of Rajasthan Enterprise)
SBU-PC LIMESTONE
8, West Patel Nagar, Circuit House Road, Jodhpur-34201
Phone: (0291)2511031/2516199, Fax (0291)2511029
e-Tender Date-10.02.2022

NIT No. & Date	Description of Work
e-Tender no. Cont-05/21-22 Dated 09.02.2022 UBN No. MML2122WSOB00189	For the work of Hiring of 1 no. Of 32 seater AC bus and 1 no. 21 AC seater bus for Sanu Limestone Mines, Jaisalmer for transportation of employee of company from Jaisalmer to Sanu Mines. Contract value Rs. 112.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. 224000, Tender Fees Rs. 4720/-

Other terms & conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit us at our website www.rsmm.com or www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or contact DGM (Contract) on above address.
Raj.Samwad/C/21/11697 DGM (Admin.)

संत लौंगोवाल अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology
(Deemed to be University under MoE)
Longowal–148106, Distt. Sangrur, Punjab

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-Tenders in two Bid System, i.e. Technical and Financial Bid are invited for the work **"Provision of LAN/Internet facility in newly constructed EDP & EIE Block & other Departments".**

For detailed, terms & conditions, please visit **www.sliet.ac.in**

REGISTRAR
(भारत सरकार के अधीन सम विश्वविद्यालय)

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE, SALEM CIRCLE
TENDER NOTICE
T.N. No. 23 / 2021-22 / HDO, Dated : 15.02.2022

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage tender through (Two Cover System) online only** will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Salem Circle for **CRIDP 2021-22 Works,** pertaining to **Dharmapuri (H) C&M Division.**

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents, receiving date and all other details are available in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** from **23.02.2022** onwards. If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Salem Circle.

DIPR/ 671 /TENDER/2022

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 022

8082-2021-5058-01 दिनांक / Dated 16.02.2022

निविदा सूचना/TENDER NOTICE

भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए एवं उनकी ओर से, वरि प्रधान क्रय एवं भंडार, क्रय एवं भंडार प्रभाग, विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र, तिरुवनंतपुरम 2 वर्ष की अवधि के लिए सरकार के विभागों के लिए लागू दरों पर दवाएं/औषधियां प्रदान करने हेतु औषध कंपनियों और उनके प्राधिकृत विक्रेताओं से प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित करते हैं ।

For and on behalf of the President of India, Sr.Head Purchase & Stores, Purchase & Stores Division, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram invites competitive offers from Pharmaceutical Companies and their Authorized Dealers for providing medicines/ drugs at the rates applicable to the Government Departments for a period of 2 years.

विशद निबंधन एवं शर्तों के लिए कृपया www.vssc.gov.in और www.isro.gov.in देखें।
For detailed Terms and Conditions, please visit www.vssc.gov.in and www.isro.gov.in
बोलियों के प्रस्तुतीकरण की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय: 8 मार्च, 2022 [10:00 Hrs]
Last date and time for submission of bids : March 8, 2022 [10:00 Hrs]

हस्ताक्षरित/Sd/-
वरि. प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार/Sr.Head, Purchase & Stores

SBI
CSR & Sustainability Department, Corporate Centre, State Bank Bhavan, 9th Floor, Madame Cama Road, Mumbai - 400 021

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

State Bank of India (SBI) invites applications from interested parties for engagement as consultant for Bank's Carbon Neutrality Program and Preparation of Bank's Sustainability Report. Proposals are invited by 17.30 hours (IST) on 21.03.2022 from reputed firms/companies to undertake the assignment. For further details, interested parties may visit our website **https://bank.sbi/web/sbi-in-the-news/procurement-news**

Sd/-
Dy. General Manager (CSR & Sustainability)
Place: Mumbai
Date: 17.02.2022

DELHI JAL BOARD
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (REVENUE)
VARUNALAYA PHASE-II, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-05
(011-23637218)

Short Notice NIT/RFP

On behalf of Delhi Jal Board, Director (Revenue) invites online short notice tenders for Selection of Agencies for Online spot-reading, capturing of image of water meter, billing and distribution of Bills of Water/ Sewer Connections under the jurisdiction of Delhi Jal Board in respect of **Narela, Burari** and **Greater Kailash Zones** as under:-

Item No.	Name of Zone	Tender Fee	Earnest Money	Date of release of tender on e-procurement portal	Period	Last date / time of receipt of e-tender through e-procurement portal
Item No.1	**Narela Zone** Short NIT/RFP Notice No. 04/DJB/ DOR/ Rev. (HQ)/2021-22 dated 15.02.2022	Rs. 1,000/-	Rs. 1,53,500/-	16.02.2022	01 Year	21.02.2022 upto 3.00 P.M. Tender ID 2022_DJB_216839_1
Item No.1	**Burari Zone** Short NIT/RFP Notice No. 05/DJB/DOR/ Rev. (HQ)/2021-22 dated 15.02.2022	Rs. 1,000/-	Rs. 2,54,100/-	16.02.2022	01 Year	21.02.2022 upto 3.00 P.M. Tender ID 2022_DJB_216840_1
Item No.1	**Greater Kailash Zone** Short NIT/RFP Notice No. 06/DJB/DOR/ Rev. (HQ)/2021-22 dated 15.02.2022	Rs. 1,000/-	Rs. 1,53,500/-	16.02.2022	01 Year	21.02.2022 upto 3.00 P.M. Tender ID 2022_DJB_216841_1

The RFP documents can be downloaded from Delhi Government e-Procurement website (**https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**).

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1133(2021-22)

Sd/-
(Sati Prasad)
Addl. Zonal Revenue Officer (HQ)

"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

भारत सरकार टकसाल मुंबई
INDIA GOVERNMENT MINT MUMBAI

भारत प्रतिभूति मुद्रण तथा मुद्रा निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड की इकाई मिनी-रत्न श्रेणी । सीपीएसई (भारत सरकार के पूर्णस्वामित्वाधीन) शहीद भगत सिंह मार्ग, फोर्ट, मुंबई – 400 001

A Unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited Mini-Ratna Category - I CPSE (Wholly owned by Govt. of India) Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Fort, Mumbai-400 001

Tel: 022-22703184/85 Fax: 022-22661450 Email: purchase.igmm@spmcil.com Web: igmmumbai.spmcil.com

NOTICE INVITING NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

India Government Mint Mumbai invites sealed tenders from eligible and qualified tenderers for the following :

Tender No./ date	Brief description of goods / services	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Due date & time for opening of tender
Express 6000017265/ 17.02.2022	Gold Conducting Salt	Rs.1,29,000/-	04.03.2022 at 3.00 pm

For further details, please visit our website **igmmumbai.spmcil.com** & **http://www.eprocure.gov.in.** हिन्दी अनुवाद हमारी वेबसाइट **igmmumbai.spmcil.com** पर उपलब्ध है। Corrigendum, if any, will be published in our website only.

Sd/-
Chief Purchase & Stores Officer For Chief General Manager

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Anjani Kumar, S/O Krishna Murari, R/O 127, Uday Park, New Delhi - 110049, have changed my name to Anjani Kumar Singh 0050192267-1

I,Sunil S/o Suraj Parkash,R/o 1265- A/31,near Hanuman Mandir,Gali.No.-6, Laxman-Vihar Phase-1,Gurgaon (Haryana),have changed my name to Sunil Kumar. 0040603222-11

I,LAVANYA NAGYAL,D/O.VIJAY KUMAR NAGYAL,ADD-121. SKYLARK APARTMENT,PLOT. NO-35 SECTOR-6,DWARKA NEW DELHI-110075.Changed my name to LAVANYA, permanently. 0040603213-3

I,JAI PRAKASH PANDIT, S/O.JUGESHWAR PANDIT, ADD-RZ B-17,STREET.NO-8,RAJ NAGAR 2 PALAM COLONY, SOUTH WEST DELHI-110077. Changed my name to JAY PARKASH PANDIT, permanently. 0040603213-4

I,BEENA.V W/O.HARI DAS MENON, H.NO.155,F/F BACKSIDE BLOCK-B,MOHAN GARDEN UTTAM-NAGAR WEST DELHI-110059. Changed my name to BEENA NAIR, permanently. 0040603213-2

I,ARSHAD REHMAN, S/O.ATIQUR REHMAN SIDDIQUI, ADD-323/1, STREET.NO-37. ZAKIR NAGAR, NEW FRIENDS-COLONY SOUTH-DELHI-110025.Changed my name toARSHAD REHMAN SIDDIQUI.Permanently. 0040603213-5

My name is Jahan Ara, W/o Irfan Ali Khan, R/o 14, Ground Floor, 1st Lane, Johri Farm (Noor Nagar Ext.) Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 and my old address being 38-B, 2nd Lane, Johri Farm (Noor Nagar Ext.) Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 declare that my nickname is Muniza Begum and that both the names Jahan Ara and Muniza Begum are mine. 0070773319-1

My name is Irfan Ali Khan, S/o Late Kurban Ali, R/o 14, Ground Floor, 1st Lane, Johri Farm (Noor Nagar Ext.) Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 declare that my nickname is Imran Ali and that both the names Irfan Ali Khan and Imran Ali are mine. 0070773318-1

It is for general information that I,Arun Varshney S/o-Shiv Narayan Varshney residing at-58,Engineers Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-34 declare-that name-of mine and my-father has been wrongly-written as-Arun Kr Varshney and S.N.Varshney in my-Driving Licence.The actual name-of mine and my-father is Arun Varshney and Shiv Narayan Varshney respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040603159-1

I,hitherto known as Riya Khatri,Daughter of,Bhim Sen Khatri,Residing at,House No.1943,3rd-floor,Outram-Line, G.T.B.Nagar,Delhi-110009, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rhea Khatri. 0040603234-5

I,hitherto known as Remani P,W/o Haridas,residing at,B-5,Lakeview Apartment, Ward.No-8,Mehrauli,New Delhi-110030,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Remani Haridas. 0040603207-7

