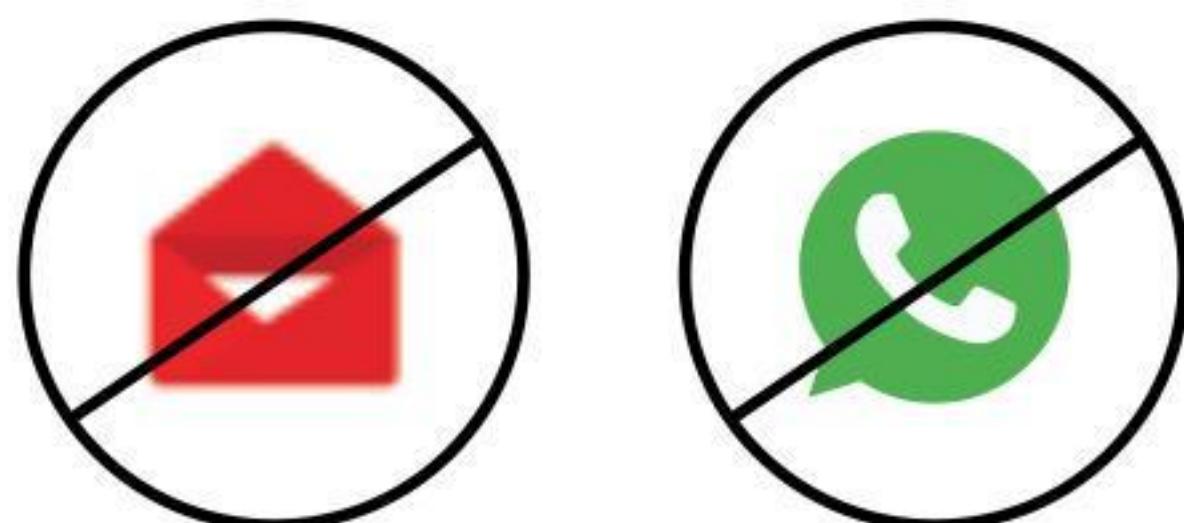


# FORWARD IS BACKWARD

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## देकर विकास का सन्देश बनाया यूपी को एक्सप्रेसवे प्रदेश

सोच ईमानदार, काम ढमदार



चार नये एक्सप्रेसवे



33,750 NEW CASES, POSITIVITY 3.84%

Schoolgirls line up for the vaccine outside the Sarvajanik Vidyalay in Telav village, on the outskirts of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on Monday. *Nirmal Harindran EXPLAINED: VACCINE SHELF LIFE, PAGE 13*

# Children's vaccination begins: 41 lakh get first shot on Day 1

MP, Gujarat top list; Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu record just over 1 lakh each

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

OVER 41 lakh children received the first dose of Covid-19 vaccines on Monday, the first day of the vaccination drive for those in the age group of 15-18 years, according to provisional data.

While 41,27,468 doses of Covaxin were administered to the 15-18 years age group, the total vaccination figure touched 146,71 crore, according to provisional data. With 33,750 new cases being reported in the last

24 hours, the active caseload has touched 14,5,582; the daily positivity rate is 3.84 per cent.

"Today we have taken an important step forward in protecting our youth against Covid-19. Congrats to all my young friends between the age group of 15-18 who got vaccinated. Congrats to their parents as well. I would urge more youngsters to get vaccinated in the coming days," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

According to official data, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat topped the list of vaccinations

(15-18 years group) on Monday. Madhya Pradesh reported 7,71,615 doses and Gujarat 5,55,312 doses. Three states reported over 3 lakh doses in this age group: Andhra Pradesh (4,87,269), Karnataka (4,14,723), and Rajasthan (3,57,018).

However, five big states administered just over 1 lakh doses in this age group: Uttar Pradesh (1,66,996); Maharashtra (1,81,561); West Bengal (1,03,564); Bihar (1,70,603); and Tamil Nadu (1,87,710). Five other states administered just over

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## INSIDE



IN DELHI, 20,998 TEENS GET VACCINE ON FIRST DAY

OMICRON 'COMMON VIRAL FEVER', COVID NEAR END: YOGI

PAGES 4, 6

## Manufacturers question ICMR's 5-day window to license its Omicron kit

JAY MAZOOMDAAR  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

A NUMBER of domestic In Vitro Diagnostic (IVD) test kit manufacturers have questioned the short 5-day deadline set by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for submitting an Expression of Interest (EoI) to commercialise a diagnostic kit it developed for the detection of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

Their contention: Since the anticipated Omicron surge will trigger an unprecedented but relatively short-lived demand for targeted test kits, any head start over those who missed the 5-day window will hugely benefit a few who did not.

On December 17, the ICMR invited the EoI by December 22 for "transfer of technology for development and commercialisation of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron (B1.1.529) Real time RT-PCR assay through a novel diagnostic kit" developed at the ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Dibrugarh.

On December 24, the Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD), in a letter to Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research (DHR), and Director General, ICMR, sought extension of "the last date or make it deadline free... so that the maximum number of manufacturers can take benefit of this to fight the third wave" of Covid-19.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



# Hate speech goes against our ethos, Constitutional rights: Venkaiah

Invokes 19th century Catholic priest, says practise religion but don't abuse

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JANUARY 3

VICE-PRESIDENT Venkaiah Naidu on Monday spoke out against hate speech, saying it goes against the country's culture, Constitution and ethos, and that "every person has the right to practise and preach his or her faith".

Addressing an event marking the 150th death anniversary of Saint Kurialose Elias Chavara in Kottayam, Kerala, the Vice-President said, "Hate speech and writings are against (the country's) culture, heritage, tradition and Constitutional rights and ethos. Every person has the right to practise and preach his or her faith in the country. Practise your religion but don't abuse and indulge in hate speech and writings," he said, expressing his "disapproval of attempts to ridicule other religions and create dissensions in society".

Saying Saint Chavara, the 19th century Catholic priest, philosopher and social reformer, "has taught us that peaceful hu-

man relationships are sacred and more important than anything else", Naidu said, "Today, we need a Chavara in every community — a towering individual with a vision to unite all sections of society socially and culturally, and take the country forward."

Observing that there is a dire need to inculcate the spirit of service from an early age, Naidu suggested that once the pandemic is over, both government and private schools must make community service of at least 2-3 weeks compulsory for students.

He said the philosophy of sharing and caring is at the core

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# East of LAC, China builds new bridge on Pangong Tso

where the PLA has frontier bases. There is a frontier defence company at Khurnak Fort, and a water squadron further east at Banmohang.

Ever since the start of the military stand-off in eastern Ladakh in May 2020 — it has still not been resolved — India and China have not only worked to improve existing infrastructure, but have also built several new roads, bridges, landing strips along the entire frontier.

Pangong Tso, an endorheic lake, is 135 km long, and more than two-thirds of it is under Chinese control. Khurnak Fort, close to where China is building

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

# Lakhimpur Kheri deaths: Chargesheet in, MoS's son faces murder charge

MANISH SAHU  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 3

THE UTTAR Pradesh Police on Monday filed a chargesheet against Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra and 13 others, under charges including murder and attempt to murder, in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident that left four farmers and a journalist dead.

This is the first chargesheet in the October 3 case. Mishra's car was allegedly part of the convoy of vehicles that ran over a farmer's march against the farm laws. The chargesheet reportedly cites quotes of eyewitnesses saying Ashish was present at the spot.

Of the 14 chargesheeted by the police SIT, 13, including Ashish, are in jail. The one not in jail is Virendra Kumar Shukla,



Ashish Mishra was charged along with 13 others. File



## THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA TO PUSH ON WITH REOPENING

YEMEN REBELS SEIZE UAE SHIP; HACKERS HIT ISRAELI PAPER

PAGE 16

# Rising Covid-19 numbers may blunt sharp uptick in services

PRANAV MUKUL &  
AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

A FIVE-FOLD increase in Covid-19 daily count over the last seven days to 33,750 on Monday, and fresh restrictions on movement of people by states, suggest that the services sector will be under pressure and likely flatten if the case count continues to rise in the coming weeks. But this may be short-lived.

According to Google Mobility Index, visits to retail outlets such as restaurants, shopping centres, cinema halls, etc on November 3 — a day before Diwali — were 13 per cent higher compared with a pre-Covid baseline: the high-

EXPLAINED  
**E**ffect on economy

THE RESTRICTIONS on economic activities have only begun. A prolonged period of sluggish services sector could lead to a trickle-down effect on employment and wages. This may potentially impact the consumption levels of goods and affect the broader economy.

est in all of 2021. Since then, the metric has dropped and stayed close to '0' for the most of

December. With new clampdowns, a slide below zero is likely.

Similarly, visits to groceries and pharmacies, which were at their lowest of -40 per cent in May 2021 during the second wave of Covid-19, recovered and stayed since June. This metric also peaked on November 3 — 77 per cent higher than the pre-Covid baseline — and has since stagnated between 33 per cent and 55 per cent. With many contact intensive services — from restaurants and hotels to malls and cinema halls — being adversely affected due to restrictions, a dip is expected in the coming days.

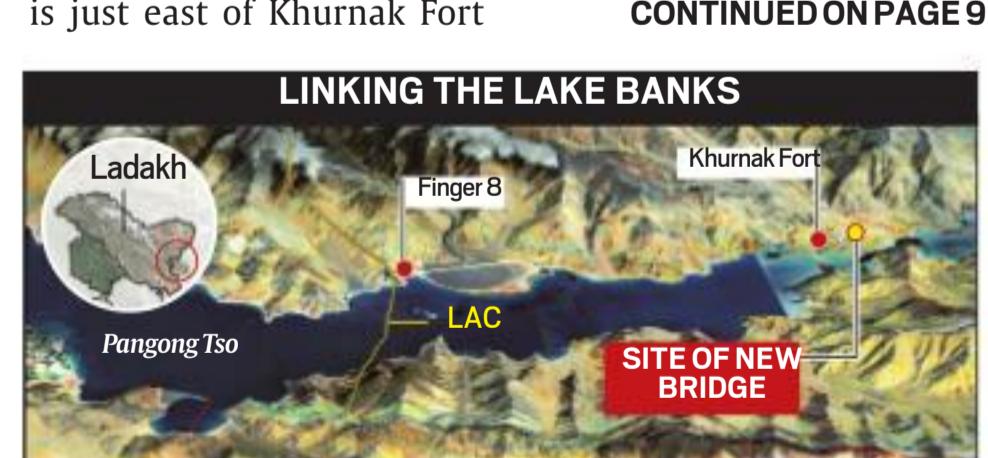
The baseline is calculated as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

KRISHNA KAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

CONTINUING TO ramp up infrastructure on its side of the area near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, China is building a new bridge on Pangong Tso which will provide an additional axis to deploy troops faster between the north and south banks of the lake, and closer to the LAC.

Sources said the bridge is being constructed more than 20 km east of Finger 8 on the lake's north bank — India says Finger 8 denotes the LAC. The bridge site is just east of Khurnak Fort

PAGE 1  
ANCHOR

# 'Happening all over again... unknown men discussing, auctioning us'

software development. No arrest has been made so far in that case by police in Delhi, Noida or Gurgaon.

Some of the targeted women expressed frustration with not enough being done the last time, allowing the culprits to continue operating with impunity.

A journalist, on the basis of whose complaint an FIR has been registered by Delhi Police, said: "It was January 1. I opened a message on WhatsApp from one of my friends and clicked 'download' on an image that had been sent, assuming that it was a 'Happy New Year' message. Instead, I saw a screenshot of my

## 2 CASES, 6 MONTHS APART

- First FIR registered in previous GitHub case: July 21, 2021
- FIRs registered in: Delhi and Noida
- Approximate number of women targeted: 100
- Arrests made: 0
- First complaint lodged in the recent case: January 1, 2022
- FIRs registered in: Delhi, Mumbai, Karnataka
- Approximate number of women targeted: Over 100
- Action taken: 1 detained

photo with the text that I am the 'Bulli Bai of the Day'. I jumped out of bed in shock. It was not surprising because this is not the first time it has happened. But we have all been through so

much in the last year, we are already recovering from the trauma of the second wave. I really wanted to begin the year on a hopeful note and it was shocking to think that someone was

sitting on the last day of the year and doing this to degrade us."

She said she could not ignore it and felt compelled to take action, especially because this is a repeat offence: "The most worrying thing is that there were multiple FIRs filed the last time, it was spoken about in Parliament, the women's commission took cognizance of it, but there was no constructive conclusion."

The mother of a JNU student who has been missing for over five years received calls, telling her that she too was listed on the website. She said she is ignoring it. "It makes no difference to me.

Yeh log ghatiya aur neech harkat karke popular banna chahte hai. I am just a mother trying to get justice for my child. People who respect their mothers can never do such a thing," she said.

Women who had been listed in the earlier case and had approached the police have also found themselves listed in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## THE EDITORIAL PAGE

TRACK THEM DOWN  
PAGE 10

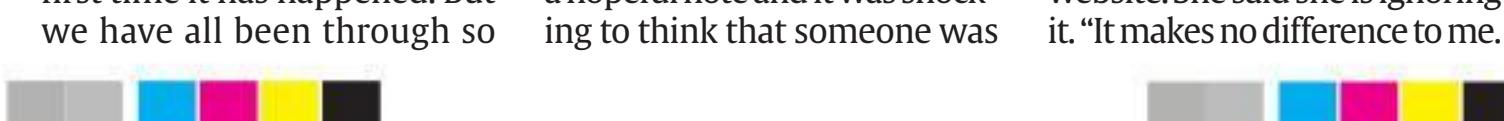
# Engg student detained for 'sharing' app content

comments targeting Muslim women.

Sources said the student was detained from Bengaluru, and brought to Mumbai. He is likely to be arrested.

The 21-year-old is a second year civil engineering student. He used his Twitter handle to share derogatory content from the app. We have detained him," said a senior IPS officer. The officer said the student was traced

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



## FROM PAGE ONE

## Day 1: First shot

BBIL/RA/21/567 has approved the extension of shelf life of Covaxin (Whole Virion, Inactivated Coronavirus Vaccine) from 9 months to 12 months. Similarly, the shelf life of Covishield has been extended by the National Regulator from 6 months to 9 months on 22nd February 2021," the ministry said.

## 5-day window

"They (ICMR) mail us (manufacturers) every month for capacity updates. So, they should have informed us directly or generally publicised the call for EoL. Since the Omicron curve is likely to be sharper, there will be a huge demand for targeted kits, but only for a few weeks until other variants are wiped out. Those who missed this 5-day window will have no time to catch up with a few who did not," a RT-PCR kit manufacturer said.

Pointing out that technologies developed by ICMR in the past never had a deadline, the AiMeD, in its letter, stated: "Since Covid is a global calamity, WHO/CDC also openly offer the assay designs/sequences for fast adoption and widespread development of RT-PCR tests and its manufacturing etc to benefit the society at large."

"A short restricted EoL will lead to very few manufacturers who can develop the kits, instead of the need of the hour where a large number of manufacturers should be allowed to have access to such technology so that RT-PCR kits are made available in large quantities and reasonable prices," it said.

Responding to queries from *The Indian Express*, Bhargava, in an email, said: "The technology has not passed the external validation yet."

According to the invitation for EoL, the technology will be transferred on "non-exclusive basis" only after its successful external validation with multiple manufacturers who will pay "royalty not less than 5%" on net sales.

Sources in the Council said that 9 EoLs were received by December 22 and the competent authority would take a call

on quite a few EoLs received after the deadline.

"There is no question of ICMR favouring a particular set of manufacturers. The technology is undergoing validation at NIV (National Institute of Virology), Pune, and the deadline for EoL may be extended depending on the outcome," a senior ICMR scientist said.