I,hitherto known as Parul Dutta,S/o-Sunil Kumar Datta,R/o-B-7,Extension-112-C Safdarjung-Enclave,New-Delhi-110029,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Parul Datta. 0040603213-6

I, ZAHEEDA PARVEEN,WIFE OF SALIMUDDIN, R/O.FLAT.NO.A-20/160,DDA FLATS INDERLOK, DELIH-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ZAHIDA PARVEEN, FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040603222-3

I,hitherto known as Km.Prachi allas Prachi Rana,D/o Sh. Devendar Singh W/o Sh. Saurabh Rana,R/o Flat.No.27, Second-Floor, Pocket-d, Near-Greenway Nursery-School, Dilshad Garden,Jhilmil, East Delhi,Delhi-110095,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Prachi Rana. 0040603207-8

I,VIKRAM BHAL S/O DHARAM PAL R/O A-198, RESETTLEMANT COLONY,VIKAS NAGAR,DELHI-110059.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIKRAM. 0040603222-8

I,Sweety,W/o Sunil Kumar R/o-1265-A/31,near-Hanuman Mandir, Gali.No.-6, Laxman-Vihar Phase-1,Gurgaon (Haryana),have changed my name to Sweety Nayyar 0040603222-10

I,Sudarshan Kaur,W/o Divender Singh Chadha,R/o-B-189-190, Lajpat Nagar-I,Delhi-110024, have changed my name to Sudarshan Kaur Chadha for all future purposes. 40603207-10

I,Jitin Rawal S/O Rajkumar Rawal R/o B-3/601,Vasundhra, Ghaziabad, UP-201012 changed my name to Jtin Rawal 0040603207-6

I,Indermohan Marwaha,W/O-Virender Jeet,R/o-2A/E5, Shatabdi Vihar,Sector-52, Noida,G.B.Nagar,U.P.- 201301, inform that Indermohan Marwaha and Indermohan both are the same person. 0040603207-9

I,Simmi W/o Vijay Kumar Bharti R/o-Q-39,Second-Floor, Rajouri Garden,Janta-Market,New Delhi-110027,have changed my name to Simmi Bharti. 0040603207-3

I,Shahzaman Sultan,S/o Sultan Salahuddin,R/o-2839-40, 2nd floor kucha chellan Darya Ganj Delhi-110002,have changed my name to Mohammed Shahzaman. 0040603222-4

I,Sahil Rao S/o-Sh.Ashok Kumar R/o-H.No.747A,Board Colony, Patel Nagar, Gurugram, Haryana. That I have changed my name Sahil to Sahil Rao,for all,Future Purposes. 0040603222-1

I,SHREYA DUA W/O RAVINDER DUA R/o A-175,UPPER GROUND-FLOOR,NEAR LANCER CONVENT SCHOOL, PRASHANT-VIHAR, DELHI-110085,have changed my name to SHREYA TANEJA. 0040603207-4

I,Rakesh Kumar S/o Late Shri Jai Pal Sharma R/o C-242, Sector-19, Noida Distt.-G.B. Nagar(U.P.) have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar Sharma for all future purposes. 0040603152-1

I, REVAMMA N, Mother of JC-441971N, Rank SUB SREEKUMAR, R/o-Vill-Kadampanad, PO-Thuvayoor South, Teh-Adoor, Dist.-Pathanamthitta, Pin-691552, State-Kerala. My Name Erroneously mentioned in my son's service document as REMA. My correct Name is REVAMMA N, vide affidavit IN-LA02690099516855U, sworn before Notary DT. 10-Feb-2022. 0040603229-8

I,RAJIVLOCHAN SURESHANAND MADHWAL,S/o-Shri Suresha Nand,R/o-H.No.H,Block-4, Sector-4,DIZ Area,Raja Bazar, New Delhi-110001,have changed my name to RAJIVLOCHAN MADHWAL for all purposes. 0040603207-11

I,PARTH SINGH,S/o ABHICHAND SINGH,R/o FLAT.NO.202, TOWER-10, DHAULA-ROAD, SECTOR-5, SOHNA, GURGAON, HARYANA, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PARTH,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040603213-1

I,Navpreet Kaur W/o Sukhpal Singh,R/o WZ,C-25,Mukherjee-Park Extension,ND-18 have changed my name to Navpreet Sukhpal Singh,for all purposes. 0040603222-2

I, NEERU,W/O-SACHIN KUMAR RAJORA,R/O:-WZ-99,HARI SINGH PARK,NEW MULTAN NAGAR,SHAKUR BASTI DEPOT,DELHI-56,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM NEERU TO KOMAL RAJORA, AFTER MARRIAGE ON 06.03.2002,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040603213-11

I,Meena Devi,W/O-Sh. Ramesh Chand,R/O-H.N WZ 200, Buhdella Village,Vikas puri, New Delhi-110018,Meena Devi and Meena Trehen Both are one & same person. 0040603229-1

I,Sanjay Jian S/o Gyan Chand Jain,R/o G-305,Block-G, Preet Vihar,Delhi-110092,have changed my name to Sanjay Jain. 0040603222-6

I, MOHINDER PAL SINGH, S/o SINGH K P KUSHWAHA, R/o HOUSE NO-411, MAITRI BLOCK, NEAR ANGELS PUBLIC SCHOOL, SECTOR-21A, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121001, have changed the name of my minor Son JIVANSH SINGH KUSHWAHA, aged about 13 YEARS and he shall hereafter be known as ATMAN SINGH. 0070773284-1

I, Munish Kumar, S/o Ram Avtar Bansal , R/o Tower-1-C-601, Golf Links, Land Craft, Near Columbia Asia Hospital, N H-24, Ghaziabad, Kavi Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201002, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Maneesh Bansal. 0070773283-1

I, Balvinder Singh Banga, S/o Kulwant Singh Banga, R/o House No. 6, Ground Floor, Lane No. H7, Vatika India Next, Sector 82, Gurugram Haryana-122004, have changed my minor Son's name from Kohnoor Singh Banga aged 14 years to Kohinoor Singh Banga forever. 0070773324-1

I hitherto known as Sanjay Kumar S/O Anil Kumar R/O Plot No. 65B, Khasra No.1518/1685, Phase-1, Aya Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110047 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sanjay Dobhal. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. 0040603196-1

I,MAUSMI YADAV,W/O DINESH KUMAR YADAV,R/O SMQ.12-B WAC SUBROTO PARK,NEW DELHI.110010 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM MAUSMI YADAV TO MAUSAMI YADAV VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED-16/02/2022,BEFORE NCT-DELHI. 0040603229-6

I, Neelam Sharma, W/o Krishan Kumar, R/o A-87, Amrapali Leisure Valley, Noida Extn., Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.), have changed my name from Neelam Rani to Neelam Sharma for all future purposes. 0070773326-1

I,ARVIND PRASAD GUPTA S/O SHRI RAJENDRA LAL SAH R/O.4C 2ND.FLOOR EXPRESSVIEW APARTMENT, SECTOR-93,NOIDA U.P.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ARVIND KUMAR GUPTA. 0040603222-9

I,Kalpana Singh,W/o Deepak Singh,R/o C-8/8836,Vasant Kunj,Delhi-110070,have changed my name to Kalpna Jain. 0040603222-5

I,Karanjeet Singh,S/O Lakhwinder Singh R/O-469A,Baba Farid-Puri,West Patel-Nagar New-Delhi. 110008,have changed my Name Karanjeet Singh to Karanjit Singh,for all purposes. 0040603213-7

I Bharti Agarwal D/o-Deepak Agarwal R/o-L-6/A, Flat No.1, Samta Apartment, Palam Dabri Road, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi-110045 have changed my name to Bharati Agarwal for all purposes. 0040603184-1

I Nisha Chachan W/O, Ashwani Kumar Chachan R/o 63, Nai Anaj Mandi, Ward No 12, Nohar, Hanumangarh, Rajasthan - 335523 have changed my name to Gayatri Devi for all purposes. 0040603193-1

I Sadhana Pandey W/O Satish Pandit R/O A-42, Radhey Shyam Park Extn., Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Sadhana Pandit for all future purposes. 0040603150-2

I Satish Pandey S/O Ambika Pandit R/O A-42, Radhey Shyam Park Extn., Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Satish Pandit for all future purposes. 0040603150-1

I Sukhvinder Singh Mariyok S/O, Malkeet Singh R/o K-502, W12D Lane, Western Avenue, Sainik Farms, Delhi have changed my name to Sukhvinder Singh for all purposes 0040603194-1

I Vansmeet Singh S/o Sh. Kawaljeet Singh R/o H.No.92, Janta Flat, GTB Enclave, Seema Puri, East Delhi, Delhi-110095 have changed my name to Vanshmeet Singh for all purposes. 0040603149-3

I, ANITA RANI MARWAH w/o MANGAT RAM MARWAH r/o G-22/228-229, Ground Floor, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to ANITA MARWAH. 0040603156-1

I, Ritu Mohindru, W/o Sonu Chawla, R/o: WZ-178A, First Floor, Krishna Puri Gali No-5, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-18, after marriage have changed my name to Ritu Chawla for all purposes. 0070773329-1

I, Dheeraj Sharma S/o Jati Ram Sharma R/o C5-A/21, Upper Ground Floor, Janak Puri B-1, Janak Puri Delhi- 110058, have changed my minor Son's name from Akshat Sharma aged 15 years to Agrim Bhardwaj forever 0070773338-1

I, Hemanshu Seth, S/o Kuldev Seth, R/o L1-1503, T-1, 15th Floor, Express Park View, Sector-Chi-V, Greater Noida, U.P., have changed my name to Hemmanshu Sethh for all future purposes. 0070773327-1

I, Jaswant Singh S/o Jaspal Singh Bhatti R/o: WZ-436,18-19, Sant Garh, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-18 Have Changed My Name to Jaswant Singh Bhatti for all Future Purposes. 0070773330-1

I, Kanishk Sanjay Bhatia S/o Sanjay Naraindra Bhatia R/o-C-1/215 Second-Floor, Janakpuri Delhi-110058,have changed my name to Kaniyshk Sanjay Bhatia Permanently. 0040603178-6

I, Manjeet Kaur Alias Manjeet Kaur Vohra,W/o Harcharan Singh R/o-24-c Second-Floor Pocket-A, Vikaspuri-Extension Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Manjit Kaur Permanently. 0040603178-5

I, Rakesh Chandela S/o Rampal Chandila R/o-WZ-183 Khayala Village Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Rakesh Chandila Permanently. 0040603178-1

I, Rakesh Chandila S/o Rampal Chandila R/o-WZ-183 Khayala-Village,Delhi-110018,have changed my minor son's name Aarav Chandela to Aarav Chandila Permanently. 0040603178-4

I, Rakesh Chandila S/o Rampal Chandila R/o-WZ-183,Khayala Village Delhi-110018,have changed my minor son's name Arnav Chandela to Arnav Chandila Permanently. 0040603178-3

I, Sathiyavathi. A., Spouse of No.- JC414378L rank (SUB), Anandan K., R/o-VPO & Post-Tirupattur, Tehsil & Distt-Tirupattur (Vellore), have changed my name from Sathiyavathi. A. to Sathiyavathi. C. vide Affidavit dated 30.11.2021 before Notary Public, New Delhi. 0070773328-1

I, Surender Kumar, S/o Prem Nath Pasricha, R/o House No-2C/3148A, Gill Colony Road, Gill Colony Nagar Nigam 4, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh-247001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Surender Kumar Pasricha. 0070773282-1

I, TAUSHIF S/O ABDUL KAYUM, R/O -R 266A GALI NO 12 RAMESH PARK LAXMI NAGAR DELHI 110092 have changed my name to MOHAMMED TAUSHIF S/O Mohammed QAYUM 0070773333-1

I, Sonia Chandela/Sonia Singh W/o Rakesh Chandila R/o-WZ-183 Khayala Village Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Sonia Chandila Permanently. 0040603178-2

I,Hassaan Khan S/O-Sharifuddin R/O-2704,5th Floor,Gali-Kale Khan,Kucha Chellan,Darya Ganj,New Delhi-110002,Have Changed My,Name To Hassan Sharif, For All Future Purposes. 0040603222-7

I, Vinita Esther Cross R/o 110/1093 Ward 1 St.johns Church Comp. Mehrauli Delhi-110030, have changed my minor son's name, from Jeremy Samuel to Jeremy Samuel Cross. 0040603229-5

I, Manjit Khara W/o Late Jaideep Gopal Surie R/o G-150 Nar Vihar Part-2, Sec-34 Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201307, Have Changed my name to Manjit Surie for all purposes. 0040601916-2

I,Himanshi D/o Vinod Parkash Sharma R/o A-3/264,Sector-8,Rohini Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Himanshi Sharma. 0040603207-1

I,Gurpreet Kaur W/o Karamjeet Singh Sandhu,R/O 547/A, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, Delhi, Changed Name to Gurpreet Kaur Sandhu. 0040603207-5

I,DIPTI CHOUDHARY DHURIA, D/O BISHAMBAR DASS CHOUDHARY,R/O G-7 FINE-HOME APARTMENT, MAYUR-VIHAR PHASE-1,DELHI-110091, have changed my name to DIPTI CHOUDHARY,for all purpose. 0040603229-7

I,DEEPA ARORA,W/O SONU ARORA,R/O D-183, MANSAROVER GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110015,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM KM KOMAL BHARARA TO DEEPA ARORA. 0040603213-10

I,Ashu Thapar,W/o Bhanu budhiraja, Address-J-1/4A, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, changed my name to Ashu thapar Budhiraja. 0040603234-1

I,Ashima,W/o- bunty vshisht, Address-B-28,Sai appartments sector-13 rohini Delhi-110085, changed my name to Ashima vshisht. 0040603213-9

I,Amanjeet Kaur,W/O Karanjit Singh,R/O 469A,Baba Farid-Puri West Patel-Nagar New-Delhi-110008,have changed my Name Amanjeet Kaur to Amanjit Kaur,for all purposes. 0040603213-8

I,Aloke Khanna,S/o R.K. Khanna R/o.D-2,LGF,Greater Kailash-Enclave-2,New Delhi-48,have changed my name to Alok Khanna,for all purposes. 0040603207-2

LOST & FOUND

I, Kishan Lal Chugh S/o Hetu Ram R/o J-3/155, Ground Floor, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, have lost my original property documents Post Possession and NOC, Possession Letter, found please Contact: +919811658465 0040603151-1

I, Dr. R.S. Malik S/o Sube Singh R/o. Malik Hospital, Hissar, Haryana has lost one page of registered lease deed in name of Balram Singh of plot no.F-1784, DSIIDC, Narela Industrial Park, New Delhi 110040 Somewhere in Rohini Sector 7 Area, Delhi. LR No.919351/2021 has been registered on 11.11.2021 with Crime Branch, Delhi. If found Please contact 9810601585 0040603149-4

Lost my,original property documents,Possession Letter,NOC, Electricity,Water & Bank challan,of Flat.No.500,4th floor,Pocket-3,Sector-28, Phase-4,Rohini,Delhi-110042. Finder contact:Deepa Vohra & Devinder Kumar Vohra,R/o-A-295,Meera Bagh,Outer Ring Road,New Delhi-110087. 0040603229-9

LOST & FOUND

I Dinesh Kumar Jain Director of M/s Vardhman Cars Pvt Ltd , We lost our original property paper at gurgaon bus stand details sale deed date 21/04/2014 Reg. no 267. Property owner M/s Vardhman Cars Pvt Ltd, Address 8 Kanal 6 Marla, Khewat No-30, Khatoni no-41 & 42, Mustatil no-36, Kila no-1/1 (0-7), Mustatil no-37, Kila no-4/2 (5. 15), 5(6-0), 3 (10-4), 4/1 (2-1) & Khewat no-28. Khatoni no-38 & 39, Mustatil no-30 Kila no-21/2 (1-18) 22 (7-19), Mustatil no -37. Kila no-1 (7-4), 2(9-16), Waka Mouja Fidedhi. Tehsil & Distt. Rewari Haryana-123401

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my Client **Smt. Anoop Kaur D/o Late Sh. Sultan Singh presently residing at #8144, 134 ST, Surrey B.C., V3W4T9, Canada and also resident of 123, Sector-15, Part 1, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001(India)** that she has severred all her relations with her son **Sh. Aksharpal Singh Gulia** as well as her daughter-in-law **Smt. Anjali** and has disowned them from all of her movable and/or immovable properties & from her personal life too. If any person(s) deals with the above said **Sh. Aksharpal Singh Gulia** and his wife **Smt. Anjali** in any manner whatsoever, such person(s) shall do so at his / her / its / their sole risks, liablilities, responsibilities, consequences etc,and my client shall not be liable for the same in any manner under any circumstances.

Rajnish & Associates (Advocate)
449, 2nd Floor, Dahiya Bhawan,Sant Nagar, Delhi-110084

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that under instructions from & on behalf of my client **PRABHAT KALIA** S/o Shri Roshan Lal R/o 182, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, Delhi-110034, have disowned/debarred his son **AMANDEEP KALIA** & his wife **SMT. SHIKHA SAINI**, from all his immovable properties and moveable assets, and severed all relations with them due to their disobedience and misbehavior. Anybody dealing with them, will do at his/her/their own risks, costs and responsibility & my client and all his other family members shall not be responsible for any acts done by themselves.

J.C. Trikha (Advocate)
M-4, C.S. Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to public that my clients Mrs. Anju Sharma W/O Sh. Pramod Kumar Sharma and Sh. Pramod Kumar Sharma Both R/O 18-A, R-Block, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 have severed all their relations from their son namely Anant Bhardwaj S/O Sh. Pramod Kumar Sharma R/O 1/5342, Balbir Nagar Extension, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 and their daughter-in-law Bhawana W/O Anant Bhardwaj R/O Village And Post Office- Lakhlan-Rajgarh, Churu, rajasthan-331023 because of all their ill activities and their ill behavior towards my client and my client has also debarred them from their all movable and immovable properties for all purposes in future. Any-body dealing with them shall be doing so at her/ his own risk and responsibilities and my clients shall not be responsible for any act of the aforesaid person.

Sd/- **(ARUN YADAV)**
Advocate
Chamber No. B-90, B.G.S Block
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clientess Santosh Kapoor W/o I.C. Kapoor R/o A-90, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018 had earlier debarred and disowned her son Dheeraj Kapoor from her movable and immovable properties and also severed all her relations with him and published the public notice dated 09.03.2021 published in two leading newspapers i.e. The Indian Express and Jansatta. Now due to development in relations in family memebrs my clientess hereby withdraw her earlier aforesaid notice, which should be treated as null and void in future.

Sd/-
RUPESH SHARMA
Advocate
Enl. No. D-1820/2001
Ch. No. 515, 5th Floor
Lawyers Chamber Block,
Rohini Courts, Delhi-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Rajeshwar Dayal Bhardwaj son of Sh. Mangey Ram Bhardwaj and his daughter in-law Smt. Latika D/O Sh. Sudarshan Kumar both residents A-37, Third Floor, Jail Road, Fateh Nagar, Delhi-110018 have debarred/disowned their son/husband respectively namely Sh. Deepak Bhardwaj S/O Sh. Rajeshwar Dayal Bhardwaj R/O KI-59, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P. 201002 from all their moveable & immoveable properties and their personal life & ceased all relations with him due to his misbehavior. My clients will not be responsible for his acts & deeds and dealings with any person.