While ICMR approved Omisure, the RT-PCR kit developed by Tata Medical & Diagnostics, Mumbai, for detection of the Omicron variant on December 30, the multiplex kit marketed by US-based Thermo Fisher is the only one presently being used in India for preliminary confirmation of the Omicron variant with its S-Gene Target Failure (SGTF) strategy.

## Sharp uptick

the median value of the corresponding day of the week during the five-week period between January 3, 2020, and February 5, 2020.

Another signal of growth tapering off comes from the CMIE (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy) data on unemployment rate which touched a four-month high of 7.9 per cent in December 2021; it was 7 per cent the previous month. In December 2020, it was 9.1 per cent. Urban unemployment rate rose to 9.3 per cent in December 2021 from 8.2 per cent in the previous month while the rural unemployment rate increased to 7.3 per cent from 6.4 per cent, the data showed.

The services sector had been growing at a healthy clip in the second half of calendar year 2021 till mid-December; the latest Goods and Services Tax collections had jumped 13 per cent year-on-year in December (for sales in November 2021) to Rs 1.29 lakh crore. This increase came about despite a reduction in e-way bills generated during the same period – an indication of higher collection from services than goods, alongside greater enforcement actions.

But over the last week or so, almost all big states – Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat,

Delhi, West Bengal, Haryana, amongst others – have clamped down on economic activities, reduced working hours for shops, restaurants, and hotels, and put a cap on number of people in marriage functions or cinema halls. With the services sector accounting for over 55 per cent of the national GDP, economists said the restrictions will hurt growth, but not substantially.

"There will be some impact mainly on contact-intensive services. If the restrictions stay for a couple of weeks, then there may not be much impact on recovery, but if they get prolonged then not only the services sector but the impact would be felt on the goods side also. Prolonged restrictions on services side will then affect the wages and employment levels, which will lead to curtailment of consumption of goods too. Localised restrictions for sectors such as roadways, rail, etc will also affect expenditure of Central and state governments as such entities would need to be supported despite reduced running capacity," Devendra Kumar Pant, Chief Economist, India Ratings said.

Nomura India said while restrictions by states could derail the recovery in contact-intensive services in the first quarter of 2022, global experience suggested a smaller impact than previous waves and a swift growth rebound once cases peak. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, State Bank of India, too said restrictions would affect the services sector. "Demand for the services sector -- unlike for goods -- cannot be just pent-up demand. Earlier, we were projecting a GDP growth rate of 9.3-9.6 per cent, now we see it towards the lower end of the range, closer to 9.3 per cent," Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, State Bank of India said.

In December 2021, Delhi announced a 50 per cent cap on restaurant capacity considering the spread of the Omicron variant and allowed them to remain open only from 8 am to 10 pm. Last week, the state ordered

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## EXPRESS AUDIO

### More NGOs face issues, Dalit cook row, and India's aid to Kabul

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Why the FCRA registration of nearly 6,000 NGOs has lapsed, how a Dalit cook was discriminated against in a school in Uttarakhand, and India sends aid to Kabul

MP Akhilesh Das; Nandan Das Bhist; Satyam Tripathi alias Satya Prakash Tripathi; Lateef alias Kalley; Shekhar Bharti; Sumit Jaiswal; Ashish Pandey; Luvkush; Shishupal; Ullas Kumar Trivedi alias Mohit Trivedi; Rinku Rana; and Dharmendra Kumar Banjara.

The bail application of Ashish

is pending in the High Court while others have applied for bail in a local court.

The SIT had recently filed a report in a local court calling the October 3 incident a "planned conspiracy". It said the killings "did not happen due to negligence or callousness" and that the actions of the accused were "deliberate with an intention to kill". On the SIT's request, the court added the charges of attempt to murder and voluntarily causing grievous hurt.

Mishra, the Union Minister of State for Home, has maintained that his son Ashish was at a wrestling event in their ancestral village around 2 km away when the incident happened. The farmers, however, have testified that Ashish was in one of the vehicles that ran them over.

FULL REPORTS ON  
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shutting down of cinema halls – which are typically considered the top crowd-pullers to malls, indirectly contributing to footfall at other establishments such as restaurants, shops, etc.

The West Bengal government too ordered restaurants and bars to operate at 50 per cent capacity and only up to 10 pm, until January 15. It has also introduced severe travel restrictions. It has banned all flights from Delhi and Mumbai except on Mondays and Fridays.

The Maharashtra government prohibited night movement and imposed restrictions on gatherings. In marriages, where the movement of people is staggered, the total attendees at any moment shall not exceed 100 in enclosed spaces and 250 in open-to-sky areas or 25 per cent of total capacity of the hall, whichever is less. In case of social, political, or religious functions and gatherings, it has capped attendees at 100 in closed spaces and 250 in open-to-sky areas or 25 per cent of the space, whichever is less. It also ordered restaurants, gyms, spas, cinema halls and theatres to continue operating at 50 per cent capacity.

**Venkaiah Naidu** of India's age-old culture and must be widely propagated. "For us, the whole world is one fam-

ily as encapsulated in our timeless ideal, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. It is with this spirit that we should move forward together," he said.

Paying tributes to Saint Chavara, the Vice-President said, "This iconic spiritual and social leader of Kerala, whom people considered a saint during his lifetime, was a true visionary in every sense of the term."

He recalled that Saint Chavara's social and educational services were not restricted to his community alone. In 1846, the Catholic priest, displaying an "open-mindedness of vision", started a Sanskrit school at Mannanam in Kottayam, Naidu said.

Naidu urged other states to take a cue from Kerala in the fields of education, social justice and women's empowerment as outlined in the pioneering initiatives of Saint Chavara and social reformer Narayana Guru. "Their path-breaking work proves that every state can be transformed into an engine of growth and progress and that this can be achieved through the social and educational empowerment of women and youth belonging to poorer sections of society," he said.

**Lakhimpur case** who is named for alleged destruction of evidence. Sources

Apart from Ashish and Vinod Shukla, the others charged are Ankit Das, the nephew of former Rajya Sabha



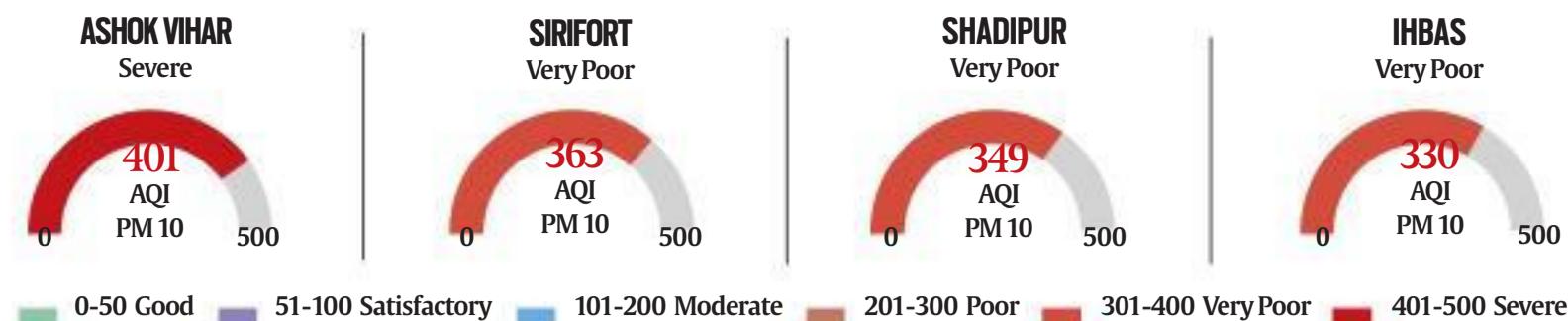
# किया श्रमिकों का उत्थान यही है संकट की साथी गरीबों के लिए समर्पित सरकार



3 करोड़ 81 लाख कामगारों एवं निर्माण श्रमिकों को भरण-पोषण भत्ता  
प्रथम चरण में 1 करोड़ 50 लाख कामगारों को  
₹1500 करोड़ की धनराशि हस्तान्तरित  
(प्रत्येक लाभार्थी को ₹500 प्रतिमाह की दर से  
2 माह की धनराशि ₹1000 का वितरण)

# सौच इमानदार, काम धमदार





**S K Y W A T C H**  
FORECAST: Jan 4  
Partly cloudy sky.  
Shallow fog in the morning.

**MAX: 22**  
2.4°C above normal

**MIN: 7**  
0.2°C below normal

# Delhi BJP stops traffic in liquor protest, AAP hits back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

TAKING TO the streets in protest against the new liquor policy, the Delhi BJP Monday demanded its rollback and alleged that the AAP-led Delhi government has allowed liquor shops in "non-conforming areas", with some coming up in close vicinity to schools and places of worship.

The protest led to traffic snarls at several areas including ITO, Laxmi Nagar, Akshardham, Signature Bridge and Karol Bagh. At Laxmi Nagar, BJP leaders stopped traffic and deflated bus tyres. Tyres of 30 DTC buses were deflated allegedly by BJP protestors, said a transport department official.

Reacting to BJP's 'chakka jam', Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia alleged that the protests were because BJP leaders were profiting from the illegal sale of alcohol in the city until the new policy came into force.

"BJP members in Delhi are



The protest led to traffic snarls at many areas. Prem Nath Pandey

troubled by the new excise policy because Arvind Kejriwal ji has stopped the theft of Rs 3,500 crore. This money will now be used by the government for the people of Delhi. Earlier, this money would line the pockets of the liquor mafia and BJP leaders," he said.

Delhi BJP leaders have been protesting against the policy, which saw the exit of the government from the business of selling liquor; redistribution of liquor

stores across the city, and upfront collection of excise revenue.

BJP state general secretary Harsh Malhotra said the party organised 'chakka jam' at 15 locations, with the protest near the Akshardham temple being led by Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta. He said everyone in Delhi is concerned about liquor shops coming up near their houses: "While the CM talks about prohibition in Punjab, he is adamant on making Delhi a city of liquor. We

will not sit quietly."

Earlier, stores were distributed unequally — some wards had none while the others had 9-10. Now, each ward will have an average of three stores. The unequal distribution, the Delhi government said, had led to the growth of liquor mafia in unscrubbed areas. Overall, the total number of liquor stores in the city has remained at 849.

The AAP tweeted, "Liquor mafia used to steal revenue of Rs 3-4 thousand crores from illegal contracts in Delhi. Then Arvind Kejriwal government brought the new excise policy. Liquor mafia came under control and (we) saved Rs 3,500 crore of public (money). Now, the BJP (is) harassing the people of Delhi by jamming the wheel."

Responding to this, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said this "shows that the AAP has admitted to the Delhi government stealing revenue of Rs 3,000-4,000 crore annually, as it used to sell liquor from most government shops... L-G must investigate it".

Sanjay Tyagi, DCP(IGI Airport),

said the accused used to allegedly cheat passengers coming from different countries and states by posing as a student of a reputed university. Five FIRs and several online complaints have been recorded against him, said police.

## Man who posed as student, duped hundreds at IGI Airport on pretext of missed flight, held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

A 27-YEAR-OLD man from Andhra Pradesh was arrested at IGI Airport for allegedly cheating passengers outside the premises by posing as a college student and lying that he had missed his flight and needed money. Police said he cheated

hundreds in the last four years. The accused, Model Venkata Dinesh Kumar, was arrested from Terminal 2 on Monday while allegedly trying to cheat a passenger.

According to police, a complainant was received on December 19 from a resident doctor of Maulana Azad Medical College. The doctor alleged he came from Baroda and met

Kumar at Terminal 3. Kumar allegedly posed as a college student and said he missed his flight to Visakhapatnam. "The accused showed a fake ID too and said he needed Rs 6,500 to pay for a new ticket. He promised to pay it back once he reached his destination, but stopped taking calls from the doctor," said an officer.

A case was registered and CCTVs inside airport premises

were analysed. Police found that the man often came to the airport. On December 30, Kumar was spotted near T2 and arrested.

Sanjay Tyagi, DCP(IGI Airport), said the accused used to allegedly cheat passengers coming from different countries and states by posing as a student of a reputed university. Five FIRs and several online complaints have been recorded against him, said police.

### WOMEN'S COMMISSION SUMMONS DCP

## 'Appalled at no arrests in GitHub case'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE DELHI Commission for Women Monday issued summons to the DCP of Delhi Police's Cyber Cell unit in connection with photos of Muslim women being misused on a website alongside demeaning comments.

GitHub, the platform using which the website was created, meanwhile issued a statement: "GitHub has longstanding policies against content and conduct involving harassment, discrimination, and inciting violence. We suspended user accounts follow-

ing the investigation of reports of such activity, all of which violate our policies. GitHub responds to law enforcement requests that comply with established legal procedures. We informed India police of our policy in this case, and will assist upon receiving valid legal process from them."

On Saturday, a Delhi-based journalist had lodged a complaint after her photo alongside lewd content was posted on the website. This comes nearly six months after a similar website was created where photos of Muslim women were uploaded alongside offers to "auction" them. While Delhi Police registered FIRs in both

cases, no arrests have been made yet. "DCW is appalled to note that no persons have been arrested in the (earlier) matter by Delhi Police despite passage of several months. The callous attitude of the law enforcement agency has emboldened culprits and others who are continuing to sell women and girls online," reads the notice.

DCW Chief Swati Maliwal has asked DCP(Cyber Cell) to give details of cases and action taken against GitHub and current status of the probe. The DCP has been directed to appear before the DCW on January 6 with case files.

Meanwhile, the Cyber Cell

said the recent case is with the Southeast district's cyber police station. Officials said GitHub is yet to reply to Delhi Police's notices. "We'll get case details in a day or two. We have already written to GitHub and Twitter to help with the probe — reveal names of users and give their details. They have pulled down webpages and accounts after we flagged it. There's a delay because of (Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty) guidelines. We are trying to push them," said a senior officer in the Cyber Cell.

"... We are trying to identify users from their Twitter accounts. Both cases will be investigated," said the officer.



### ATTENTION: DEVOTEES OF SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI JEE SHRINE, KATRA

- The devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Jee Shrine who are planning to undertake the pilgrimage are hereby informed that:-
- The Yatra slip will be issued online through Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's website [www.maavaishnodevi.org](http://www.maavaishnodevi.org) and mobile app (Mata Vaishno Devi App) only.
- Shrine Board has not authorized any Private Travel Agent / Agency for Helicopter booking from Katra-Sanjichhat -Katra. The online booking of the Helicopter is available only at Shrine Board's official website [www.maavaishnodevi.org](http://www.maavaishnodevi.org) and Mata Vaishno Devi App.

**SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD,  
Central Office, Jammu Road, Katra (J&K) – 182301  
Contact Centre 01991-234804**

# फर्क साफ़ है

2017 से पहले

2017 के बाद

प्रदेश में बहन-बेटियां थीं  
असुरक्षित

अपराधियों में है  
कानून का खौफ



सोच इमानदार काम लगाए



COVID VACCINATION DRIVE KICKS OFF FOR THOSE AGED 15-17

# Teens line up for 'first day, first show'



There are 1.01 million children eligible for the shot in the city, as per government data. Amit Mehra



"I'm scared of injections. But my parents insisted I get vaccinated on the first day as they anticipated the crowd would be less."

—RADHA SHUKLA (16)



"There are still people in my lane who don't want to get vaccinated. Now that I've got it, I can show them that there are no side effects."

—HARSH (16)



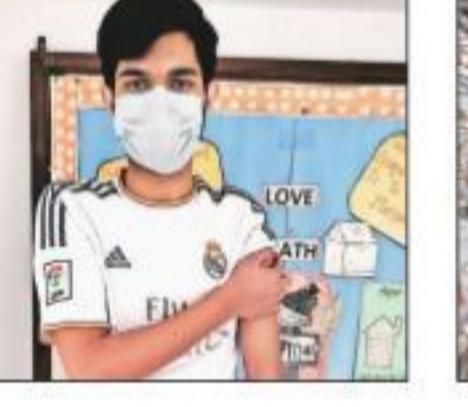
"It was not scary or painful at all. I have clicked a photo and posted it on my group, so my friends also get their first dose."

—SAUMYA BANSAL (16)



"I'm a little scared, but also excited as I'm here on the 'first day first show'. I hope I can go out a little more freely after this."

—SHRESHTHA KARKI (16)



"The shot barely took a few seconds... As my term 2 exams are approaching, it was important to get vaccinated early."

—KRISHNA YADAV (16)



"I'm excited to be among the first to be vaccinated. The process was smooth. I hope every teen is vaccinated at the earliest."

—TAMANNA DHINGRA (17)

**SUKRITA BARUAH,  
ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND,  
GAYATHRI MANI &  
PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA**

NEW DELHI, GURGAON  
JANUARY 3

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Radha Shukla held her phone to her ear as she stood in line for her vaccine shot on Monday morning — the first day of the inoculation drive for teenagers — attending a mathematics class over Zoom.

She was among a dozen teenagers who lined up to get their vaccines at a MCD hospital in Lajpat Nagar. She was nervous. "I'm scared of injections. But my parents insisted that I get vaccinated on the first day because they

anticipated that the crowd would be less. They also thought that getting the second dose in time would be easier if I'm due earlier. After the PM's announcement, our teachers had also told us that we should get vaccinated quickly," said the class X student of a government school in Ashram.

While 16-year-old Shreshtha Karki stood in line, she absently drifted close to some of the others waiting and her mother gestured to her to keep distance. "I'm a little scared, but I'm also excited because I'm here on the 'first day first show'. I hope I can go outside a little more freely after this, though the mask will continue to be my priority," she said.

Apart from his own protection, 16-year-old Harsh was also

keen on setting a positive example. "There are still people in my lane — friends and elders — who don't want to get vaccinated. Now that I've got it, I can show them that there are no side effects and that they should get it too," said Harsh, who studies at a government school in Lajpat Nagar.

Saumya Bansal, a class XI student getting her vaccine in Laxmi Bai Nagar, was also encouraging her friends: "It was not scary or painful at all. I have clicked a picture and posted it on my group, so my friends also get their first dose. I am happy to be here on the first day of the drive as there is no rush or long queues. My teachers have also asked us to update the vaccination certificate in the class group."

In the meantime, Abhi (15), who lives 100 metres away from the vaccination centre, was not aware of the drive. "I've been wanting to get vaccinated as I have lost some people close to me to Covid. I wasn't aware that the drive started for kids. I will go and get it done."

Around 15 children were vaccinated by 10.30 am at the CGHS Dispensary at Laxmi Bai Nagar, according to hospital staff.

At the vaccination site at SDM primary school in RK Puram, around 200 doses of Covaxin had been set aside for the 15-18 age group, according to a doctor at the site.

There was both excitement and nervousness among those who lined up to take the vaccine

at the site. Sidharth Abrol, a 15-year-old from Pushp Vihar, said, "It was very exciting to be the first person in my class to take the vaccine. With Omicron doing the rounds, I'll try to stay home and not be a carrier. Now that we are getting vaccinated, I wonder if school will return to normal. Since school buses are not plying, getting to school is difficult."

In neighbouring Gurgaon, Tamanna (17) a class XII student of DAV School in Sector 49, was the first to be vaccinated in the district. Sporting a smile and a victory sign as she stepped out after taking the jab, she said, "I am excited to be among the first lot to be vaccinated. I had been waiting for the inoculations to begin. I did not feel scared at all. The process was

smooth. I hope every teenager is vaccinated at the earliest."

Her mother, Namita Dhingra, said she felt a bit relieved now. "As parents, we have been anxious for children to get vaccinated especially with the emergence of omicron variant. The fear, while stepping out, would be considerably reduced."

Krishna Yadav (16), a student of class XI, said, "Though I am slightly scared of needles, I wanted to be vaccinated on the first day. The shot barely took a few seconds. I have been reading about the importance of vaccination... Since my term 2 exams are approaching, it was important to get vaccinated at the earliest so my studies are not disturbed later."

**3 arrested for killing 18-year-old over jacket**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

NEARLY NINE days after an 18-year-old man was allegedly kidnapped and killed in Outer Delhi's Mangolpuri, police arrested three of his friends after a chase of nearly 5,000 km across five states.

According to police, the victim, Santosh Prasad, allegedly got into a fight with the accused on December 25 over his jacket that one of his friends wanted but he refused to lend it. Police said his friends wanted to teach him a lesson and allegedly attacked him with knives, killing him.

Prasad's body was recovered from a canal on Monday after the accused were arrested.

According to police, Prasad's parents lodged a missing person's complaint on December 26. Two days later, they alleged he was last seen with four of his friends. Police found that all four men told their families that were in Kanpur. A team was sent there but the men couldn't be found. Police then found that one of the accused was in his village in Bihar.

Parvinder Singh, DCP (Outerwest), said, "The accused were frequently changing hideouts in those nine days. They went from Bihar to Agra and then to Rajasthan and Gujarat. We tracked them, and finally arrested three suspects from Gujarat."

## 5 districts see case spike, containment stepped up

**GAYATHRI MANI**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

OF THE 11 revenue districts in the capital, five have seen a three-fold increase in daily Covid cases in the past five days. District officials have strengthened the implementation of micro-containment zones and plan to cordon off the area, block, colony, or RWAs if there are five or more containment zones.

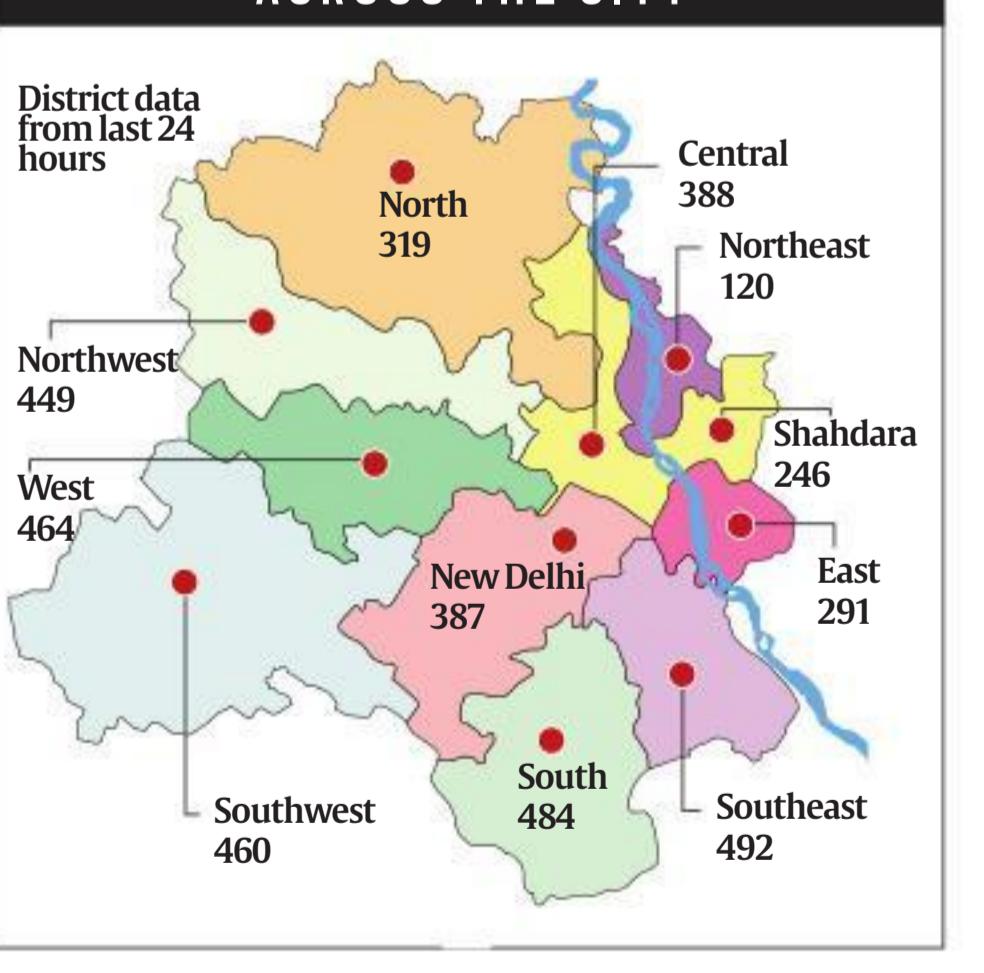
According to data shared by district officials, South, Southeast and West have seen the highest spike between December 29 and January 2. In this period, South district, which has been on top of the list since cases started increasing, saw a spike from 175 to 484; Southeast district saw a jump from 124 to 492; while West saw cases increasing from 94 to 464.

Southwest and Northwest districts reported a spike of 94 to 460 cases and 83 to 449 cases respectively. Meanwhile, New Delhi and Central districts which were among the top three when cases had started to spike have dropped to the fifth and sixth spots with 387 and 388 cases respectively.

As per data, Northeast and Shahdara district have the lowest cases in comparison with other districts but have also seen sharp rise in the last five days — 12 to 120 cases and 17 to 246 respectively.

"Apart from DDMA guidelines, we are strengthening the containment plan to control cases. Earlier, only houses with three cases or more were micro-contained. But with cases rising, district officials are taking steps to cordon off the entire area if there are four or more positive cases.

The number of containment



zones in South West district has risen from 17 to 30 (in the past five days)," said a senior district official who did not want to be named.

Southwest district has also started a paid isolation centre at Aerocity. "Anyone with space constraints at home, or who want to isolate themselves away from family members and are willing to pay, can stay here at an affordable price," said the official.

DM East Sonika Singh said, "We have started containing houses and areas with a large number of cases. Earlier, there were 11 containment zones, now there are 24. Even if one person tests positive in a family, we micro-contain the houses and deploy civil defence volunteers. Further, we have enforced the odd-even rule at markets, stepped up vaccination and testing, and increased prosecution."

This is contrary to no case of omicron being recorded over the last two days in Delhi as per the data released by the Centre,

though that could be the result of a technical issue.

"Data shared by the minister are from three labs that sequence samples from Delhi — Lok Nayak, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, and National Centre for Disease Control. The previous two days were holidays and it is likely that due to staff shortage, the data might not have been uploaded yet. It should reflect in tomorrow's bulletin," said a senior official from the Delhi government.

Jain said, "81.28% of the samples whose genome sequencing results came out over the last two days had the omicron variant. The spread would have stopped if the Centre took the right decision to stop flights coming from abroad on time. Even after the repeated requests made by the Chief Minister, no

## DDMA meeting today to decide on more curbs

**GAYATHRI MANI**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

DELHI COULD be in for more curbs as a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority has been called to review the Covid situation. The meeting will be held at 11 am on Tuesday.

According to sources, it is likely that government officials, except those working in essential services, will be asked to work from home. A similar advisory is also expected for private offices, officials said. Other curbs

expected in Delhi Metro, down from 50% at present, and closure of salons and parlours.

"100% work from home for government and private hospitals will mostly likely be pushed in Tuesdays meeting. It will be decided what activities can be restricted and closed. Currently, we are comparing ourselves with other states in terms of number of cases, restrictions, and steps they have put in place.

After analysing and discussing all these things, DDMA will take a call on further restrictions," said a senior DDMA official.

At present, all educational in-

stitutions in the city are shut, shops in markets and malls are opening on an odd-even basis, and gyms are shut.

The last DDMA meeting was held last week, when cases were under 1,000. Since then, cases have quadrupled and the positivity rate has climbed to 6.46%.

"Weekend lockdown is not on the table right now. But it will be discussed to close other activities and restrict seating capacity in Metro and buses. Work from home is most likely to be implemented to stop movement of people. Further, some other activi-

ties like salons are expected to be closed. A final decision will be taken tomorrow," officials said.

According to the Covid Graded Response Action Plan, a 'red alert' should have been issued in the city on Monday, as the positivity rate was above 5% for two consecutive days. This would have triggered a lockdown, including partial curtailment of construction work, partial shutdown of industries, closing all shops dealing with non-essential items, shut down of restaurants and a closure in public transport.

The government, however, decided that more curbs were not needed as hospitalisations were low, and more restrictions could trigger the third migrant worker exodus from the city.

81% of Delhi samples sequenced in 2 days had omicron variant

**ANONNA DUTT**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

WITH COVID cases on the rise, Health Minister Satyendar Jain Monday said over 81% of the total samples sequenced over the last two days were found to have the omicron variant. Of the 187 samples sequenced in the two days, 152 were classified as omicron, as per the data shared by the Delhi government.

This shows that Omicron has out-competed the delta variant to become dominant in the capital. Last week, the minister had said the new variant was circulating in the community. *The Indian Express* was first to report on December 28 that Delhi had detected several omicron cases in persons with no history of travel or contact.

"From the experience of other countries, it seems omicron leads to a sharp increase in the number of cases and a similar quick decline. The good thing is that hospitals are seeing only mild cases," he added.

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"Over 80% of those who were found to have omicron variant in the last few days did not have any history of travel or contact, meaning that the variant is now in the community. If I talk about the samples processed at my lab, 50% of all samples, since we started reporting omicron, are that of the new variant and the rest are delta and its sub-lineages. The proportion is now increasing day by day," said Dr Ekta Gupta, professor of virology at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences.

As per Monday's bulletin, Delhi reported 4,099 new cases. The number of fresh cases shot up from less than 500 a day to over 4,000 in just six days.

The positivity rate has also increased to 6.46%. There are 10,986 active cases; of these, 420 are admitted to hospitals and seven are on ventilator.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## SPREADING THE WORD

AS INDIA rolled out the Covid-19 vaccination drive for children in the 15-18 year age group on Monday, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya visited RML Hospital to take stock of the special preparations for the new group. During the visit, he interacted with beneficiaries and specially requested them to spread the word about child vaccination. He also asked them to motivate their friends to come out in large numbers for jabs.

## COVID PRECAUTIONS

AMID RISING Covid cases, the Ministry of Personnel has issued orders that only 50% of officials below the level of under secretary will attend the office physically in any ministry or department till January 31. It also said that all meetings, unless absolutely essential to hold physically, must be held virtually. It has advised officials not to have visitors. Office timings have also been staggered to avoid overcrowding. It has also done away with biometric attendance for government employees till January 31. Pregnant women and employees with disability are exempt from attending office physically.

## TECH ISSUES

GOVERNMENT EVENT involving various ed-tech platforms was marred by technological disruptions on Monday. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who addressed the event, said the manner in which the disruptions halted the event reflected the sheer imperative of having uninterrupted Internet access. "Imagine your Internet stops working, you are not able to abuse someone on WhatsApp, or appreciate someone, or indulge in gossip... zindagi adhuri ho jaati hai," Pradhan said in a lighter vein, drawing nervous laughter from officials present.

## A-I: SWAMY MOVES HC

New Delhi: BJP leader Subramanian Swamy has moved the Delhi High Court seeking to quash the Air India disinvestment process and set aside the approvals given to it by authorities. A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh will hear the petition on Tuesday. PTI



**उत्तर प्रदेश आयुर्विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय**  
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**Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences**  
Saifai, Etawah - 206 130 (U.P.)  
Website: [www.upums.ac.in](http://www.upums.ac.in)

Advt. No. UPUMS/ACAD/18/2021-22

Dated: 03/01/2022

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Registrar



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Online applications are invited for the faculty posts on **DIRECT RECRUITMENT/DEPUTATION BASIS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS** in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur (Rajasthan). Details of Posts are as per below:-

S.N.	DESIGNATION	TOTAL POSTS
1.	Professor	31
2.	Additional Professor	14
3.	Associate Professor	24
4.	Assistant Professor	15
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84</b>

The detailed advertisement and online application forms are available on institute's website: <http://www.aiimsjodhpur.edu.in>

Last date for submission of online applications is 31st January, 2022 (upto 5.00 PM).