Sd/- **G. P GOYAL (Advocate)**
Ru-352 Pitampura Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

"This is for the information of general public that my client Smt. Maya W/o Sh. Raju & Sh. Raju S/o Sh. Sunder Lal both R/o 39/40, N.D.M.L. Pandara Park, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003, have disowned and debarred their son Mr. Deepak and Daughter-in-law Mrs. Twinkle from all their movable and immovable properties with immediate effect and severed all thier relations and connections with them, because they are out of control of my client and misbehave, wrangle with them. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities thereto and my client and their family shall be in no way responsible for any act, deeds and things done by them.

Sd/- **M.K. JHA** (ADVOCATE)
G.F. SR.-II, Authority Building, Distt. Centre, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO PUBLIC AT LARGE THAT MY CLIENT SHAHID KHAN S/O SH. LUKMAN MIAN, R/O H.NO. J-3-A/29A, KHIRKI EXTN., MALVIYA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-17 HAS DISOWNED/ DEBARRED AND DISINHERITED HIS SON NAMELY SHAHBAZ KHAN FROM HIS ALL MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES/ ASSESTS. IF IN FUTURE ANY BODY DEALS WITH HIM, WILL DO SO AT HIS/HER /THEIR OWN RISKS, COSTS AND RESPONSIBILITY. MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACTS, LOSSES & DAMAGES DONE BY HIM.

SANJAY KUMAR SHARMA &
MS. PARIGUL BEGUM (ADVOCATES)
CH. NO. 458, SAKET COURTS, NEW DELHI -17

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that Freehold DDA built up SFS Flat No. 467, First Floor, Category I, Pocket No. 16, Sector-3, Dwarka, New Delhi, presently owned & possessed by Shri Hari Krishan Sharma by virtue of Conveyance Deed, duly registered vide Regd. No. 11306, dated 07.03.2004 & as per present owner version the said property is/ are free from all sorts of encumbrances, few link documents are informed as misplaced/ untraceable sometime in 02.01.2010 at Dwarka, New Delhi & the same is informed to the Delhi Police, P S Crime Branch, vide LR No. 129940/2022 dated 15.02.2022.

It is hereby notified that any person, Attorney & /or executor of POA, or entity, firm/ company, Bank, HUF/ member of HUF, financial institution having any claim, any charge, interest or lien or claim on the basis of document informed as lost and/or objection to thereof, he/ she/ they may lodge/ notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof/ court judgement within 15 days from the day of publication of this public notice, failing which any further/ future claim/ objection(s) shall be rejected and my client/ prospective buyer(s) as a bona-fide purchaser conclude the title/ Sale Deed proposed to be executed in favor of my client or in the name of his/her/their nominees shall be deemed to be clear & marketable without any defect, encumbrances, flaw and impediment.

Nirmal Kumar (Advocate)
Ch.No. 561, Saket Courts, N. Delhi (M) 8587898197
Email : nlr2verma@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client **KAPIL MITTAL** S/o Shri Manmohan Mittal, R/o Plot No. 23, GF, F6, Vatika India Next, Sector-82, Gurugram, Haryana, co-owner of ½ undivided share alongwith his mother Smt. Kamlesh Mittal (owner of ½ undivided share) in respect of Flat No. B-201, Skyz, Ramprastha City, Gurugram, Haryana, that Smt. Kamlesh Mittal mother of my applicant has expired on 09.05.2021, leaving behind my client Kapil Mittal-Son, Manmohan Mittal-husband, Deepa Gangal, Preeti Gupta & Simmi Aggarwal-Daughters are the only legal heirs as per Surviving Member Certificate issued by Dwarka, South West District, Vide its certificate no. 90660000126367, Dt. 21.12.2021, as per surviving member certificate there is no other legal heirs except those who name are mentioned above, after that my client have applied for the transfer of ½ undivided share of his mother in respect of Flat No. B-201, Skyz, Ramprastha City, Gurugram, Haryana, in his name, in the office of concerned authority if any person have any objection regarding the same please contact me and my client at his mobile no.**9910691355** within 7 days after publication of this notice after that My client will not be responsible for any type of claim/litigation regarding the said flat. **J.C. Trikha** (Advocate) M-4, Civil Wing Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Byers beware, any buyers of property in respect to the Property plot of land area measuring 150 Sq.Yard out of Khasra No. 6/7 situated in the revenue estate of village Khaira Najafgargh, New Delhi 110043. The said property is in the name of, Late Smt. Jai Kumari Devi, mother of My client Mr. Abhishek Anand S/o Sh. Ram Raghaw Singh R/o. E-34A, Flat No. 102, 1st Floor, Deoli Road, Khanpur Extension, New Delhi-110062

Be It known to all through this public notice that my above named client do hereby inform the public at large that my client has share in aforesaid property being a legal heirs of Late Smt. Jai Kumari Devi W/o Sh. Ram Raghaw Singh. If any persons/bodies has have was/were shall/will entered with respect to the aforesaid property from anyone then deemed to be null and void. That anybody dealing with them shall do the same on his/her own risk and consequences & my client will not be responsible for any act, deal & commission & omission on their behalf.

Sd/- **Rajendra Kumar Singh**
(Advocate)
A-309, R.G. COMPLEX, D.B. GUPTA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110055

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. Arav Sethi (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagors/Borrowers), is purchasing Property No. B-1/98, adm. 126 Sq. Mtrs., Janak Puri, New Delhi (hereinafter referred to "said property") from Mr. Om Prakash Malhotra, Mrs. Amarjeet Kaur (self & on behalf of Jagmeet Malhotra), Mrs. Prem Lata, Mrs. Usha Arora, Mr. Uma Mehta, Mr. Pramod Khanna, Mr. Pankaj Khanna, Mrs. Praveen Gupta, Mrs. Pooja Tiwari, Mr. Prem Nath Kapoor & Mrs. Rachna Goswami who are it's absolute owners vide Conveyance Deed dated 20.04.2002 read with Will dated 13.07.1999 & Orders passed by Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in CS (OS) No. 2064/2008. Mr. Arav Sethi will create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our clients IDFC First Bank Limited, 2nd Floor, Express Building, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002.

Any person, body, individual, institution having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary deposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or my Client.

Ravi Khanna (Advocate)
A-38, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-48
Contact: +91-11-49774545

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL CONCERNED THAT ORIGINAL SALE DEED DULY REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO. 8514 ADDL. BOOK I VOLUME 1606 ON PAGES 131-135 ON 30.04.1966 IN FAVOUR OF JAI PRAKASH MALIK CHAND AND OTHERS HAS BEEN LOST AND IS NOT TRACEABLE AND L.R. NO. 71776/2022/25.01.2022 HAS BEEN LODGED WITH POLICE. ANY PERSON FINDING SAME MAY CONTACT UNDERSIGNED.

(VIVEK KUMAR SINGH)
ADVOCATE
Ch. No. 359, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, New Delhi- 110054

सार्वजनिक सूचना

मेरे मुवक्किल रामेश्वर खोवाल पुत्र स्वर्गीय शंकर लाल एवं श्रीमती किरन बाला पत्नी श्री रामेश्वर खोवाल निवासी ई-183, शास्त्री नगर, अशोक विहार, दिल्ली-110052 ने अपने पुत्र सुमित खोवाल एवं पुत्रवधू श्रीमती आंचल पत्नी सुमित खोवाल को उनके दुर्व्यवहार, नियंत्रण से बाहर होने, गाली-गलौज, लड़ाई झगड़ा करने, झूठी कम्पलेंट करके झूठे केस में फंसाने की धमकी देने, मानसिक व शारीरिक यातनाएं देने के कारण अपनी समस्त चल एवं अचल संपत्तियों से बेदखल करते हुए सभी सामाजिक पारिवारिक रिश्ते-नाते सम्बन्ध-विच्छेद कर लिए हैं। आज के बाद मेरे मुवक्किलगण व उसके परिवार के सदस्यों का पुत्र सुमित खोवाल व पुत्रवधू आंचल से किसी प्रकार का कोई वास्ता, ताल्लुक नहीं रहा है, भविष्य में इन दोनों के किसी भी प्रकार के क्रिया-कलापों, दीवानी-फौजदारी वाद-विवाद, पुलिस कार्यवाही व लेन-देन आदि कार्यों के लिए मेरे मुवक्किल व उनके परिवार का कोई सदस्य उत्तरदायी नहीं होगा।

रूपेश सिंह चौहान अधिवक्ता
चै.नं. के-115,
प्रथम तल तीस हजारी कोर्ट दिल्ली-54

"IMPORTANT"

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RailTel

(A Government of India Undertaking)
CIN No L64202DL2000GOI107905

TENDER No. RCIL/Sig/NR/2021-22/OT-3
RailTel/Northern Region invites E-tenders from eligible vendors for **"Survey, Design & Construction of EI Building at five stations (i.e. Verka Junction, Kathunangal, Jaintipura, Batala and Chhina) including internal Electrification of Building in connection with upgradation of Signalling from Std. I to Std. II(R) with Electronic Interlocking (EI) of these stations in ASR-PTK section of Firozpur Division, Northern Railway"** Tender Notice & Tender Document are available on **www.ireps.gov.in** Addendum/ Corrigendum will be uploaded on IREPS portal only.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (COMMERCIAL BRANCH)

No. CBPL/OBS/Bina-Guna-GWL-MKC-Bina sec./2022 Date: 14.02.2022

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Bhopal Division, West Central Railway Bhopal on behalf of president of India invites offers through open competitive bidding under single packet for awarding contract for onboard shopping for passengers to sale Non-edible & miscellaneous items in trains between **Bina-Guna-GWL-MKC-Bina** section in Bhopal Division West Central Railway for a period of five years. Tenderers can visit on official website **www.ireps.gov.in** for details of tender documents. Earnest Money Deposit of **Rs. 1,32,300/-** and Tender Document Cost **Rs. 5,900/-** shall be submitted through net banking or payment gateway. The estimated value of the contract is **Rs. 12,45,000/-** per annum Excluding GST. The last date of submission of online tender is **10.03.2022 up to 15.00 hrs.**

Divisional Commercial Manager
West Central Railway, Bhopal

कोरोना को हराना है, दो टीका लगवाना है

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer(E), Postal Electrical Division, 10th floor, Meghdoot Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 invites on behalf of President of India, percentage rate e-tenders on two bid system for following work

Name of Work:- Electrical works for renovation of MMS office and its premises at kashmere gate, Delhi

NIT No.- 190/EE/PED/ND/NIT/ 2021-22/ 416 dated 15.02.2022

Estimated cost:- Rs.3316839/=

Last date and time of submission of technical and financial bid is 25.02.2022 upto 1500 hours Bid form and other details can be obtained from website https://dopcivil.euniwizarde.com

SD-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(E)
POSTAL ELECTRICAL DIVISION NEW DELHI

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-TENDER NOTICE

PCMM/CLW/DKAE on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tender/s is/are for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. **[A] Tender Notice No.: PCMM/CLW/ Dankuni/E-Procurement/21-22/58 Dated: 10.02.2022. Sl.No.; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Qty.; Due On; Tender Cost are as follows: [152]; 34222967A;** Shrink Down Sleeve DTMS 3/16 as per Drg./Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0154/R; As per tender doc.; **02.03.22;** 0.00. **[153]; 21212547;** MS Plate Size:5X1500/1800x 8000 MM Spec. No: IRS M-41; As per tender doc.; **15.03.22;** 0.00. **[154] 21222720;** M.S.PLATE, IS 2062:2011, GR-E-410, Quality - C killed normalized heat treated condition. size-(a) Thickness 10 mm. (b) Width - 1250mm or 1500mm or 1800mm or 2000mm. (c) Length-5000mm or 6300mm or 9000mm; As per tender doc.; **07.03.22;** 0.00. **[B] Tender Notice No.: PCMM/CLW/ Dankuni/E-Procurement/21-22/59 Dated:- 15.02.2022. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Qty.; Due On; Tender Cost are as follows: [155]; 29222802;** Hardened Steel Shot SS-1180, Width of Aperture 1.18mm, Conforming to is: 4606/1983 (Re-affirmed 2019, Feb.) HSN CODE:72051021; As per tender doc.; **17.03.22; 0.00. [156]; 34211019A;** Snubber Circuit To Contactor Auxiliaries to Drg./Specn. No. CLW/ ES/3/0202 Alt. A; As per tender doc.; **24.03.22; 0.00.**

PR1-331 **PCMM/CLW/DKAE**

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BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED

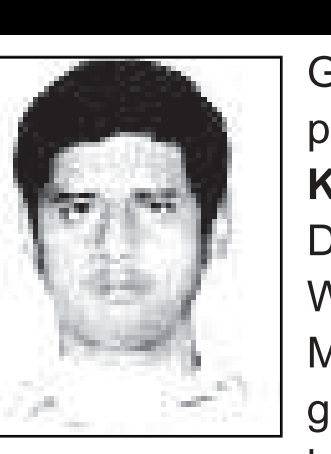
(A Mini Ratna Company)
(A subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCCL **www.bcclweb.in**, Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in.

*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued thorugh e-procurement portal of CIL.

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON



Abdul Razzik

General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Abdul Razzik, S/o Abdul Kadir,** R/o H.No. 1962, JJ Colony, Bawana, Delhi. Age 35 years, Height 5', Complexion Wheatish, Round Face, Identification Mentally Weak, Wearing Blue colour shirt, grey colour pant and chappal in feet has been missing since 20.08.2014 from his house. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this person but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 66-B dated 08.09.2014 has been lodged at PS Narela, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218
DP/1479/ON/2021

SHO
PS: Narela, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27282350, 27280435

Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** Unknown, **Height:** 5'6", **Sex:** Male, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Red White and Blue Check Dar Shirt and Black Pant & Jacket, **Place of Recovery:** Found dead at Red Light Shani Mandir Sai Baba Mandir Road, in the area of P.S. Madhu Vihar, Distt. East, Delhi.

In this regard **FIR No. 237/2022, U/s 279/337/304A IPC, Dt. 08/02/2022** has been lodged at **Police Station, Madhu Vihar, Distt. East, Delhi**. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO
P.S. Madhu Vihar, Distt. East, Delhi
DP/921/ED/2022 Ph.: 011-22732426, 22732429

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in
(1st CALL)

System Tender No.: 92402/NIT No.:37/SAC/2021-22, Durg,Dated: 14.02.2022

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 07.03.2022 at 17.30 Hour.

Name of Work: RENOVATION OF TUMAKHURD TANK NO 01, AND LINING OF CANAL.L.B.C. R.D. 0 TO 1605 M.,R.B.C. 0 TO 3840 M.,SUB MINOR R.D. 0 TO 390 M., WITH CONSTRUCTION OF 10 NOS INLET, 11 NOS V.R.B., 01 NOS SPILL CROSSING., 01 NOS SUPER PASSAGE., 01 NOS MINOR HEAD., 01 NOS FALL AND 16 NOS. COLABA FIXING IN BLOCK DHAMDHA OF DISTRICT DURG.

Probable Amount of Contract:- **Rs. 262.89 Lakhs**

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal **(https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) from Date 21.02.2022 at 17.31 Hours. (IST)** onwards.

NOTE:- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal **(https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in)** and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Tandula Water Resources Division, Durg (C.G.)
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godavari Basin Raipur (C.G.)

67846

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tender No.- PUCNB-BSZ-ICL-EI-T-58 **Date : 14.02.2022**

TENDER NOTICE
(Single Packet)

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Project, North Central Railway Project Unit, Kanpur for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-Tender from reputed contractors/JV firms with adequate experience and financial capability, for the following work on **Single** Packet System up to 15.00 hrs. on the opening date of E-tender mentioned therein. If date of opening is declared a holiday or offer could not be opened due to Technical issue, the offers shall be opened on the next working day.

Name of work	"Supply, Designing, Installation, testing and commissioning of Indoor and Outdoor Signalling gears in connection with Replacement of Mechanical Signalling at Two stations Bharuwa Sumerpur (BSZ) and Ichauli (ICL) with EI (EI material of Hitachi/Ansaldo make will be supplied by Railway) in Banda-Bhimsen section of Jhansi Division of North Central Railway"
Estimated cost of work	Rs. 18802051.48 only (Rs. One Crore Eighty Eight Lakhs Two Thousand Fifty One and Forty Eight paise only).
Earnest Money	Rs. 244000/- (Two Lakh Forty Four thousand only).
Tender form cost.	NIL.
Completion Period:	08 Months.
Availability of tender form	Tender forms shall be available on web site, **www.ireps.gov.in** 21 days prior to date of opening of the tender.
Closing Date/Time of Tender	08.03.2022 before 15:00 Hrs.
Tender Opening Date/Time	08.03.2022 at 15:00 Hrs.
Place of Opening	Through Online E-Portal **www.ireps.gov.in** in the office of CSTE/P-III/NCRPU, HQ Office, Subedarganj, Prayagraj (UP)
Validity of Offer	45 days from date of opening.
Right of Railway to deal with tender	Railway administration reserves the rights to postpone/modify or to cancel the tender without assigning any reasons.

Tenderers who wish to participate in tenders invited on **www.ireps.gov.in** have to register on the website mandatorily. Please refer to website for more details.

NOTE:-

Tenderers can submit EMD only through online mode. Online payment of earnest money can be made through net banking, debit/credit card etc.. Further particulars can be obtained from Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in**. **Non-submission of Earnest Money (EMD) of Rs.** Rs. 244000/- (Two Lakh Forty Four thousand\), will lead to summarily rejection of offer. **176/22 (SP)**

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

A teen pacer, an u-19 champ, and domestic performers

Ranji Trophy, starting after a year's break, gives chance to the young and old. *The Indian Express* provides a snapshot of a few who can't wait for it to resume

'I AM QUICKEST IN KERALA SQUAD'

EDHEN APPLE TOM (17, KERALA)

Edhen Apple Tom was surprised when he was included in Kerala's Ranji Trophy squad. The 17-year-old was not in the preliminary squad but would impress coach Tinu Yohannan with his pace as a net bowler for the team.

"It has been an excellent experience so far. Playing and training with the senior team is completely different from what I was used to with the U-19 team," says Edhen.

Yohannan rates the teenager highly. "He is deceptively quick. By looking at his body structure, one can't say that he is sharp, but he will be bowling in the high 130s, and that's why we picked him. During the Ranji Trophy camp, we found that he is ready for senior cricket. It is not only talent, but the kid has also got a very stable head and is hitting the right areas, which one need in first-class cricket," says the Kerala coach who played three Tests for India.

Edhen was born in Dubai where his parents worked at the airport. After he turned eight, he and his father moved to India while the mother stayed in Dubai. "My father (Apple Tom Phillips) was a fast bowler himself. I was 8 when he took me to former Kerala all-rounder Sony Cheruvathur sir, who was running a coaching camp in Dubai. I used to bowl fast, but there were a lot of technical issues with my bowling. Sony Cheruvathur sir fixed all those issues, but never compromised with my pace, even when I was 9. I am not saying that I am the quickest in the Kerala squad, but I am fast for my age. I can bowl fast," says Edhen, who idolises Dale Steyn.

About his unique name, the youngster says, "My great grandfather named my dad Apple Tom Phillips, and my grandfather who lived in Singapore named me Edhen."

Pratyush Raj



(clockwise from top) Edhen Apple Tom, Mandeep Singh, Nishant Sindhu, Saurabh Kumar and Prashant Solanki.









DHONI TOLD ME, 'DON'T OVERTHINK'

PRASHANT SOLANKI (21, MUMBAI)

PRASHANT SOLANKI recalls the day he got a call from Chennai Super Kings (CSK) asking whether he would be available as a net bowler for the franchise in the UAE during IPL 2021. A few months later, CSK would bid Rs 1.2 crore for the 21-year-old Mumbai leg-spinner in the IPL auction. "Shardul (Thakur) had spoken to CSK about me and they called me later to the nets. I bowled to Dhoni bhai and the other batsmen. They also made me bowl in a practice game. But I never thought they would pick me for their side," Solanki said.