**(Dr. Dushyent Gehlot)**  
Senior Administrative Officer

## Day after, Malik says his remarks misconstrued

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

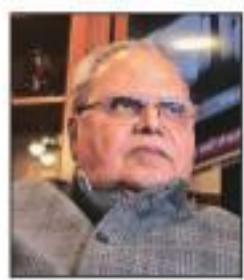
WITH THE Opposition citing his remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Meghalaya Governor Satyapal Malik said Monday he lauded the Prime Minister's move to withdraw the contentious farm laws and "the PM is on the right track now".

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Malik maintained that his remarks quoting Union Home Minister Amit Shah had been "misconstrued" and "Shah did not make any comment on the Prime Minister" but had "asked me to keep meeting people and try to convince them".

"Actually, Amit Shah had asked me why do I keep making statements? But when I told him the government had to find a middle path for the farmers and cannot let them die, he was very understanding. He understood the issue too," he said.

Malik, who had criticised the Prime Minister and the BJP government over the farm laws and demanded their withdrawal, had alleged at a function in Dadri in Haryana that Modi was "arrogant" when he met him to discuss the farmer protests.

"Mai jab kisano ke maamle mein pradhan mantri se milne gaya toh meri paanch minute mein ladai hogi unse. Woh bahut ghamand mein the. Jab mai unhe kaha hamare 500 log mar gaye... toh



Satyapal Malik

usne kaha 'mere liye mare hain'? (When I went to meet the Prime Minister to discuss the farmer issue, I ended up fighting with him within five minutes. He was very arrogant. When I told him that 500 of our own (farmers) had died... he said, 'Did they die for me?' he was heard saying in a video clip from the function.

"Maine kaha aapke liye toh mare the, aap raja bane huai ho unki wajah se. Khair, jhagda ho gaya mera. Unhone kaha tum Amit Shah se milo. Mai Amit Shah se mila, usne kaha 'Satya Pal, iski akal maar rakhi hai logon ne. Tum befikar raho, milte raho ye kisi na kisi din samajh mein ajaye' (I told him you are king because of them. I ended up having an argument with him. He told me to meet Amit Shah and I did. He said 'Satya Pal, he has been misguided by some people. You don't worry about it, you keep meeting. Things will be understood one day)," he said.

On Monday, Malik denied it. "No, it's wrong. Shah did not say anything like that to me. He asked me to keep meeting everyone." Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, tweeted the video clip of Malik's

comments and tagged Modi. "Meghalaya's Governor Sri. Satya Pal Malik is on record saying PM was 'arrogant' on the issue of Farmers & HM Amit Shah called the PM as 'mad' Constitutional authorities speaking about each other with such contempt! @narendramodi ji is this true?"

On Monday, Malik said Monday: "I publicly appreciated and praised the PM for the step he has taken for the farmers. When he was the Chief Minister (of Gujarat), he was pro-farmer and wanted MSP to be given statutory status. But after becoming the Prime Minister, he was misguided. Still, when he realised that the farmers did not support the laws at any cost, he had the heart to withdraw it and apologise. That shows his large-heartedness. He is on the right track now."

Recollecting that the government had accepted the stand of a parliamentary team led by him on the land acquisition Bill during its first term, he said: "Amit Shah had made me the head of the panel... I knew he was capable of sorting out things with the Prime Minister and with the farmers." Malik said he was always conscious of the fact that there is great synergy between Amit Shah and Prime Minister and both work well together".

Govt working on policy to regulate ed-tech firms: Pradhan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THREE MINISTRIES are working in tandem to develop a policy to regulate ed-tech firms, some of which have been found exploiting students and parents in recent times, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday.

Pradhan made the announcement while launching free coupons for students from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds looking to sign up for courses on ed-tech platforms. The initiative is piloted by the All India Council for Technical Education.

Pradhan stressed that the government was not going to impose restrictions on the firms but will not tolerate any form of exploitation. "We have received some reports in the recent past that some ed-tech companies are exploiting students in remote areas. Those who enrol themselves by making payments are free to do so but no one should be lured by keeping them in the dark," he said. "I have directed school, higher education and skill ministries to issue advisories. We are also in touch with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Law Department to explore as to how to frame a common policy on this."

MPs seek more women members to discuss Bill on marriage age

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

to all women MPs, contending that it can be done under Rules 84(3) and 275 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha).

"I wish to propose that any woman member of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha be empowered to testify either in writing or in person before the committee on this issue," Dev wrote. The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have 81 and 29 women members, respectively. "I am sure all my honourable female colleagues will have much to contribute to the discussion on this issue."

Lok Sabha MP and DMK leader Kanimozhi also expressed her displeasure over inadequate representation of women in the committee. She tweeted, "There are a total of 110 female MPs but the govt. chooses to assign a bill that affects every young woman in the country to a panel that has 30 men and only 1 woman. Men will continue to decide the rights of women. And women will be made mute spectators."

Chaturvedi stated that it is "disheartening to note that a Bill so pertinent to women and Indian society will be deliberated upon in a committee where the representation is highly skewed".

## EXPRESS Careers

## POST FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Dayawanti Punj Model School (DPMS) an English medium CBSE School is located midway between Varanasi and Prayagraj, U.P., at Sitamarhi, also known as Sita Samahit Sthal. It is a modern campus of approx. 13 acres with School Buildings, separate Boys and Girls Hostel, Principal's block, Teacher's Residences, Air-conditioned Multipurpose Hall with a capacity to hold 3000 people, modern Gym and multiple large play fields and areas.

We are looking for a new Principal to join our team and foster a healthy & creative learning environment for our students. Your primary responsibilities will be to be interactive & supervise our Education Staff and oversee the day-to-day smooth operations.

To succeed in this role, you should be able to make quick decisions under pressure and have a comprehensive understanding of the National Education System and Regulations and be responsible for the Whole. Excellent communications skills in both Hindi & English, and organizational abilities are also important skills you should demonstrate as a Principal.

If you meet these requirements and you are passionate about a Leadership role in Education, we would like to meet you.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- Oversee day-to-day school operations, manage school logistics and budgets Set learning outcomes for students and teachers based on national curriculum and education policies.
- Set up a robust system for appraisal of teachers performance as well as counselling whenever required.
- Regular periodic review of School Performance to the Board Members
- Set up transparent systems for hiring school personnel as and when needed.
- Independently resolve problems and emergency situations as soon as possible.
- Ensure a safe and clean environment for students (e.g. implementing hygiene rules)
- Set up a system for attending workshops and conferences on current educational trends for teachers and administrators relevant for our School.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Previous experience as a Principal of at least 5 years is highly desirable.
- Knowledge of School Administrative processes and National Educational Regulations
- Hands-on experience in Education Management Systems, and an ability to inspire both Students & Faculty
- Good presentation and communication skills using modern technologies.
- Ability to act wisely and quickly in emergency situation.
- Articulation of short, medium and long term future vision for the School.

## COMPENSATION

Shall be in the range of Rs. 1.25-Rs 1.35 lakhs per month. In addition air-conditioned accommodation shall be provided. However for exceptional candidates we are open to reviewing the package.

Interested Candidates may send the applications in hard or soft copy latest by 15th January, 2022 at the following address:

**The Chairman**  
Dayawanti Punj Model School  
(A division of Pt. Kanayha Lal Dayawanti Punj Foundation)  
Punj Essan House, 17-18 Nehru Place  
New Delhi-110019  
Email: [pklpd.foundation@gmail.com](mailto:pklpd.foundation@gmail.com)



**Banks Board Bureau**

An Autonomous Body of Government of India

## CORIGENDUM

The advertisement issued by the Banks Board Bureau for the position of MD & CEO of Union Bank of India stands cancelled. The prescribed selection process for the position will be taken up in due course.

Secretary

Banks Board Bureau

BBB.No.S3201/08-02-004/2021-2022



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

## UN-AIDED

Sr. No.	Cadre	Subject	Total No. of Posts	Category
1.	Assistant Professor	B. Sc. (Information Technology)	01	01 – OPEN

The above post is open to all, however candidates from any category can apply for the post. Reservation for women will be as per University Circular No.B.CC/16/74/1998 dated 10th March, 1998. 4% reservation shall be for the persons with disability as per University Circular No. Special Cell/CC/2019-20/05 dated 05th July, 2019. Candidates having knowledge of Marathi will be preferred.

"Qualification, Pay Scales and other requirement are as prescribed by the UGC Notification dated 18th July, 2018, Government of Maharashtra Resolution No.Misc-2018/C.R.56/18/UNI-1 dated 8th March, 2019 and University circular No.TAAS/(CT)/ICD/2018-19/1241, dated 26th March, 2019 and revised from time to time". The Government Resolution & Circular are available on the website www.muc.ac.in. 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.

Application with full details should reach the SECRETARY, Bunts Sangha's S M SHETTY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES, Near Hirandani Gardens, Powai, Mumbai 400 076 within 15 days from the date of Publication of this advertisement. This is University approved advertisement.

Sd/-  
SECRETARY.



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Advt. No. 1 /2021-22

1. Applications are invited for recruitment to the following posts in the Reserve Bank of India.

S. No.	Posts	Vacancies





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## Omicron common viral fever, Covid nearing end: UP CM

MAULSHREE SETH  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 3

CHIEF MINISTER Yogi Adityanath said Monday that the new Omicron variant of the coronavirus was "just a common viral fever", and that Covid was on its way out, while asking people not to worry but keep their guard up.

The poll-bound state, which is seeing massive rallies by different parties, has been seeing a surge in Covid cases in the past week. Over the past 24 hours, 572 fresh cases were reported, taking the tally of active cases in UP to 2,261, with no deaths. This marks a 10-times jump from last week when, on December 26, for example, the state saw 59 fresh cases.

An inspection drive on the first day of vaccinations for the 15-18 age group, he said: "It is true that Omicron is highly infectious. But it is also true that Omicron... is very weak. It is just a mere common viral fever."

The Chief Minister added: "It is in the concluding stage, Covid will end soon."

Urging people to adhere to Covid protocols such as masking, especially those with comorbidities, the CM said staying alert was necessary but there was no need to panic. "Satarkta aur saudhni kisi bhi bimari mein aavashyak hoti hain aur is maamle mein bhi satarkta aur saudhni aavashyak hain. Ghabrane ki aavashyakta nahin (Remaining alert and cautious is necessary for every disease, and in this case also, it is

Asked about genome sequencing of Covid cases in the state, to isolate the Omicron variant, the state's Principal Secretary, Health, Amit Mohan Prasad said: "There is a guideline of 5-10 per cent cases being sent for sequencing, and the state is sending more than that. These eight cases came out of the 140 samples sent."

Prasad added that with the cases rising now, they may make changes.

Adityanath said the government had ordered mock drills at hospitals, and oxygen plants had been instructed to keep ready with full strength.

**EC urges five poll-bound states to accelerate vaccinations**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE ELECTION Commission of India has urged five states, which go to elections early next year, to "accelerate" their vaccination drive for eligible populations, officials aware of the matter said on Monday, at a time the Omicron variant has fuelled a surge of infections across India.

The commission wrote to chief secretaries of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur, saying that they must speed up first- and second-dose vaccinations, sources said.

"ECI has asked poll-bound states to ensure that polling personnel get the precaution dose as they are eligible," one of the sources said, referring to the government's recent announcement that will expand vaccination for a third shot for people at high risk of infection.

This is not the first time ECI has stressed on scaling up the vaccination drive in poll-bound states. Last week, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said in Lucknow that the ECI has asked the five states to expand their vaccine coverage.

He made the statement days after the Allahabad High Court urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to consider "stopping and postponing" rallies, meetings and elections in view of rising Covid-19 cases. On the HC's observation, the CEC said that all parties in UP want polls to be held according to schedule.

**SPRINGS SURPRISE ON PUNJAB CONGRESS, CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CHIEF QUESTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT**

## Sidhu promises Rs 2,000/month, LPG cylinders to women homemakers

KANCHAN VASDEV  
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 3

AMID a scramble to reach out to voters ahead of the 2022 state Assembly polls, Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu tried to get one-up on the Aam Aadmi Party by promising Rs 2,000 per month for women homemakers if the party is re-elected to power. Sidhu also promised eight free cooking gas cylinders for homemakers every year.

The state Congress chief further assured two-wheelers to girls taking admission in colleges for further studies, Rs 20,000 to those passing Class 12, Rs 15,000 to those passing Class 10 and Rs

needed. But there is no need to be afraid."

In an interview with The Indian Express, AIIMS chief and member of Covid task force Dr Randeep Guleria had said that their experience showed Omicron was affecting the upper respiratory tract and the airways, rather than lungs. "That is why we see very few patients with a drop in oxygen saturation or the other severe symptoms we saw in Delta."

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also said recently that while Covid cases were increasing, there was no need to panic as the number of hospitalisations was still low. "Covid cases are very mild now," he said.

Adityanath said only eight cases of Omicron had been identified in UP, of which three had recovered while the rest were in home isolation. Most of the state's 2,200 active cases were also in home isolation, he said.

Asked about genome sequencing of Covid cases in the state, to isolate the Omicron variant, the state's Principal Secretary, Health, Amit Mohan Prasad said: "There is a guideline of 5-10 per cent cases being sent for sequencing, and the state is sending more than that. These eight cases came out of the 140 samples sent."

Prasad added that with the cases rising now, they may make changes.

Adityanath said the government had ordered mock drills at hospitals, and oxygen plants had been instructed to keep ready with full strength.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath interacts with teenagers waiting to get a shot of the Covid-19 vaccine at a hospital in Lucknow on Monday. Vishal Srivastav

## In Amethi, Yogi targets Rahul with 'accidental Hindus' jibe

LALMANI VERMA  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 3

CHIEF MINISTER Yogi Adityanath on Monday lashed out at Rahul Gandhi at a public meeting in Amethi without naming him, saying the Congress leader was lecturing people about the differences between Hinduism and Hindutva even though he had once sat on his knees in a temple instead of sitting cross-legged.

Gandhi's "ancestors called themselves accidental Hindus", Adityanath claimed.

Adityanath made the remarks at an event to mark the end of the BJP's "Jan Vishwas Yatra" in the

Kashi region. Union Minister and local MP Smriti Irani was also present at the event.

Laying into Gandhi, who represented Amethi in the Lok Sabha thrice before losing in 2019, the CM said, "To whom Amethi gave the reins of the country after freedom, had they thought of [Sufi poet] Malik Muhammad Jayasi's saying they possibly would not have differentiated between Hindu and Hindutva... Who always followed divisive politics? Whose genes are disintegration and division part of? Whose ancestors called themselves accidental Hindus? They cannot call themselves Hindus. Today, they are forced to

bow down before your faith."

Adityanath went on to say, "When your former MP is abroad, then he speaks against the country. And when he goes to Kerala [Gandhi is the MP from Wayanad], he speaks against Amethi and curses Amethi people. One should not be so selfish so as to hide his own failures by cursing those people who contributed to his elevation to the top echelons of power... I find this unjust for Amethi, state and nation. And this has happened with Amethi."

The CM said he had never hesitated to refer to himself as a Hindu. "We don't hide... We have no hesitation," he said.

**EXPLAINED**

**E.**

Electricity to domestic consumers and to farmers. It has also said that families of those who die of bull attacks or cycle accidents will get Rs 5 lakh each. Now the cycle is the symbol of the SP, while it has been raising the issue of the menace of stray animals since the BJP government cracked down on illegal slaughterhouses. President Akhilesh Yadav says people should trust the SP, as there is no difference between "what SP people say" and "what SP people do".

The Congress, which is focusing its campaign on women, led by general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, has promised smartphones for girls in Class 12, scooty for women pursuing graduation, free public transport for women, three free gas cylinders a year to every woman, free medical treatment of up to Rs 10 lakh

per family for all diseases, and special incentives and tax exemptions to businesses with more than 50% of the workforce women.