What did he learn from Dhoni? "I asked him about preparation and he told me, 'just try to be simple and back your plan. Don't get confused by thinking too much. The biggest mistake any player does is they think too much at a time. It's very important to do the things which you know the best.'"

Solanki was a batsman and medium-pacer during his early days. One day when he was playing with his father Hitesh, his coach saw him bowling leg-spin and insisted that he continue with it. Leg-spin helped him play junior cricket for Mumbai and soon he grabbed attention after doing well in the Mumbai T20 League. He was the highest wicket-taker for Mumbai in the 2020-21 Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Now, he is set for his maiden Ranji season. "Red-ball cricket is the best, *ball pakda toh aisa laga ke sab life mein normal ho gaya hai* (When I held the ball, I felt everything had become normal in life). Ranji was my ultimate goal. For this, I practise spot-bowling for hours. I'm hoping that before the IPL, I do well here."

Devendra Pandey

'MEIN CARROM-VAROM NAHI DAALTA'

SAURABH KUMAR (28, UTTAR PRADESH)

SAURABH KUMAR would pray that no one would pull the train chain as he left Baghpat for Delhi. Chain-pulling meant his daily practice session would take a hit. Saurabh's father, a retired junior engineer in Akashvani, wanted his son to be a cricketer.

"It would take us two-and-a-half hours to reach Delhi. Three times a week, I would come to Sunita Sharma's academy. My father used to do over-time to make sure he accompanied me to Delhi," the 28-year old spin all-rounder said. He was once spotted by Bishan Singh Bedi, who took the budding left-arm spinner under his wing, and Saurabh's journey began to take shape. He played for Uttar Pradesh in junior cricket but getting into the Ranji Trophy squad was tough. The state team had no place for him, so he played a season (2014-15) for Services before moving back to his home state.

A conventional left-arm spinner is rare in domestic cricket but Saurabh is one. In his first game for Uttar Pradesh, against Gujarat in 2015-16, he took 10 wickets. He is also competent with the bat, having scored two first-class hundreds and eight fifties.

In the previous season, 2019-20, Saurabh took 44 wickets at 21.09. In 2018-19, he claimed 51 scalps to go with 19 wickets in the Duleep Trophy. These performances got him picked for the India A tour of South Africa last year. He relies on the traditional tools of flight, dip and turn. "*Main ye carrom-varom ball nahi daalta* (I don't bowl the carrom ball). I never liked it. I like to loop it and set up batsmen in the air."

Devendra Pandey

'LIVING A DREAM'

NISHANT SINDHU (19, HARYANA)

NISHANT SINDHU'S unbeaten 50 against England in the U-19 World Cup final showed his big-match temperament. The 17-year-old all-rounder from Haryana picked up six wickets and scored 140 runs in that tournament. But what stood out was his acumen and composure while leading his country in two games following a Covid-19 outbreak in the camp.

"Getting a chance to play Ranji Trophy would be a realisation of one of my childhood dreams. I know it is going to be very different to age-group cricket, and I am looking forward to learning more," Sindhu tells The Indian Express. "The team management has told me and (Dinesh) Bana to simply enjoy the game and take it as just another cricket match."

The most impressive quality of Sindhu is his ability to read the match situation. Raj Angad Bawa, his U-19 teammate, shares an interesting anecdote about the bouncer he bowled to England's George Bell in the U-19 World Cup final.

"I had just got the wicket of (William) Luxton. Bell walks in to bat. And Sindhu, who was standing at mid-off, came charging towards me and said, 'He is their main batter; played a crucial knock against Afghanistan. *Isko bouncer maar*,' (Fire him a bouncer). I bowled a bouncer and caught him off guard," recollects Bawa. There is a reason everyone was surprised when he was not nominated as the captain of India U-19 for the Asia Cup and U-19 World Cup. Sindhu is a serial winner; he led Haryana U-16 to the Vijay Merchant Trophy in the 2018-19 season. Two years later, Sindhu marshalled his troops to the U-19 Vinoo Mankad Trophy. He has already won the U-19 Asia Cup and U-19 World Cup.

Pratyush Raj

'RANJI MAKES YOU TOUGH'

JAYANT YADAV (32, HARYANA)

The gap between Jayant Yadav's fourth and fifth Tests was approximately five years. In early 2017, he suffered a freak finger injury and could not bowl for more than a year. It cost him a place in India's Test squad, and followed by a couple of mediocre first-class seasons, he fell down the pecking order.

The start, though, was dreamy. A hundred in his second Test, the first Indian to score a ton at No.9. The injury threatened to derail his career but he has since clawed his way back as a like-for-like replacement for Washington Sundar in the Test against New Zealand last November and made his presence felt in the second innings by taking 4 for 49.

"Playing in the Ranji Trophy gives you the temperament to do well in any format. It tests your skill sets and character over four days," Yadav tells *The Indian Express* on the eve of Haryana's first game against Tripura.

At the age of 32, Jayant is back in the reckoning; he has bagged a lucrative IPL contract with Gujarat Titans snapping him up for Rs 1.7 crore. "The best part about four-day cricket is that there will be days when you don't do well, but the next day you might get your chance for redemption. Someday, you might have to bat for more than two sessions to save a match, or you will have to bowl 20 overs on the trot to win it. It is full of ups and downs while playing a rigorous Ranji season," says Yadav.

Pratyush Raj

'MOST CHALLENGING SEASON'

MANDEEP SINGH (30, PUNJAB)

In the 2018-19 Ranji season, Mandeep Singh amassed 602 runs at an average of 54.72. Next season, 696 runs came at 69.60. But these numbers will not tell anyone that the 90 against Delhi was on an underprepared pitch in the Capital during the 2018-19 season or the brisk 89 against Kerala came on a green-top Mohali wicket against the trio of Sandeep Warrier, Basil Thampi and MD Nidheesh.

"In the north, we don't get good wickets. We either play on an unprepared pitch or a green top. You will not see many batsmen from North India scoring 1,000 runs in a season. The South and West batsmen score a bucketful of runs because they play at least 4-5 matches on flat tracks," Mandeep tells this newspaper.

In the 2019-20 season, his unbeaten 204 against Hyderabad was on a rank turner in Patiala, where Mohammed Siraj had hands on his head because he couldn't get the ball to bounce above the knee. He scored an unbeaten 71 at Thumba against Kerala, where Jalaj Saxena was spitting fire, and the match ended in two days.

"I know scoring big runs is crucial, but one has to see the conditions as well. I was playing my best cricket in the 2019-20 season. I was even selected for the Irani Trophy but it was postponed due to Covid-19. I was never expecting an India call-up, but was hoping for India A. However, I wasn't selected."

Mandeep is one of the few Indian cricketers who speaks out; be it on cricketing matters or about the protests against the farm laws (now withdrawn). But, he will now start the Ranji season underprepared as he hasn't played a competitive red-ball game in two years. "It is going to be difficult, probably the most challenging season. It is all mental now."

Pratyush Raj

RANJI IN TWO PHASES

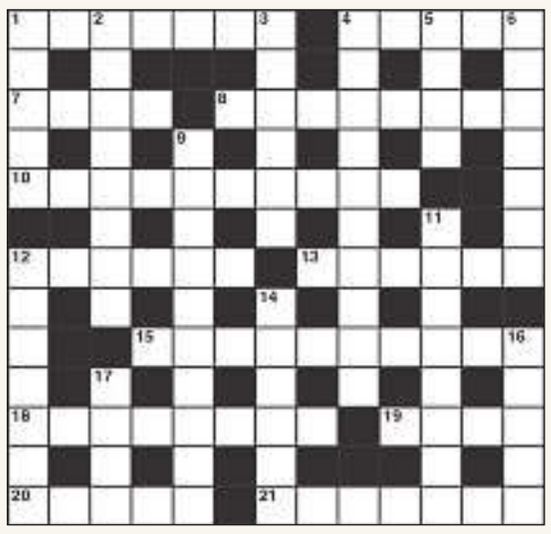
THE 2021-22 Ranji Trophy season begins on Thursday, with the league phase going on till March 15 and the knockout phase conducted after the Indian Premier League (May 30-June 26).

NINE GROUPS – eight Elite and one Plate - have been formed in the league phase to reduce travel and minimise the possibility of Covid transmission. It will consist of 57 games which will be played in a cluster format across nine venues.

EACH ELITE group will have four teams while the Plate group will have six teams. The Elite teams will play all the other teams in their group, while Plate group teams will face three other teams in their pool.

THE WINNER of the Plate group will play-off against the lowest-ranked qualifier from the Elite section. The winner will join the winner of the other seven groups in the quarterfinals.

CROSSWORD 4666



ACROSS

1 Go through the cases but don't accept any (7)
4 You'll like it if you like fruit tart (5)
7 It flows out of line (4)
8 Blamed a number before having made certain (8)
10 Alternative choice of size expressed in round numbers (4,2,4)
12 Two birds, not the tern, make a tasty morsel (6)
13 Edible seed for vegetable and fruit (6)
15 Against rigid price control for winter motoring (10)
18 How one feels when the siege is broken? (8)
19 A good man rises to king and emperor (4)
20 Wins a game with associates (5)
21 How people who snore sleep? (7)

DOWN

1 Dug up some fabric (5)
2 Rapidity with which famous person loses heart (8)
3 Smoothly gets Evelyn restyled (6)
4 Becomes discouraged when short lease is arranged (5,5)
5 Observe the target (4)
6 Certainly bound to change (2,5)
9 Still waiting for a formal proposal? (10)
11 Not skilled and prosaic presumably (8)
12 A bad-tempered pet (7)
14 Several who have taken the plunge (6)
16 Like a nobleman before his time? (5)
17 Ground plan (4)

Solutions Crossword 4665: Across: 1 Money's-worth, 9 Open air, 10 Alibi, 11 Neat, 12 Opposing, 14 Dotted, 16 Gillie, 18 Sterling, 19 Send, 22 Uncle, 23 Terrier, 24 Fell through. **Down:** 2 Opera, 3 Edam, 4 Scrape, 5 Oratorio, 6 Trivial, 7 Joined issue, 8 Ringleaders, 13 Well well, 15 Treacle, 17 Snatch, 20 Eying, 21 Brior.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Your planets are on your side, although it constantly seems as if the opposite is true. Although the critical moment has now passed, I would say that you are still not out of the woods. People who are determinedly irrational and ill-tempered, are still capable of causing disruption.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
By nature, you are conservative and unwilling to change. This is what makes it difficult for you to decide between different options, each of which could lead to a massive improvement in your prosperity. Give it about another eight weeks and you'll know the outcome.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Although everything now indicates that you are in a position to resolve a number of options and even to make a decisive move, other people still seem to be either unreliable or unprepared to co-operate. But, then, that's a state of affairs you're rapidly getting used to.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Your world is one of frustration and discord on the one hand, deep satisfaction and fulfilment on the other. People in your circle fall into two camps; those who are inspiring you to new heights and those who are responsible for holding you back. Make your choices now.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Vivacious Venus, in a sensitive region of your chart, endows you with a tendency to manipulate people who are outside your normal field of control. However, by the weekend you will come into the open, demanding that partners acknowledge your authority. Whether they will or not is another matter.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Stick to concise and businesslike communications and you'll be in the clear. If you stray from the straight and narrow, whatever you say will be misunderstood and misconstrued. You're beginning to take certain obstacles for granted, but they won't last long.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
One false move and even minor differences of opinion could well become conflicts. Probably the best thing is to keep your principles and ideals to yourself and avoid imposing arbitrary standards on other people. After all, if you don't explain yourself, you can't expect partners to know what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)
Gentle Venus should enable you to keep your emotions under control, yet Mars' imminent movement into a new region of your chart is storing up trouble between colleagues. Therefore, I think that you should now be aware of the need to maintain equilibrium at work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)
Among the potential havoc that is a feature of current planetary aspects, stands a positive relationship between Venus and Pluto, which means that you could be the recipient of an enormous amount of generosity. Just a reminder about work: you have another couple of weeks to tie up loose ends.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Most of you should now be freed from the pressures and demands that other people have been rather unfairly placing on your time. It will be a pleasure to find that partners are now increasingly willing to take life as it comes. It is so good to know that they'll be hassling you less, supporting you more.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
There is now one compelling reason why you must take very careful note of what other people are saying and doing, and it is because within a few days you will be confronted and challenged to play your full part. But that's when the problems begin.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
A major romantic upheaval of some kind appears to be unavoidable, but the consequences may be much to your liking. You crave intensity of emotion but all too often have to make do with partners' bland posturing. Yet, there is one person who can break through and show you the truth.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Logical consequences are the ___ of fools and the beacons of wise men.
- Thomas Henry Huxley (10)

PPAER

ORRUCS

FORTS

EELRCW

SOLUTION: PAPER, FROST, CURSOR, CREWEL
Answer: Logical consequences are the **scarecrows** of fools and the beacons of wise men.
- Thomas Henry Huxley

SUDOKU 4748

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

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

9				4	7	1		3
					2	8		
6	2		5	8				
1	4			5		2		
5		8	7		4	3		1
		3		9			6	5
				7	9		8	4
		7	4					
4		2	1	6				9

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4747

8	9	2	5	4	3	7	1	6
1	5	3	6	9	7	4	8	2
4	7	6	1	8	2	9	5	3
7	2	5	9	3	6	8	4	1
9	3	8	7	1	4	2	6	5
6	1	4	2	5	8	3	9	7
5	4	7	3	6	9	1	2	8
3	6	9	8	2	1	5	7	4
2	8	1	4	7	5	6	3	9

SAI Appoints 398 Coaches

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) on Wednesday announced it has appointed 398 coaches at various levels across 21 disciplines to prepare for important tournaments including the Paris and Los Angeles Olympics. The new batch of coaches and assistant coaches has a host of eminent names, including Asian Games gold medallist rower Bajrang Lal Thakar. PTI

BRIEFLY

Arif fails to finish men's slalom event



Beijing: India's campaign at the Winter Olympics came to disappointing end on Wednesday after the country's lone participant, alpine skier Arif Khan, logged a 'Did Not Finish' in the men's slalom event here. The 31-year-old from Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir, who had finished 45th in the giant slalom event on Sunday, was unable to complete Run 1 at the Yanqing National Alpine Skiing Centre. Since Khan, who was making his Winter Olympics debut, was unable to finish Run 1, he won't be competing in the second run of men's slalom event. Only 52 of the 88 starters finished the first run and will compete again in Run 2. Wearing bib no 79, Khan made a decent start, finishing the first intermediate in 14.40s and the second in 34.24s. However, he failed to complete the final section.Austria's Johannes Strolz was the fastest skier in Run 1 with a time of 53.92s. The Norwegian duo of Henrik Kristoffersen (53.94s) and Sebastian Foss-Silevaag (53.98s) were second and third respectively.

KKR appoint Iyer as new captain

Kolkata: Kolkata Knight Riders on Wednesday appointed India batter Shreyas Iyer as their new captain for the upcoming Indian Premier League after having bought him for a whopping Rs 12.25 crore at the recently-concluded mega auction. Iyer, who had captained Delhi Capitals to their only IPL final back in 2020, was released after the 2021 season and it was an open secret that KKR, who were supposed to replace Eoin Morgan, were in need of a new captain. "He (Iyer) has impressed one & all as a quality batsman at the highest level & we are confident that he will excel as a leader of Team KKR," KKR CEO Venky Mysore said in a statement.

Saketh-Ramkumar in Bangalore last 8

Bengaluru: The Indian pair of Saketh Myneni and Ramkumar Ramanathan beat compatriots Yuki Bhambri and Divij Sharan in straight sets to advance to the quarterfinals of the Bengaluru Open 2 ATP Challenger here on Wednesday. Saketh and Ramkumar, who had won the doubles title at the Bengaluru Open 1 last week, saw off Yuki and Divij 6-1 7-5 in the round of 16 at the KSLTA Courts. Wild card entrants SD Prajwal Dev and Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha also brought cheers to the Indian camp when they overcame the better-ranked Canadian-Japanese combination of Steven Diez and Rio Noguchi 6-2 6-4 en route to the quarterfinals. Arjun Khade, who will take on third seed Frenchman Enzo Couacaud in the singles pre-quarterfinal match on Thursday, combined with Austrian Alexander Erler to breeze past the duo of Bogdan Bobrov of Russia and Dominik Palan of Czech Republic with a 6-0 6-3 victory.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Another easy outing

WI fail to provide much competition, as Bishnoi impresses on international debut in India's 6-wicket win





Spinner Ravi Bishnoi finished with figures of 2 for 17. Rohit Sharma (40 off 19) and Ishan Kishan set the tone for the run chase with a 64-run opening stand. PTI

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 16

MORE THAN this West Indies team, India would be concerned about Deepak Chahar's injury, as the swing bowler looked to be in serious pain, after trying to stop a ferocious Kieron Pollard pull off Bhuvneshwar Kumar's bowling. Chahar left the field immediately. The injury didn't look good.

As for the West Indies' resistance, it was basically down to Nicholas Pooran's half-century that gave their total a fighting feel. On a very good Eden Gardens pitch, a victory target of 158 wasn't going to bother the hosts much. Rohit Sharma made a crunching start, which offset Ishan Kishan's struggles at the other end.

Thanks to the skipper, India raced to 58 for no loss at the end of the Powerplay and after that it was about carrying on with the momentum. The hosts duly sealed a six-wicket victory in the penultimate victory.

At his happy hunting ground, Rohit was bossing the Caribbean bowling. A couple of fours and as many sixes in an Odean Smith over oozed languid elegance. But after scoring 40 off 19 balls when he became Roston Chase's maiden T20I victim, India's progress became a little laboured. Virat Kohli was serenaded by 'Kohli, Kohli' chants by a handful of fans, as he walked out to bat.

He responded to it by dancing down the track and playing a gorgeous lofted drive off Akeal Hosein. Another attempt to clear the long-off boundary off Fabien Allen, however, wasn't fruitful and once again the former captain got out cheaply after making a promising start.

His departure on the back of Kishan's dismissal brought the tourists back into the game a bit. Rishabh Pant, too, got out soon and at 114/4 in the 15th over, the hosts had a bit of concern. From the West Indies' perspective, Suryakumar Yadav's wicket became important at that stage. But the latter was waltzing through his knock, offering an assortment of conventional shots and innovations. His 34 not out off 18 balls slammed the door shut on the visitors. Venkatesh Iyer at No. 6 gave him good company, scoring 24 not out off 13 balls. An unbroken 48-run fifth-wicket partnership took India home with seven balls to spare.

Bishnoi's bright night

On match eve, Ravi Bishnoi was bowling to Kohli at the nets. He was in fine fettle, teasing the former captain with flight, skidders and change of pace. Kohli used his feet to counter the rookie leg-spinner. The majority of the West Indies batsmen are too strong-armed to counter-punch against spin. They aren't known for their nimble footwork.

Bishnoi's international debut came on the heels of his good performance in training. He was expectedly a bit nervous to start with, losing his line.

But the youngster settled down quickly, using the googly as his stock ball. He also showed his cricketing intelligence by starting to bowl faster. It helped the ball skid off the dew-soaked surface. The West Indies batsmen played into his hands by getting stuck at the crease.

Take the case of Chase, an experienced player. He picked the googly but didn't cover the turn. The ball spun past the inside edge to strike the knee-roll. Chase opted for a review, a bad choice, for he was caught plumb in front. Bishnoi had his first international wicket and it gave him the confidence to tease Rovman Powell with flight.