Congress spokesperson Surendra Rajput says: "The budget required for implementation of these promises can be generated just by stopping the extravagance and corruption of the current government."

The BJP is banking on attracting youth, and on December 25, the birth anniversary of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath distributed free smartphones and tablets to students.

The government promises it will cover one crore students under the programme.

Says BJP state spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi: "Opposition parties are trying to do politics of freebies because they have realised that they have lost their vote banks. But the UP public is aware that freebies bring hooliganism and mafia raj."

**Students display the smartphones given to them by the BJP at a distribution event in Gorakhpur last week. PTI**

**EXPLAINED**

**E.**

Smartphones and tablets to students are part of the government's plan to improve education and connectivity. The government has promised to provide free smartphones and tablets to students in Classes 9 to 12, and free scooty for women pursuing graduation. The government has also promised free gas cylinders for women, free medical treatment for women, and free electricity for farmers and domestic consumers.

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PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

In Danwar railway station of North Central Railway, 25 KV AC 50 Hz over head traction wire will be charged on or after 22.01.2022 in the following section around the railway line. From this date the over head line will be charged. will at all times be treated as a charge line and no unauthorized person shall attempt to access or act on this line.

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely:** Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, **Age:** about 40 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black colour jersey and Black colour pant has been found dead at back side Faridabad Bus Stand, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 27.12.2021. In this regard a case vide GD No. 23A dated 27.12.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this found dead person may kindly inform to the following:-

प्रथम आयुक्त कायालय, केंद्रीय माल एवं सेवाकर, दिल्ली उत्तर<sup>7</sup>  
OFFICE OF THE PR. COMMISSIONER,  
CGST DELHI NORTH  
सौ.आर्टिलिंग, अर्द्ध.पी. इंस्टेट, नई दिल्ली- 110109  
C. R. BUILDING, I. P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI - 110109.

**HOLDING OF PENSION ADALAT**

The Central GST, Delhi North Commissionerate is holding a Pension Adalat pertaining to CGST Delhi North/Delhi East/ Delhi Audit-I/Delhi Appeal-I including all subordinate offices of the said Commissionerates for taking on-spot decision for prompt resolution of pensioner's grievances at C.R. Building, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110109 ON 21.01.2022 from 11:30 AM onwards. All the pensioners, whose pension cases are pending settlement/decision., may file application before the Adalat for settlement of their cases.

Prescribed application form for submission before the Adalat is already available at [www.gstdelhizone.gov.in](http://www.gstdelhizone.gov.in).



**IN REMEMBRANCE**

Corps of Signals salutes its following Signallers who left us for their heavenly abode during the month of December 2021.

- (a) SS-45031M Major Mandeep Singh Bhatia
- (b) 15678146K Havildar Nandalal Rana
- (c) 15687645A Naik Upendra Kumar Singh
- (d) 15725413N Lance Naik Chandan Sahani
- (e) 15745251P Signalman Anuj Singh
- (f) 15744750X Signalman Anoop Gautam

On behalf of the Corps, we sincerely pray to Almighty for peace to the departed souls & strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

1370/21(AN) North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

SHO :  
P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi  
North Distt., Delhi  
Tel. No. 011-23967889, 23968730  
DP/1858/N/2022

Sd/-  
Additional Commissioner(P & E)  
Central GST Delhi North

**GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board**  
**FC-18, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110092**  
<https://dssbonline.nic.in>

No. F.4 (404)/P&P/DSSSB/2021/Advt.05

Dated: 03.01.2022

VACANCY NOTICE / ADVERTISEMENT NO. 03/22  
COMBINED EXAMINATION, 2022 FOR ASSISTANT ENGINEER (CIVIL)  
POST CODE - 803/22

The opening date and closing date for receipt of online applications are as below:-

**Opening Date of Application:** 10/01/2022 (10th January, 2022)

**Closing Date of Application:** 09/02/2022 (09th February, 2022) (Till 11.59 pm)

Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) invites online applications from eligible candidates for recruitment to the post of **Assistant Engineer (Civil) (Post Code - 803/22)** against vacancies in respect of various Departments of Government of NCT of Delhi /Autonomous Bodies/Local Bodies as below :-

**ASSISTANT ENGINEER (CIVIL) POST CODE - 803/22**

SI No	Name of Department	Vacancies *								
		UR	EWS	OBC	SC	ST	Total	PwD	Ex-SM	Sports
1	North Delhi Municipal Corporation (North DMC)	15	4	10	6	3	38	0	0	0
2	South Delhi Municipal Corporation (South DMC)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
3	East Delhi Municipal Corporation (East DMC)	19	3	10	5	2	39	2	0	0
4	New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)	17	5	14	5	2	43	0	0	0
5	Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board (DAMB)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Delhi Jal Board (DJB)	12	5	9	2	2	30	1	0	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>64</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*The above vacancies are tentative and based on inputs of the indenting Departments/ Bodies. DSSSB will conduct examinations (Tier-I & Tier-II) for making recruitment against the vacancies notified above. The date of conduct of examinations will be intimated in due course only through the website of the Board. The applicants are advised to visit DSSSB's website i.e <https://dssbonline.nic.in> to check the detailed advertisement and confirm their eligibility for the above vacancies based on the Recruitment Rules of the indenting departments.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:-** Only online applications will be accepted. Applications received by post/by mail etc. will not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. No correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

Sd/-

Deputy Secretary (P&P), DSSSB  
DIP/Shabdarth/0549/21-22

**GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board**  
**FC-18, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110092**  
<https://dssbonline.nic.in>

No. F.4 (405)/P&P/DSSSB/2021/Advt.03

Dated: 03.01.2022

VACANCY NOTICE / ADVERTISEMENT NO. 04/22  
COMBINED EXAMINATION, 2022 FOR ASSISTANT ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL)  
POST CODE - 804/22

The opening date and closing date for receipt of online applications are as below:-

**Opening Date of Application:** 10/01/2022 (10th January, 2022)

**Closing Date of Application:** 09/02/2022 (09th February, 2022) (Till 11.59 pm)

Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) invites online applications from eligible candidates for recruitment to the post of **Assistant Engineer (Electrical) (Post Code - 804/22)** against vacancies in respect of various Departments of Government of NCT of Delhi /Autonomous Bodies/Local Bodies as below :-

**ASSISTANT ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL) POST CODE - 804/22**

SI No	Name of Department	Vacancies *								
		UR	EWS	OBC	SC	ST	Total	PwD	Ex-SM	Sports
1	North Delhi Municipal Corporation (North DMC)	5	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0
2	East Delhi Municipal Corporation (East DMC)	4	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0
3	South Delhi Municipal Corporation (South DMC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board (DAMB)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*The above vacancies are tentative and based on inputs of the indenting Departments/ Bodies. DSSSB will conduct examinations (Tier-I & Tier-II) for making recruitment against the vacancies notified above. The date of conduct of examinations will be intimated in due course only through the website of the Board. The applicants are advised to visit DSSSB's website i.e <https://dssbonline.nic.in> to check the detailed advertisement and confirm their eligibility for the above vacancies based on the Recruitment Rules of the indenting departments.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:-** Only online applications will be accepted. Applications received by post/by mail etc. will not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. No correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

Sd/-

Deputy Secretary (P&P), DSSSB  
DIP/Shabdarth/0548/21-22

**निविदा सूचना**

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय शासनीमार बाग, दिल्ली, इच्छुक एवं अनुभवी कंपनियों से हाउस कॉर्पिंग, सिक्यूरिटी, बागवानी एवं सब-स्टेप सेवाओं हेतु मुहरबद निविदाएं आमंत्रित करता है। इच्छुक फर्म एवं एजेंसिया 21 दिनों के अन्तर्गत विद्यालय कार्यालय से प्राप्त: 10 बजे से 01 बजे तक निविदा प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। प्राचार्य

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Consequence upon death (20/04/2018) of Sh. Sobha Ram Sapra Director of M/S of Micro Hydrotechnic Pvt. Ltd. w h o d i e d o n 20/04/2018. We hereby informed to change in constitution has been provisionally allowed from Sumit Kumar (57.14%), Sh. Sobha Ram Sapra (14.29%), Prem Sapra (28.57%) to Sumit Kumar Sapra (84.55%) and Prem Lata (15.45%) (in the name of legal heir of deceased) by HSIIDC vide letter no HSIIDC/IMT/21/4284 dtd 13/12/2021 (Request ID: COC2021DEC02472). If any person has objection may file the same in writing along with Affidavit in front of Est. Mgr. HSIIDC, IMT Bawali, Rewari, Haryana within 30 days of publication of this public notice. In case no objection is received HSIIDC will proceed for change of constitution.



**INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRES AUTHORITY (GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)**

2nd Floor, Pragya Tower, GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

F.No.489/IFSCA/GAD/HR/2021-22/382

December 24, 2021

**VACANCY NOTIFICATION**

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) is a unified regulatory body established by Government of India under the IFSCA Act, 2019 with a mandate to develop and regulate the financial institutions, financial services and financial products in the International Financial Services Centres set up in the country.

2. The IFSCA invites application to post of Assistant Manager (Officer Grade A) from candidates who appeared in the interview of Civil Services Examination-2020 conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

3. **Details of posts and eligibility criteria are as under:**

S. N.	Name of Post	Number Posts	Eligibility	Age limit
1.	Assistant Manager (Officer Grade A)	10	Candidates appeared in the norms for interview of Civil Services Examination-2020 conducted by UPSC.	As per UPSC
	Fresh Vacancy-08 (UR-4, OBC-2, SC-1, ST-1) Backlog Vacancy- 02 (OBC-1, SC-1)			

4. The candidates willing to apply for the above posts are requested to refer [www.ifscaindia.gov.in](http://www.ifscaindia.gov.in) for detailed vacancy notification, service benefits, eligibility criteria in terms of qualification and experience etc,. The last date for receipt of application along with requisite documents by post is 24.01.2022 by 6.00 PM. For any query, please contact at Ph: 079-61809800.

Deputy General Manager  
International Financial Services Centres Authority  
davp 15228/11/0007/2122



**GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board**  
**FC-18, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110092**  
<https://dssbonline.nic.in>

No

## Bombay High Court gets three permanent judges

AURVISHWANATH  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE CENTRE on Monday notified the appointment of three additional judges of Bombay High Court as permanent judges and extended tenure of another additional judge of the HC by a year.

"In exercise of the power conferred by clause (l) of Article 217 and by clause (l) of Article Article 224 of the Constitution of India, the President, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, is pleased to appoint the following as judges/Additional Judge of the following High Courts, w.e.f. the date they assume charge of their respective offices, vide notifications dated 03.01.2022..." the notification stated.

Justice Ganediwala's tenure is expected to end on February 13. In a separate notification, the government appointed Justice Aniruddha Roy, additional judge of Calcutta HC, as permanent judge of the HC. In January last year, the collegium had reiterated its recommendation to appoint Justice Roy, as Centre had not acted on the first recommendation made in 2018.

While Justices Madhav Jayajirao Jamdar, Amit Bhadra, Barkar and Shrikant Dattatray Kulkarni were appointed permanent judges, Justice Abhay Ahuja's tenure has been extended as an additional judge by a year.

In July last year the Bombay HC College had recommended

names of five additional judges—Justices Jamdar, Barkar, Kulkarni, Ahuja, and Justice Pushpa Ganediwala—to be appointed permanent judges. According to a statement by the Supreme Court Collegium on December 16 last year, Justices Jamdar, Barkar and Kulkarni were recommended for appointment as permanent judges with a recommendation to extend the tenure of Justice Ahuja by a year.

In a rare instance of demotion of an HC judge, the collegium decided to not recommend Justice Ganediwala as permanent judge of Bombay HC after two of her verdicts were closely scrutinised for controversial interpretation of sexual assault under POCSO Act, 2012.

Justice Ganediwala's tenure is expected to end on February 13.

In a separate notification, the government appointed Justice Aniruddha Roy, additional judge of Calcutta HC, as permanent judge of the HC. In January last year, the collegium had reiterated its recommendation to appoint Justice Roy, as Centre had not acted on the first recommendation made in 2018.

In July last year the Bombay HC College had recommended

## Two militants killed; were involved in attacks on civilians: J&K Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 3

THE J&K Police claimed to have killed two militants—a Lashkar-e-Toiba 'commander' and a foreigner—in two separate gunfights in Srinagar Monday.

Police have termed the encounter-death of the militant 'commander', Saleem Paray, as a big success and said he was involved in killing civilians and attacks on armed forces.

Police said on Monday afternoon a joint team of J&K Police and paramilitary forces cordoned off Harwan area of Shalimar, in Srinagar, after inputs about Paray's presence in the area.

The search party was fired upon indiscriminately by [the] hiding terrorist, which was retaliated, leading to a brief shootout and elimination of dreaded terrorist Saleem Paray, linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT," the police said in a statement.

Barely half-an-hour later, police said, another gunfight



Security forces at one of the encounter sites in Shalimar, Srinagar, on Monday. Shuaib Masoodi

started at Gasu village of Zakura when the team of joint forces came under fire after cordoning the area. A Pakistani militant identified as Hafiz, alias Hamza, linked with LeT was killed, police said.

Police said Paray, a resident of Hajin in Bandipore district, who had joined militants' ranks in 2016, was involved in attacks on civilians and armed forces. They said Paray was involved in "several civilian killings", including that of Bashir Ahmad Dar and

his brother Ghulam Hassan Dar at Shahgund Hajin in May 2018, and Hilal Ahmad Paray at Paray Mohalla Hajin that same month.

"Besides, he was involved in slitting throat of many civilians in Hajin area," police said. "He was also involved in providing logistic support to terrorists in the area."

Police said Paray was also involved in "reviving terror folds" of LeT in Hajin and adjoining areas.

Police said Hafiz, alias Hamza, was involved in recent

### INFILTRATION BID FOILED

Jammu: The Army on Monday said it had foiled an infiltration bid from across the Line of Control in Hamirpur area of Poonch district.

Defence PRO Lt Colonel Devender Anand said troops on Sunday night saw a group of militants trying to infiltrate through Bhimber Gali Sector and opened fire. The militants fled back, he said. He said during searches later, ammunition and Pakistani currency were seized. ENS

killing of two policemen in Bandipore. "He shifted to Harwan area of Srinagar due to frequent cordon and search operations in Bandipore," the police quoted IGP Vijay Kumar as saying. "He was also involved in killing of a CRPF personnel at Hajin Bandipore, killing of a civilian, Nadif Hanif Khan, of Bilal Colony Soura in Buchpora in Srinagar."

## NIA arrests ex-MLA's kin for suspected IS links

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday arrested a family member of former Congress MLA from Karnataka B M Idinabba in connection with a case of Islamic State conspiracy to recruit from India.

"Today, NIA in co-operation with Karnataka Police arrested one ISIS operative Mundadiguttu Sadananda Marla Deepthi Marla alias Maryam w/o Anas Abdul Rahman R/o Mangalore..." the NIA said in a statement.

Anas Abdul Rahman, Marla's husband, is the son of B M Basha whose father Idinabba was once a Congress MLA. Idinabba died in 2009.

Earlier, the NIA had arrested Anas's brother Ammar in the case.

The arrests, the NIA said, have been made in connection with a case of IS recruitment and propaganda it had registered in March last year. It had later arrested one Mohammed Ameen alias Abu Yahya along with four of his associates from Kerala—Dr Rahees Rasheed and Mus Hab Anwar. In August, the agency arrested four more people, including Ammar. The same month it arrested two women from Kerala who it claimed were going to join the Islamic State in West Asia.

"During investigation, it has been revealed that after the decline of ISIS Caliphate in Syria/Iraq, Deepthi Marla and Mohd. Ameen had visited Kashmir in January and March, 2020

for Hijrah (religious migration) and for engaging in terrorist acts and supporting the activities of ISIS. Investigation has also revealed that Deepthi Marla was the kingpin of the instant ISIS conspiracy along with Mohd Ameen," the NIA said in a statement.

Till date, the NIA has arrested 11 people on charges of "raising funds, radicalizing and motivating people to join ISIS".

On August 4 last year, it conducted searches at five locations across J&K and Karnataka and arrested four people, including Ammar, for allegedly raising funds and recruiting for the Islamic State.

Ammar's niece is believed to have been among the 13 people from Kasaragod in Kerala, who left the country to join the IS in 2016. In

a charge sheet filed in January 2017, the NIA hinted that Ajmala and her husband Shifas K P left India via Bengaluru on May 24, 2016, and joined IS in the Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. Sources said Ajmala is believed to have been killed sometime in 2018. A total of 21 people left Kerala around the time to join the IS.

The NIA had registered a suo motu case against seven known and other unknown people under various charges of IPC and UAPA on March 5 last year. It alleged that Mohammed Ameen and his associates have been allegedly running propaganda channels on different social media platforms such as Telegram, Hoop and Instagram for propagating IS ideology and recruiting members.

The petitions were earlier being heard by a bench headed by a bench headed by

## CAT: Engineers again dominate toppers' list

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

Maharashtra and Gujarat scored 99.99 percentile, two each from UP, Haryana and Karnataka, and one each from Kerala, Delhi, Chandigarh, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.

In the 2020 edition too of the exam, all the nine toppers were males, with seven of them coming from engineering backgrounds. Of the 19 candidates who scored 99.99 percentile that year, only one was woman.

The Common Admission Test, scores of which are also used by 88 non-IIM business schools, was held on November 28 at 438 test centres across 156 cities. Around 1.92 lakh of the 2.3 lakh registered candidates appeared for the exam.

"The overall attendance was approximately 83%. Out of the 1.92 lakh candidates who took the exam, 35% were females, 65% males and two candidates belonged to the transgender community," according to CAT 2021 convener, Prof. MPRam Mohan.

### NEET EWS QUOTA CASE

## Govt seeks urgent hearing, SC says CJI to look into it

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

THE CENTRE on Monday urged the Supreme Court to take up petitions challenging the criteria for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) quota in NEET-PG (All-India Quota) on Tuesday, saying that there is a "genuine urgency" in the matter.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta conveyed this to a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud, who assured that he will take it up with Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, who will take a call on listing it.

The petitions were earlier being heard by a bench headed by

Justice Chandrachud, which had asked the Centre to explain what exercise it had undertaken to arrive at Rs 8 lakh annual income criteria for being eligible for the quota. Responding to this, the Centre said on November 25, 2021, that it will revisit the criteria for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) quota in NEET-PG (All-India Quota) on Tuesday, saying that there is a "genuine urgency" in the matter.

The court had fixed the next date of hearing for January 6, 2022.

On December 31, 2021, the government filed an affidavit in SC stating that it has accepted the recommendation made by a committee set up by it and decided to retain Rs 8 lakh annual income criteria for the current admission cycle.

## SC to Centre: Take call on man's plea for bringing daughter back from Afghan jail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

SUPREME COURT on Monday asked the Centre to take a call on the representation of a Kerala-based man, who has sought directions to bring back his daughter and grand daughter, who are reportedly lodged in an Afghan jail at present.

The daughter and her husband had travelled to Afghanistan in 2016 to join terror outfit ISIS. She surrendered before Afghan authorities after her husband died in a missile attack in November 2019, according to the petitioner. Making it clear it is not expressing any opinion on the merits of the matter, Justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai asked the Centre to decide on VJ Sebastian's representation in eight weeks.

Although the petitioner sought liberty to again approach the top court after eight weeks, the bench, while disposing of the plea, said he could approach Kerala High Court if he was still aggrieved by the government's response.

Sebastian wants the government to extradite and repatriate his daughter Sonia Sebastian, who converted to Islam and took the name Ayisha before marrying Abdul Rashid Abdulla in 2011.

The petitioner's counsel pointed out that although there were reports of prisons being demolished after the Taliban came to power, it was difficult to say whether Sonia and her child were not in detention as there were also reports of prisoners being detained at the borders. The plea contended the Centre is not doing anything to bring them back and that this amounted to violation of human rights obligations under international law.

"We cannot direct the government to take a decision on your request because extradition matters are not matters where we can give decisions on matters like these... All these are matters for the government to decide," said Justice Rao.

### WESTERN RAILWAY MISCELLANEOUS WORKS

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction) Western Railway, Vadodara invites E-tender as per details given below : Tender Notice No. & Date : TR-C-3-2021-22R, Dated : 01.01.2022, Work & Location : Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE of Chhototadepur - Dhar Section on Vadodara Division of Western Railway (Phase-I, RKM 72). Approximate Cost of Work : ₹ 17,01,66,120/- EMD : Nil, Last Date & Time of Submission : 28.01.2022 upto 15.00 hrs. Last Date & Time of Opening : 28.01.2022 at 15.30 hrs. 0643

Like us on : [facebook.com/WesternRail](https://facebook.com/WesternRail)

Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service  
(M): 9212665841, 9212008155

Tender Enquiry No. PPR-20/2021 Dated: 31.12.2021

Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three part bid system for supply of Electrical Energy from Interstate/Intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 01.01.2022 to 30th April 2022. The link for the e-Bidding portal www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com).

For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to www.mstcecommerce.com and official website of PSPCL i.e. www.pspcl.in from 31.12.2021 onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

C-02/22 12068/PB

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED (A State Government Undertaking)  
Regd. Office: Sri Sai Towers, Door No.10-1521, 4th & 5th Floor, Ashoknagar, Beside Siris Company, Bandar Road, Kanuru, Vijayawada-520077.  
Lr.No.PDS/P/2/1263/RP/2021-Dated: 03.01.2022

SHORT RE-TENDER NOTICE

EMANELMENT OF MANUFACTURERS THROUGH AP e-Reverse AUCTION PLATFORM FOR SUPPLY OF FORTIFIED RICE KERNELS (FRKS) WITH THREE (3) MICR NUTRIENTS (IRON, FOLIC ACID AND VITAMIN B12) IN 20KG BAG TO RICE MILLERS FOR FORTIFICATION OF CUSTOM MILLED RICE TO BE DELIVERED TO APSCL/FCI.

Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., invites Re-tender for Empanelment of Manufacturers for Supply of Fortified Rice Kerneks (FRK) for fortification of Custom Milled Rice. For registration, interested Manufacturers of FRKs from all over India shall visit <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> or [www.apscsl.in](http://www.apscsl.in) to view and download tender documents for the e-Reverse auction shall be up to 2.00 PM of 10.01.2022 and the tentative date of online e-auction through e-procurement auction platform would be on 13.01.2022, 11.00 AM Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

NOTE:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

C01/22 12061/PB

Tender Enquiry No.: QW-294/PO-W Dated: 03.01.2022

Chief Engineer/Stores & Workshops Organization, Sarabha Nagar, PSPCL, Ludhiana, invites E-tender of 80,000 no. Top Hamper for PCC Poles 9 mtrs manufactured from M.S. Flat (50x6mm) conforming to IS: 2062/1992 (with latest editions) Grade - A quality and section details as per IS: 1730/1971 & tolerances as per IS: 1852/ 1985 with Red Oxide Primer. The seam welding of joints should be continuous and uniform on one side. The edge cutting of Top Hamper should be smooth and at right angle, For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 05.01.2022 from 02.00 pm onwards.

NOTE:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

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10

# The Indian **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

**RAMNATH GOENKA**

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## TRACK THEM DOWN

**T**HE ONLINE "SALE" of 100-odd Muslim women on an app hosted on the Github platform is shocking and outrageous. The government must take urgent, exemplary action against the perpetrators. Simply taking down the app, without imposing costs on such criminal behaviour, is only an encouragement of impunity. Indeed, this is not the first instance of targeted harassment of Muslim women, especially those with an assertive presence on social media. In June last year, a similar app had staged an "auction" of women from the community, with language that dehumanised them into "deals of the day". The police investigation into those who created that app has made little progress, apparently because of the lack of adequate response from Github, which does not have a presence in India. True, the anonymity of the internet makes it possible for criminals to mask their digital footprints and identity. But the government and its investigative agencies have the expertise and resources to track offenders down, and the clout to make multinational social media companies comply when they wish to — as has been seen in the Centre's dealings with Twitter, for instance.

To frame this as a free speech issue would be wilful blindness. From doctoring women's photographs to lewd comments to communal dog-whistling, they cross over into criminality and sexual harassment in ways that call for cyber-crime cells to take urgent attention. Across the world, women experience the internet as a place of hostility and abuse, one that punishes them for speaking their mind or telling their stories, that seeks to push them back into a corner by shaming and sexualising their bodies. But the "auction" of women from the minority community is not just standard-issue misogyny. In a climate of majoritarian excess, attacks on minorities and open unpunished calls for mass murder, the choreographed humiliation of Muslim women panders to the worst communal tendencies and fantasies of violence. It seeks to push out an already embattled community from the digital public square by attacking the dignity of its women.

It is even more important, therefore, for the government to draw the red lines and send out a strong, clear message. The Narendra Modi government's stated commitment to women's empowerment has led it to design schemes such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. It has often congratulated itself as a champion of the rights of Muslim women by holding up legislation against triple talaq. It cannot now afford to be slow-footed in following through in a case of such flagrant violation. The Centre has often weaponised the IPC to go after dissenters and activists. This time, it must use push online platforms to assist with the investigation and identify the offenders. There must be firm, visible action against this criminal bigotry and misogyny.

## NO TIME TO LOSE

States must utilise Centre's Covid funds to the fullest. Country cannot afford a repeat of devastation wreaked by second wave

**O**NE OF THE crucial learnings of the past two years' battle against the coronavirus is that authorities at every level — policy-makers, scientific and administrative agencies — must endeavour to stay several steps ahead of the contagion. Yet, the story of unpreparedness seems to be repeating itself as the country stares at a potential third wave of the pandemic. At a review meeting of state health ministers and senior officials of the state health departments, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya reportedly told states that they had collectively utilised only 17 per cent of the Rs 23,123 crore emergency package approved by the Centre in August to ramp up medical infrastructure. Seven states — UP, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh — were to set up ICU facilities with more than 1,000 beds. It's worrying that four of them — Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka — are amongst states that are driving the current spike in the country's caseload.

Since the second half of last year, the Centre has given states leeway in making regional and district-specific anti-Covid plans, while it has taken on the role of a facilitator, providing funds and guidance. However, the response of the states has largely been emergency-driven and taken the form of imposing curbs on the movement of people. The economic costs of such restrictions and the social distress they cause should have been obvious by now. With the improvements in medical knowledge over the past two years, the use of such blunt measures should be kept to the bare minimum, if not totally avoided. It's important, therefore, that infrastructural facilities are bolstered in time, instead of resorting to last-minute make-shift arrangements like turning hotels, sports stadia, and other large premises into Covid-fighting zones. The emergency plan has a significant rural component to add beds in primary, secondary, and community healthcare centres in six states — UP, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Jharkhand. Given the toll taken by the virus in rural India during the second wave, the urgency of putting these funds to proper use cannot be overstated.

Hospital occupancy rates seem to be low so far in the current outbreak. But with the high transmissibility rate of the Omicron variant, which seems to be driving this surge, nothing should be left to chance. Experts reckon that the next six to eight weeks will be crucial in the fight against the virus's newest avatar. The scars of the second wave haven't yet healed and the country cannot afford another scramble for ICU beds and oxygen cylinders. States have no time to lose.

## INDOMITABLE FIGHTER

Richard Leakey was a groundbreaking paleoanthropologist, whose life and work were marked by pugnacity and tenacity

**T**O ANYONE WHO followed Richard Leakey's action-packed life, the frequent comparisons to Indiana Jones made by profile-writers and others who encountered him, do not surprise. Leakey didn't carry the swashbuckling fictional archaeologist's bullwhip, but that was where the difference ended. In his 77 years, the Kenyan paleoanthropologist and conservationist, who died this week, had been a groundbreaking fossil expert, bestselling author and television personality, pioneering conservationist, as well as a prominent political figure in his home country, campaigning against corruption, founding a party and heading the civil service.

Born to Louis and Mary Leakey, whose discoveries in East Africa's Olduvai Gorge drew popular attention to the then-burgeoning field of paleoanthropology, the younger Leakey initially worked as a safari guide. In the 1970s, a grant to dig in Kenya's Lake Turkana region changed the course of his life. His work, including the 1984 unearthing of the Homo erectus skeleton nicknamed "Turkana Boy", helped prove that humanity evolved in Africa. When he quit the field in the late 1980s, it was to return to his first love, wildlife. He headed Kenya's Wildlife Service where he made a name as a ruthless pursuer of poachers, ordering his men to shoot at sight and organising public burnings of seized ivory.

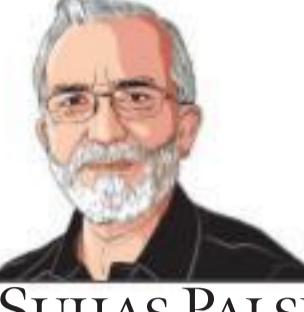
Leakey was, above all, a survivor and fighter. In recent years, he had battled skin cancer, as well as kidney and liver disease. He made many enemies while fighting the ivory trade, as well as in politics, which he entered in the 1990s. Leakey's pugnacity was not diluted even after he lost both legs in 1993, when the Cessna he was piloting crashed. It was widely believed that this — like the beating at the hands of hired thugs that he was to endure later — was orchestrated by enemies but Leakey himself refused to indulge the rumours, saying, "I made the decision not to be a dramatist and say: 'They tried to kill me.' I chose to get on with life."

# THE EDITORIAL PAGE

## WORDLY WISE

PALEOANTHROPOLOGY IS NOT A SCIENCE THAT ENDS WITH THE DISCOVERY OF A BONE... IT IS A LIFE-LONG TASK. — RICHARD LEAKEY

# The democracy challenge



SUHAS PALSHIKAR

A public discourse around questions of its meaning, repertoire, purpose and limits will have to be enriched

THE NEW YEAR brings a challenge. Corrosion of democracy forms the backdrop to the 75th year of freedom, overshadowing the celebrations. The official website calls the moment "azadi ka amrit mahotsav", though in the recent past, those talking of *azadi* were hounded as the *tukde-tukde* gang. Such is the fracture in our public psyche that *azadi* can be equated with an anti-national position on the one hand and on the other hand, a myopic view of *azadi* allows dismemberment of its core — democracy. The challenge, therefore, is to keep India's democracy alive. Are we up to it?

The unexpected spread of democracy at the fag-end of the last century produced a global overuse of the term, denuding it of its meaning. Even as the industry of measuring and ranking democracies thrived, the practice of trading off democracy's substance for its skeletal form became a booming business. Just as the "D" word became politically the most useful and used word, it also became so vague that its adversaries no longer needed to argue against it. Rather than anti-democratic arguments, we now witness the skillful taming of democracy.

In India, the taming of democracy is marked by three maladies. First, electoral majorities are understood to have elected a superhero with unbounded wisdom. The belief that the "king can do no wrong" would pale in the backdrop of faith in the leader's motives and actions. The popular language of mandate becomes politically central to this phenomenon. Instead of electing (and changing) representatives responsible for governance, elections become the mythical ritual of coronation. While most parties are afflicted with this misconception and sundry representatives invoke it to justify their power and prestige, Narendra Modi has taken it to an unprecedented level. Not only has he assumed the role of being the representative of 125 crore people, he is also seen as the personification of popular will. This personification is then translated into legitimising a fundamental reworking not just of the physical structures of the polity, but its normative practices and ideological bases.