Powell, a Rs 2.8-crore buy for Delhi Capitals in the IPL mega auction, went for a slog-sweep and unerringly picked Venkatesh at long-on. There was a big gap to manoeuvre on the left of the fielder, but Powell's shot looked premeditated.

The mediocrity of the West Indies batting in no way takes credit away from Bishnoi's bowling. It was his first international game at the storied Eden Gardens and the presence of around 2,000 spectators in the Club House upper tier created some atmosphere. The noise felt like music to the ears at the time of Covid-forced ghost games. And not only did the 21-year-old bag two wickets, he conceded just 17 runs in his four overs. Six wides attested early nerves, while the comeback confirmed steel, when Bishnoi could have been easily overwhelmed by the occasion.

His story offers a similarity to Nathan Lyon. The Australian offie had started off as a curator at Canberra's Manuka Oval. Bishnoi's journey was tougher at Jodhpur, working as a groundsman to make a field cricket-fit for training. A Rajasthan U-19 reject, his career started to take shape at Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League, under the guidance of Anil Kumble. And such was his improvement that when he left his old franchise, Lucknow Super Giants, a new entrant in the league, roped him in for Rs 4 crore.

Eye to the future

An India call-up was a result of his rapid improvement and Bishnoi has made a fine start. With slots up for grabs for the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year, he is certainly an option if he can build on Wednesday's performance. The bigger Eden Gardens playing area - the rope was pushed back at least five yards for the opening T20I - served him well, as also the bounce in the pitch. Still very early days, but similar conditions at the venues in Australia work to any leg-spinner's advantage.

"I was a bit nervous. I was looking to keep it stump-to-stump because they have power and if they can free their arms they can hit the ball well," Bishnoi told the host broadcaster during the innings break.

The game didn't begin well for him. He took Pooran's catch but trampled on the boundary rope. Things changed hearteningly for him, as he returned with the Man-of-the-Match award.

Earlier, India's decision to play six bowlers, an all-rounder in Venkatesh at the expense of Shreyas Iyer, paid off. Save Pooran's 43-ball 61, the West Indies' batting didn't gel. Some death-overs hitting took them to 157/7, still about 15 runs below par. The Caribbeans also missed the indisposed Jason Holder.

Brief scores: ***West Indies 157 for 7 (Pooran 61, Bishnoi 2-17, Harshal 2-37) lost to India 162 for 4 (Rohit 40, Suryakumar 34*, Chase 2-14) by six wickets***

BCCI ALLOWS BIGGER CROWDS AT EDEN FOR FINAL T20I

The third T20I between India and West Indies on Sunday will have a bigger crowd attendence after the BCCI's permission to the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB). The CAB had requested to the BCCI to allow spectators in the upper blocks of all the stands at Eden. However, the cricket board has granted permission for the third and final game of the series. "As discussed with other OB, as per your request, you can open up for the last T20 match against West Indies at Eden," BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has emailed to CAB chief Avishek Dalmiya. For the first two T20Is on Wednesday and Friday, some crowd has been allowed in the hospitality area and the Club House upper tier. The three-match ODI series in Ahmedabad that preceded the T20Is, was played behind closed doors. Bengal, however, has been witnessing a steady dip in the number of Covid cases. As per the West Bengal government data, just 133 new Covid cases were detected in the state on February 15.

Mbappe comes to the rescue after Messi fails to convert penalty

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, FEBRUARY 16

AFTER TEAMMATE Lionel Messi missed a penalty, Kylian Mbappe saved his team again by scoring a brilliant solo goal deep into stoppage time as Paris Saint-Germain beat Real Madrid 1-0 in their Champions League last-16 match on Tuesday.

Mbappe has rescued PSG many times with late goals in the French league this season — as recently as last Friday — and he did so again on the biggest stage.

After taking a back-heeled pass from substitute Neymar in the fourth and final minute of stoppage time of the first leg, Mbappe cut inside two players down the left and shot the ball between the legs of goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois. "I got free and then it's a one on one. The forward is always the master of the penalty area when the defenders start backing off," Mbappe said. "I decided where I wanted to go." Mbappe does not expect his team to sit back and defend in the return leg, as Madrid mostly did in Paris and got punished.

"You have to keep playing," he said. "We'll have to do the same in the return leg. We'll go there to win." Although it was a great finish, the sudden attack happened because Madrid somehow gave the ball away under no pressure in midfield instead of clearing it easily wide or long. "We lost a stupid ball, Mbappe skips by two and manages to get the ball under me," Courtois said. "It's tough to take but we didn't play well."

He certainly did, however. Courtois had played the starring role, denying Mbappe early in each half and then stopping record seven-time Golden Ball winner Messi's penalty in the 61st minute. It was awarded after Mbappe was fouled by right back Dani Carvajal.Courtois guessed correctly and dived to his left for a fine stop. "I'd studied Messi's penalties a lot and I tried to play with him when I was on the line," Courtois said. "You've also got to have that little bit of luck." Messi scored 26 goals and delivered 14 assists in 45 games against Madrid during his glory era with Barcelona, but did not find the net in several games before joining PSG last summer.



Kylian Mbappe scored the winner in the 94th minute against Madrid. Reuters

RESULTS

PSG	1-0	Real Madrid
(Mbappe 90'+4)		
Sporting	0-5	Man City
		(Riyad Mahrez 7', Bernardo Silva 17' and 44', Phil Phoden 32', Raheem Sterling 58')

WINTER GAMES

How Valieva was first banned & then reinstated despite doping charges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

RUSSIAN TEENAGE figure skater Kamila Valieva took the Beijing Games by storm, becoming the first woman ever to land a quadruple jump at the Olympics last Monday. After leading the Russian Olympic Committee to gold, reports emerged that the 15-year-old had failed a test for performance-enhancing drugs. During a whirlwind week, Valieva was provisionally suspended, then cleared to compete and is now expected to take singles gold at the free skate event on Thursday.

Kamila Valieva, the phenom

Nicknamed 'Miss Perfect', Valieva came into the Beijing Olympics with lofty billing and hype. The 15-year-old phenom ended the Russian Figure Skating Championships in December with a final score of 283.48, 35 points ahead of second place. Then in January, she was far and away the best performer at the European Figure Skating Championships, securing 90.45 in the short programme (the highest score ever recorded) and 168.61 in the free skate event.

After dominating the national and continental competition, Valieva lived up to expectations on the international stage too. On February 6, she competed in the women's single skating short programme. In her first appearance at the Beijing Games, she became one of only four women to land a triple axel at the Olympics, scoring 90.18 (second-placed Japanese skater Wakaba Higuchi got 74.73), just shy of her own world record.

The day after, Valieva helped the ROC (Russian Olympic Committee) win the team event gold. She posted a 178.92 in free skate, twice landing a quadruple jump, the hardest move in the sport. During her run, she became the first woman to land a quadruple salchow and a quadruple toe loop at the Olympics.

The timeline of trouble

On February 8, the medal ceremony for the team event was postponed. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)-accredited laboratory in Stockholm then reported that a sample from Valieva — collected by the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) during the national championship in December — had returned positive for trimetazidine.

Valieva was handed a provisional suspension by RUSADA, which was lifted within a day after an appeal from the skater, allowing her to compete at the Winter Games. While reports of the positive test emerged in Russian outlets, it wasn't made public till February 11, when the International Testing Agency (ITA) issued a statement detailing the timeline of test collection, notification of the banned substance in the test, suspension and suspension reversal.



Nicknamed 'Miss Perfect', Kamila Valieva came to Beijing with lofty billing and hype. Reuters

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), WADA and the International Skating Union (ISU) said they would challenge the decision to overturn Valieva's suspension.

EXPLAINED

'Exceptional circumstances'

After a nearly six-hour-long videoconference, a three-person panel from the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled on Monday to allow Valieva to compete at the Olympics.

CAS emphasised that "there were serious issues of untimely notification" of the result of the test and the "...late notification was not her fault, in the middle of the Olympic Winter Games". Valieva's age (15) and the corresponding status as a "protected person" was a key factor in the ruling. "When a minor is involved, there is a requirement in the World Anti-Doping Code to investigate the entourage," the panel said in a statement.

Matthieu Reeb, CAS director-general, said: "The panel considered that preventing the athlete to compete in the Olympic Games would cause her irreparable harm in these circumstances."

Earlier, Valieva's positive test and the timeline was also not made public for three days before ITA divulged the details, claiming that it would not normally name a minor but did so due to "the necessity for official information due to heightened public interest."

Back in action

After being cleared to compete, Valieva topped the short programme on Tuesday with a score of 82.16, ahead of Russian teammate Anna Shcherbakova, by nearly 2 points. Japan's Kaori Sakamoto was third at 79.84.

Valieva's competes on Thursday in the free skate programme. But IOC has announced that there will be no flower and medal ceremonies should she finish among the top three skaters.

Drugs in question

The New York Times reported that Valieva's sample included three substances that are sometimes used to help the heart, according to a document filed in her hearing. Chief among them is trimetazidine or TMZ — a metabolic drug used to treat angina and chest pain caused by lack of blood and oxygen supply to the heart. The drug can also be used to reduce symptoms of vertigo, tinnitus and blurred vision.

Trimetazidine was added to WADA's list of prohibited substances in 2014 as a "hormone and metabolic modulator."

According to the NYT, the two other substances listed by Valieva on a doping control form are Hypoxen and L-carnitine, also used to treat the heart but not on the banned list.

IOC member Denis Oswald told reporters that the presence of trimetazidine was "contamination which happened with a product her grandfather was taking". According to Russian newspaper Pravda, Valieva's lawyer Anna Kozmenko made a similar argument.

"There can be completely different ways how it got into her body," Kozmenko is reported to have said. "For example, grandfather drank something from a glass, saliva got in, this glass was somehow later used by an athlete. Or the drug lay down on some surface, traces remained, which the athlete then drank."

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