Two, electoral majorities are seen unabashedly as flowing from, and reflecting the majority of one community constructed from many sects and traditions. At an ideological level, attempts to conflate the nation with one community have gained ground. At a more

practical level, the public sphere is seized with the issue of what we do with citizens not belonging to the majority faith. In governance terms, they are being pushed into the shadowy recesses of invisibility while in political terms, they are brought forward as enemies of the nation. This violent discourse produces a slippage of democratic rhetoric into nationalist rhetoric, sometimes juxtaposing the nation against democracy and sometimes conflating the national with the democratic.

Three, 21st century manipulations of democracy have almost successfully robbed people's agency from democracy. An oversized image of the leader, claims of wisdom by the elected autocracy and consistent delegitimisation of any difference as anti-national have meant that the category of people exists as the symbolic legitimiser of power. People also exist as manufactured expressions of public unreason to be unleashed against opponents of the regime. But people as a democratic force do not exist or at least do not count for much.

All three afflictions have global parallels. They run deep in our polity and are shaping our political culture. Above all, they have democratic pretensions, which makes it tough to identify them, critique them and isolate them.

Democracies are adept at countering open attacks. They will have to invent new strategies for facing what scholars have been calling "democratic" ways of subverting democracy. In India, the list of expectations and failures is long. The bureaucracy has pathetically caved in, investigating agencies have practically transformed into a legal mafia, judiciary has become a sermonising priest at best and ideological partner of executive at worst. The media prides itself on being the trumpeting brigade of pseudo-nationalism besides working as PR agencies of the regime.

In this bleak backdrop, three pathways are worth considering. The first is the most attractive and one in which democrats invest a lot — protests, agitations and movements. From students to farmers to minorities, this regime has antagonised many sections of society. Poor governance and callous management of the economy pushes many more to the brink. Ideological varnish may stall or postpone organised protests, but not for long. While these protests have not substantially altered the course of democracy's erosion, they do have

the potential of rejuvenating people's agency. But the pathway most readers will be intrigued by is normal politics. Politics centred on a leader has blinded us for far too long. It is time India moves back to "politics as usual" — power politics, intra-party factionalism, competition over leadership, the cocktail of ideas, machinations and routine bargains. Not revolutions but ordinary politics can keep the spirit of democracy alive — that no party, no leader, no idea, no dream is final or invincible. America may not have substantively set aside Trumpism, but a non-dramatic Biden victory set aside the aura of Trump. That is the virtue of normal politics.

Such normal politics, of course, is only a small step in keeping democracy alive. An ideological engagement at the intellectual level is unavoidable. That engagement is not about the classical ideas of left and right, not about nation nor even about religion. All these battles are important, but the critical engagement urgently necessary will be about what we mean by democracy and what we do with it.

The 20th century was seen as the century of democracy's expansion. If we do not want the present century to be that of democracy's decay, then renewed public discourse around questions of its meaning, repertoire, purpose and limits will have to be enriched. The idea of democracy will have to be taken to the people once again with an emphasis on inclusion, institutions, procedures and deliberation, but chiefly as the question of power-sharing.

This is a global challenge. From Russia to Brazil, Turkey to Thailand, and Hungary to China, governments have turned into regimes. These regimes are busy controlling people's destinies and are nearly successful in controlling our minds. The challenge is to rupture the regime-ness of entrenched networks of power and push the powerful for what they are — just power-holders, deservedly scrutinised for their use of power.

This will not necessarily happen through grand theory. Intellectual interventions of a daily nature and untiring responses to the routine distortions of democracy will be required. Democracy can remain alive at the intersection of politics and political criticism.

*The writer, based at Pune, taught political science and is chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics*



APOORVA JAVAIDEKAR

ECONOMISTS ARE predicting a potential virtuous capital investments (capex) cycle to kick in globally as we emerge from the pandemic. *The Economist* ran an article, "Capex carnival: An investment bonanza is coming". Morgan Stanley has predicted a "Red-hot capex cycle" globally, including in India. If lower interest rates and monetary support did not lead to a large capex cycle post the 2008 financial crisis, why are analysts upbeat this time around?

Corporates are less leveraged today compared to 2008. Indian corporates repaid debts of more than Rs 1.5 trillion. Companies are also more confident of durable fiscal and monetary support. Households have large excess savings built during Covid — \$1.7 trillion in the US and roughly \$300 billion in India as per a UBS report. Lastly, corporates are sitting on a large cash pile — S&P 500 firms' cash has soared from \$1 trillion pre-pandemic to \$1.5 trillion now.

Some corporates are already pushing ahead with capex. TSMC — the Taiwan-based semiconductor manufacturer — has announced \$100 billion in capex over three years and Apple, \$430 billion over five years. The \$1.2-trillion US Infrastructure Bill is already sending cement and steel company stocks higher. In India, the Gati Shakti Project, the push towards EVs, data centres, the production-linked schemes and the recent announcements for the semiconductor industry are all being seen similarly.

What does the data say? First, India's fixed capital formation rate has steadily fallen from

Capacity utilisation for corporate India is at an all-time low. From a peak of 83 per cent in 2010, when capex was running hot, utilisation levels declined to 70 per cent just before the pandemic, and further to 60 per cent in June 2021 as per the RBI's latest OBICUS data. The average order book size has collapsed by 30 per cent from Rs 243 crore in the March 2021 quarter to Rs 171 crore in the June quarter. It is hard to project a capex wave against this backdrop.

More current data does not provide a happy picture either. As per CMIE data, the quarter ending in June 2021 saw Rs 2.72 lakh crore worth of new projects announced. This fell to Rs 2.22 lakh crore for the September 2021 quarter and to Rs 1.80 lakh crore between October 1 and December 14, 2021. This is much below the average of Rs 4 lakh crore a quarter of new project announcements during 2018 and 2019. Further, new projects are concentrated in fewer industries (power, and technology) with the top three accounting for 44 per cent of the total of new projects announced.

Importantly, capex stood at 16 per cent of total government expenditure for Apr-Sept 21, which is not higher than in previous periods.

At the same time, capacity utilisation for corporate India is at an all-time low. From a

peak of 83 per cent in 2010, when capex was running hot, utilisation levels declined to 70 per cent just before the pandemic, and further to 60 per cent in June 2021 as per the RBI's latest OBICUS data. The average order book size has collapsed by 30 per cent from Rs 243 crore in the March 2021 quarter to Rs 171 crore in the June quarter. It is hard to project a capex wave against this backdrop.

Capex is funded either from fresh debt or equity issues or from accumulated cash. Large firms are repaying debt. Though IPOs are booming, they form a small fraction of corporate fundraising. And historically, higher cash does not predict higher capex. For the 718 firms considered earlier, cash has increased from Rs 1.95 lakh crore in March 2017 to Rs 2.50 lakh crore in March 2020, without a corresponding pick-up in capex. So the fact that cash has further increased to Rs 3.21 lakh crore in March 2021 does not necessarily lead to higher capex.

The simplest regression analysis suggests that in India, the elasticity of capex to fresh debt is around 0.30, to fresh equity is around 0.48, but to cash is close to 0. This may reflect that companies build cash to ease liquidity concerns rather than fund upcoming capex.

Finally, it is too early in the cycle to predict anything with confidence, but to my eyes, we need more evidence to predict a capex cycle.

*The writer is assistant professor of finance, Indian School of Business*

## JANUARY 4, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

### PM ON SCIENTISTS

A NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP development board will be set up to check unemployment among scientists and technologists, Indira Gandhi announced in Mysore. Addressing the 69th annual session of the Indian Science Congress at the Mysore University campus, she said that all vacancies in the field of science and technology would be filled. She said the national science and technology entrepreneurship board would be constituted to link idle science and technology manpower with under-utilised institutional facilities. The PM said the government was launching a three-pronged programme, which

would take care of the inappropriate employment of such qualified persons.

### NO WAR PACT

INDIA HAS AN "open mind" on a no-war pact with Pakistan, External Affairs Minister said in an interview to PTI. He said that the government's response on the issue had been "positive and correct". The minister was answering questions on the hectic diplomatic activity between the two countries. Rao recalled his statement in Parliament that Pakistan had "conveniently" rejected India's repeated offers of a no-war pact, first made in 1949. Still, this country had responded in a positive manner.



### SIKH-HINDU UNITY

MILITANT SIKH LEADER Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale said in New Delhi that Hindu-Sikh unity was an article of faith with him. Addressing a huge congregation at Gurdwara Rakabganj, organised to end the mourning period for Jathedar Santokh Singh, Bhindranwale said the press had wrongly depicted him as a Hindu baiter. The Sikh leader said he wanted Hindus and Sikhs to live peacefully. He said Hindus and even Muslims, who did not smoke, should be honoured at Sikh platforms and presented with "siropas". He said he was surprised that Hindu leaders were not reciprocating the call for "Sikh-Hindu unity".

# THE IDEAS PAGE

## For South Asia, a Ukraine lesson

Spheres of influence are here to stay as instruments to regulate competition between great powers. But they endure only when the dominant power is wise and its neighbours are prudent



RAJA MANDALA

BY C RAJA MOHAN

WHEN THE US and Russia sit down for talks next week on strategic stability in Europe, a few words could wreck the negotiations – “Ukraine” and “sphere of influence”. Many in Washington and Brussels view Russian President Vladimir Putin’s recent demands as being about letting Ukraine slip back into a Russian sphere of influence and ceding a veto to Moscow over Western military policies in Central Europe.

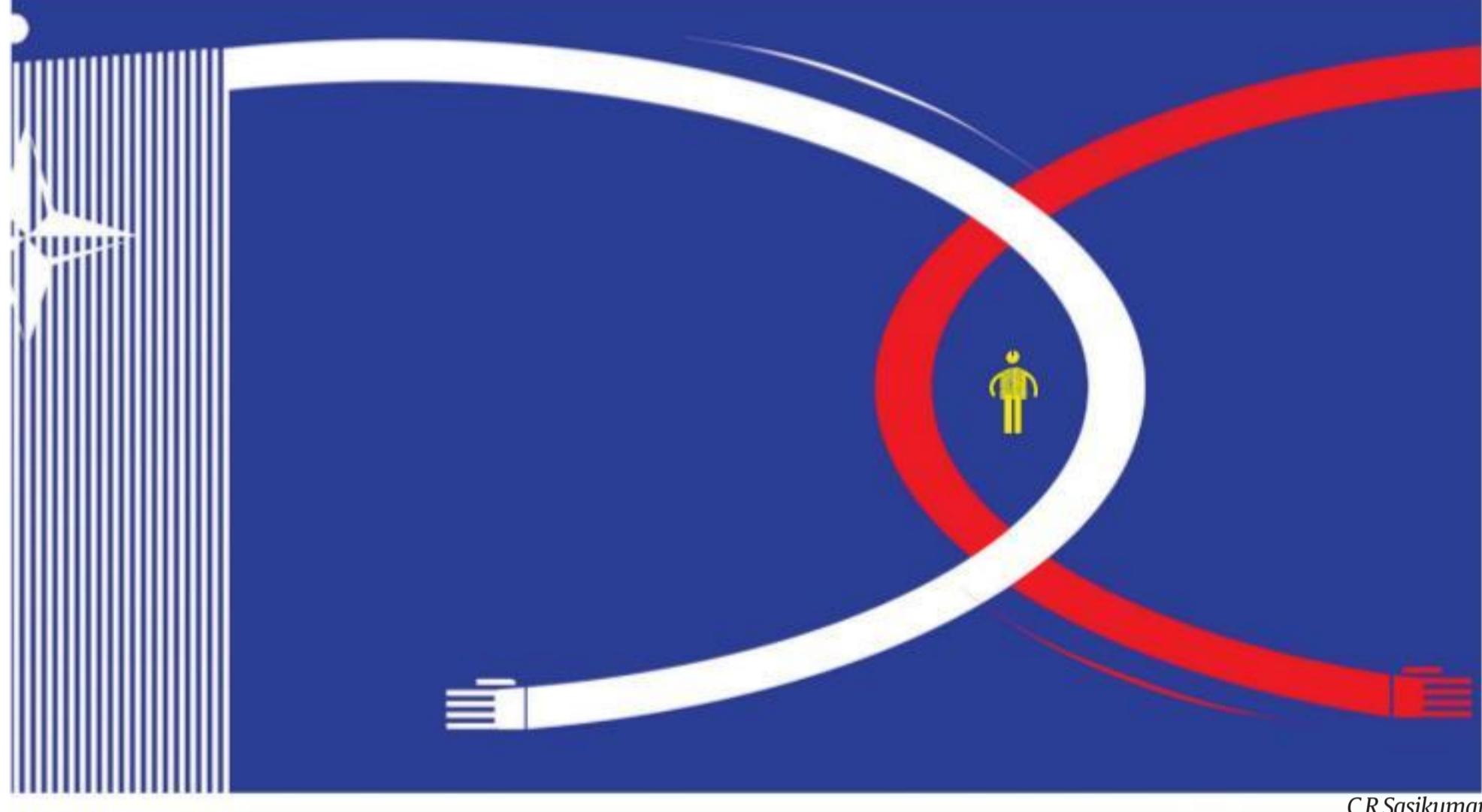
Moscow, however, says the problem lies elsewhere – with the expansion of the Western sphere of influence closer to Russia’s borders. While the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact was dissolved in 1991 at the end of the Cold War, Russians point out, the Western military alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, persisted. Moscow insists the US and Europe violated promises not to push NATO eastwards.

Although the idea of a “Common European Home” shaped the rhetoric, Moscow increasingly felt like a subaltern in the new regional order. In the last decade and a half, Russia has pushed back with interventions in Georgia and Ukraine and routinely challenged Western policies in Europe. Putin has now drawn a red line against NATO’s further expansion to the east and Ukraine’s absorption into the West. He is threatening to go to war if there is no formal agreement with the US and NATO on these two issues.

Whatever might be the nature of the settlement, it will have significant implications for India and its South Asian neighbours. Asian nationalists used to denounce spheres of influence – or carving out exclusive zones among the dominant states – as a very 19th-century concept. That was natural, given the fact that they had been at the receiving end of European imperialism. But the idea has a longer lineage and is very much part of the framework to avoid conflict between major powers.

Asian powers are hardly innocent when it comes to spheres of influence. As Japan rose to be a great power by the turn of the 20th century, it wanted to carve out its own sphere of influence in Asia – called the “Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere”. Japan justified the expansion in the name of liberating Asia from the influence of European colonialism and building a new Asian order. The idea of “Asia for Asians” has not disappeared from the regional agenda. That slogan is now owned by the region’s new aspiring hegemon – China. Although President Xi Jinping denies seeking an Asian sphere of influence, his policies underline the search for one. These include attempts to push America out of Asia and demanding a veto over the security policies of its neighbours. That, in fact, is the essence of a sphere of influence – securing one’s area of interest from intervention by other great powers.

Some China scholars tell us to take it easy; they say Asia, at least East Asia, has always been part of China’s sphere of influence. They point to the so-called tributary state system that China ran until the European colonial powers landed in Asia. If Beijing’s dominance



CR Sasikumar

is the “natural state” of East Asia that we are now reverting to, China hands tell us, we should simply get used to it.

India is no stranger to spheres of influence either. Although the traditional Indian rhetoric proclaims sovereign equality of nations and rejects power politics, Delhi’s regional policy has been anything but. Although all states are equal on paper, what matters in the real world is the uneven power distribution among nations and the policies to cope with it.

At the time of Independence, India inherited an expansive sphere of influence in the Subcontinent and the Indian Ocean from the British Raj that had dominated the region from the early 19th century. But an India that was divided along religious lines turned economically inward and kept its distance from the West, and found it hard to sustain that legacy. But the aspiration never ceased.

A rising India today is trying to reclaim some of that influence in the Subcontinent and the Indian Ocean, but it confronts a newly powerful China that is rapidly gaining ground. Growing national identity in the region also makes it hard to enforce the traditional framework of regional dominance.

India is not the only one. Many middle powers are seeking to build or rebuild spheres of influence – Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. Australia is fending off the growing Chinese influence in the Pacific islands. The fear of American retrenchment has created an urgency for the regional powers in the Middle East to expand their networks of influence.

Realists argue that the unipolar moment has passed and that the US can no longer run the world on its own. As Harvard University’s Graham Allison puts it, the unipolar moment was about the American global sphere of influence. In the unfolding multipolar world, he says, there will be many spheres of influence.

This logic should lead to some accommodation between Washington, Brussels and Moscow on European security. But the devil, as always, is in the details. Meanwhile, any peaceful accommodation between Russia and the West will inevitably be at the expense of Ukraine. At a minimum, Ukraine will have to accept the loss of Crimea, which Russia took by force in 2014.

The West has imposed many sanctions on Russia and promises many more if Moscow

invades Ukraine. But the West makes no promise about using military force to reverse the Russian occupation of Ukraine. That the US and NATO have no desire to fight Russian troops on Moscow’s borders is Putin’s leverage in the upcoming talks. If Putin overplays his hand, however, the long-term costs to Russia too will be heavy. That is the assumption guiding Biden to seek a reasonable compromise with Putin.

What lessons does Ukraine offer South Asia? If Delhi lets problems with the neighbours fester for long and acts in a high-handed manner, the smaller states will mobilise other powers to strengthen their strategic autonomy from India. Delhi can’t forget the importance of being sensitive to its neighbours’ concerns. The pursuit of a South Asian sphere of influence also demands that Delhi think regionally rather than just nationally on issues that affect the Subcontinent as a whole. But if India’s neighbours go too far, say, in overplaying the “China card” against Delhi, they invite India’s intervention in their internal affairs. At that point, they might find that China can’t really help them against India that is next door. Recall that neither the US nor China could stop India from breaking up their ally Pakistan half a century ago.

India’s neighbours can’t ignore the reality that Delhi’s stakes in the South Asian neighbourhood will always be higher than those of China. And that Delhi, despite its massive and growing power asymmetry with Beijing, will fight for its interests in the region. The Russian economy, for example, is barely a tenth of the European Union’s GDP at about \$17 trillion; but Moscow has run rings around Brussels and Washington in Central Europe. Moscow has shown its interests can’t be ignored, but the cost has been steep in the form of economic and political isolation from the West.

Spheres of influence are here to stay as instruments to regulate competition between great powers. But they endure only when the dominant power is wise and its neighbours are prudent. Otherwise, neither the big power nor its neighbours will be secure.

The writer is visiting research professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

## The flaw in the numbers

Serious problems with India’s GDP data make growth forecasts unreliable



RAJESWARI SENGUPTA

THE PRIMARY YARDSTICK analysts use to measure the economy’s health is GDP. The RBI and multilateral agencies use GDP statistics to make claims about the future growth path. But how reliable is the Indian GDP data?

The NSO released the current GDP series in 2015, using 2011-12 as its base year. Since then, the new series has been embroiled in controversy. Some have argued that the problem in the new series is the real growth rate. This is debatable. Scholars have pointed to measurement problems, both in the nominal and real GDP growth rates. Yet none of those problems has been addressed. As a result, the measurement errors still persist. There are three major reasons why the GDP data, and hence any narrative of economic recovery based on it, are questionable.

First, the growth rate of real GDP is contaminated by the “double deflation problem”. The new series entailed a shift from a volume-based measurement system to one based on nominal values, thereby making the deflator problem more critical. Simply put, the NSO calculates real GDP by gathering nominal GDP data in rupees and then deflating this data using various price indices. The nominal data needs to be deflated twice: Once for outputs and once for inputs. But the NSO – almost uniquely amongst G20 countries – deflates the nominal data only once. It does not deflate the value of inputs.

To see why this is a problem, consider what happens when the price of imported oil

goes down. In that case, input costs will fall and the profits recorded by Indian firms will rise. This increase in profits is merely the result of a fall in input prices, so it needs to be deflated away. After all, GDP is meant to measure the amount of production in the country, which hasn’t changed, at least in the first instance. But the NSO doesn’t deflate away the increase in profits. Instead, it records a purely nominal increase as a real increase in GDP, thereby overstating growth. Simulations have shown that this effect can be substantial.

Since the cost of inputs is measured by the WPI (wholesale price index), a crude measure of the overestimation caused by the absence of “double deflation” is given by the gap between the WPI and the CPI (consumer price index). In the 2014-2017 period, oil prices plunged, causing the WPI to fall sharply relative to the CPI. This meant that real growth was probably overstated.

In the last few months, the exact opposite has been happening. WPI inflation is soaring. It reached 14 per cent in November, while CPI inflation has “only” been 5 per cent. The rapid increase in the WPI relative to the CPI is imparting an upward bias to the deflator, which increased at the remarkable rate of 8 per cent in the second quarter of 2021-22. If this deflator is being overestimated, then real GDP growth rate could be underestimated right now. Some have argued that the deflators were improved in the new series by shifting to the CPI, but the fact remains that in many cases

the WPI is still used for deflation.

A second reason why growth might be underestimated is that the NSO has not updated the sectoral weights. When it calculates GDP, it takes a sample of activity in each sector, then aggregates the figures by using sectoral weights. To make sure that the weights are reasonably accurate, the NSO normally updates them once a decade. It has now been more than 10 years since the weights were changed, and there are no signs of a base year revision. As a result, the sectoral weights are still based on the structure of the economy in 2010-11, when in particular the information technology sector was much smaller. In other words, the fast-growing IT sector is being underweighted, which implies that GDP growth is being underestimated.

But before we jump to conclusions, we need to take into account the third measurement problem – this works in the opposite direction. Measurement of the unorganised sector has always been difficult in India. Once in a while, the NSO undertakes a survey to measure the size of the sector. In the meantime, it simply assumes that the sector has been growing at the same rate as the organised sector. This practice was working well when the two sectors were moving in tandem.

However, starting in 2016 the unorganised sector has been disproportionately impacted by a series of shocks. First came demonetisation which was a severe blow to

cash-dependent firms in this sector. Next came the implementation of GST, which necessitated a particularly difficult and costly adjustment for unorganised sector enterprises. Then, in 2018, the NBFC sector reported serious problems, which in turn impacted unorganised sector firms since they were heavily dependent on NBFCs for funds. From 2020 onwards, the pandemic has impacted the unorganised sector more than the organised sector enterprises.

Despite these shocks, the NSO does not seem to have made any adjustments to its methodology for estimating the growth of the unorganised sector. They continue to assume that unorganised sector enterprises have been growing as fast as those in the organised sector. In that case, there would be an upward bias to the reported GDP growth.

So, what is the bottom line? Can we say whether the latest GDP numbers overstate or underestimate growth? The answer is no, because the measurement problems go in different directions. Without more information from the NSO on their methodology we cannot say whether the positive factors outweigh the negative one, or vice versa. What is clear, however, is there are serious problems with India’s GDP data. Any analysis of recovery or growth forecast based on this data must be taken with a handful of salt.

The writer is Associate Professor of Economics, IGIDR

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Looking back on 2021, China has further strengthened its national cohesion with its new development achievements, while providing great certainty to this unstable and uncertain world.”

— GLOBAL TIMES

## In bad faith

With their foreign funding cut off, Missionaries of Charity will have to abandon the poor. Will the Hindutva brigade take up their work?



JULIO RIBEIRO

NOW THAT THE Ministry of Home Affairs has finally decided to cut off foreign funding to Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity, this international order of nuns will have to stop its care of the poorest of the poor. What was surprising is that it took the government more time than expected to concoct a plausible story to justify its action. A couple of the accused in the Bhima Koregaon case say it took a couple of years to fix their computers in order to rope them in. It should have been much, much easier to foist false cases on unsuspecting Catholic nuns whose only mission in life is to spread love and compassion and whose knowledge of worldly affairs is confined to their work for the poorest of the poor.

A centre run by them in Gujarat for destitute girls was visited by the government’s minions. They found the girls “being indoctrinated in Christian beliefs and forced to attend Christian prayer services”. These are charges that could have been made much earlier if they were based on truth. But since they are obviously not true, it was only around Christmas Day of 2021 that the revelations were announced.

A concerted attack on Christian schools and places of worship in the states ruled by the BJP has been mounted in the past two or three months. Is it to intimidate them to vote for the ruling dispensation? I doubt it. Christians can make some small difference in a small state like Goa but surely not in Uttar Pradesh or even in Punjab or Uttarakhand.

So what is it that is getting the Sangh Parivar all agog with excitement all of a sudden? Honestly, I cannot figure it out. If it is “conversions”, that is an old horse that has been flogged almost to death. The cognoscenti knows well that there are no “forced” conversions. That is out of the question in today’s day and age, especially under today’s political dispensation. Even when “Soft Hindutva” ruled, it would not have been tolerated.

Mass conversions would attract attention and consternation. That, too, is not happening. The last mass conversions that were reported were of Scheduled Caste Hindus to Buddhism. That was some decades ago in Maharashtra, home to their icon, Babasabha Ambedkar.

The only plausible explanation I can offer is the Sangh Parivar’s drumming up of pure prejudices against a small community that has nowhere to go when threatened or bullied. The “Christian” countries are not going to accept them, as religion is not an emotive issue with them like it is in South Asia or in the Islamic nations of the Middle East or Southeast Asia. Muslims, who constituted the first and the main target of the forces of Hindutva, were advised to go to Pakistan. Which country will be assigned

to the poor Christians?

If BJP MP Tejasvi Surya had his way, the Christians would not be required to leave. A better solution hath he in a statement he later withdrew. They would have to revert to the religion of their forefathers by undergoing the purifying ceremonies of “ghat wapsi”. Hinduism has never existed without the allotted castes. What caste would be assigned to the prodigals? I suppose Surya would decide that delicate issue also.

But let us revert to the government’s refusal to renew the FCRA licence of the revered Mother’s Missionaries of Charity. Without foreign aid, the nuns will have to abandon the poorest of the poor to an uncertain fate. Unless, of course, the Hindutva brigade’s softer side steps in and takes up the work from the Sisters. The love and compassion that guides those good women may go missing but at the very least the destitute will escape death by starvation. And that would be the least we should expect from these soldiers of the “New India”. At present, the only job entrusted to them is the lynching of Muslim “beef traders” and violence against Christian “proselytisers”. Let them get accustomed to busying themselves with positive work, simultaneously.

The other aspect of this sad affair that should bother us is the habit the Modi-Shah government has formed of twisting facts to suit its ideological agenda. In the case of Mother Teresa’s order of nuns, I am witness to the fact that the Mother made it an article of faith to ensure that parents who were accepted as guardians or foster parents were of the same religious denomination as the child who was put up for adoption. In Romania, where I witnessed the process, the Orthodox Christians, who were the dominant faction in the land, would not have countenanced orphans being assigned to Catholic foster parents of more affluent countries.

I have mentioned in earlier writings that Mother Teresa inaugurated the reopening of a mosque in Albania at the request of a group of Muslim boys who approached her. She justified her consent to do that by telling me that it gladdened her heart to see a return to god in that atheist country in which her parents were born and lie buried. The country was 70 per cent Muslim before the Communist dictator Enver Hoxha declared it to be officially atheist and closed all mosques and churches for public worship.

In any case, the main objects of Mother’s attention, and hence her followers as well, were abandoned babies and the old and feeble men and women left by an indifferent society to fend for themselves on the street in their dying hours. Even if Mother wanted to convert them where was the scope? Allegations of Christian prayers recited at the time of their death, even if true, do not make these poor souls into Christians. That process is time-consuming since the converts have to assimilate Christian beliefs and values and this takes at least a year or so to accomplish.

The writer, a retired IPS officer, was Mumbai police commissioner, and a former Indian ambassador to Romania

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FALLING BEHIND

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘A room full of learners’ (IE, January 3). The high hopes for 2022 were soon crushed with the announcement of fresh curbs, including the closing of schools in some states. It has become a task for teachers, parents and students to shift from notepads to smartpads. The situation is worse in rural areas where the “right to education” is nothing without the “right of access to education”. The disparity in opportunities to learn is evident. Though the annual report for 2019-20 by NCERT talks extensively of its online courses, e-repositories, e-portals etc., the process of making such e-pathshala accessible to rural India is unknown. The only hope now is for the government and social organisations to come together to ramp up both education planning and budgets.

Aerika Singh, Chandigarh

### CHINA STRATEGY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘The China hand’ (IE, January 3). China’s rise under President Xi Jinping and its consequences on global politics is an emerging area of study for strategic analysts. For India, these consequences are particularly significant. Though India is working with Quad members on military modernisation and expects the Quad’s support in any exigency, India needs to look at the China issue

from a geographical point of view. No country in the Quad – except India – shares a land boundary with China. So, it may well need to fight its own battles in the region. On the economic front, the trade deficit with China is a cause for concern. Along with renewed efforts to signed more FTAs, reducing the trade deficit in general and with China, in particular, is what Delhi should work on. Finally, internal cohesion is a must. Internal tensions have some impact on external relations and New Delhi can’t ignore this, especially when polarisation appears to be rearing its ugly head.

Dewang Ganesh, Thosar

### A SAFE POLL

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Free, fair and safe’ (IE, January 3). The idea of postponing assembly elections due in the first half of this year would be detrimental to not just the constitutional requirement of our polity but the overall crisis management. The Election Commission must devise smart techniques to reduce the footfall in an individual booth, by making the election in each booth more than a day-long affair, and spreading out voting in multiple phases, to make sure that the election machinery isn’t overstretched. Massive electoral rallies should be outrightly banned, and small meetings in neighbourhoods should be encouraged.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

## Classifieds

## PERSONAL

I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM VARUN KUMAR PATHAK TO VARUN KUMAR S/ AMAR NATH R/O: GA-1208, ASSOTECH WINDSOR COURT, SECTOR 78, NOIDA. 0040598155-1

T,Vinay Awasthi,s/o Tatu Ram,R/O VIII&Post Bhram Hoshiarpur Punjab-146103, have changed my name to Vinay Kumar,for all purposes. 0040598128-6

T,RENU JAIN, W/O,TARSH CHAND JAIN, ADD-74, RISHABH-VIHAR KARKARDOOA DELHI-110092. Changed my name to KALPANA JAIN, permanently. 0040598135-2

T,Hari Parshad/S/O Jyoti Parshad R/O, RZ-35,Gali-No.14, Prem-Nagar Uttam-Nagar Delhi-110059,have changed my name to Hari Parshad Garg. 0040598109-8

It is for general information that I Khushbu Devi (Present name) W/o Mr. Puran Chandar, R/O 669, C Block 1, Dindayal puri, Ghaziabad,U.P.-201001 declare that I want to change my name from Khushbu Devi (Present name) to Khashti Devi (New Name) and I will be known as Khashti Devi for all future purposes. 0040598069-1

I,thitherto known as SANJAY KUMAR@SANJAY KUMAR NAGI,S/o-KIMAT LAL,Residing at,901/29,Fateh-Nagar, New-Delhi-110018,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANJAY NAGI. 0040598144-2

I,VIJAY LAKSHMI SRIVASTAVA W/O SURJEET SINGH SAYAL,R/O 604,RISHI NAGAR, SHAKURBASTI,DELHI-110034.CHANGED MY NAME TO VIJAY LAXMI. 0040598128-2

I,TRIPTA SHARMA,W/O. RAJIV SETIA, ADD-D-806, SARASWATI VIHAR PITAMPURA DELHI-110034. Changed my name to TRIPTA SETIA, permanently. 0040598135-1

I,TANISHQ,S/O UDAY VIR, ADD-R2-25A STREET,NO.2, RAGHU NAGAR PANKHA ROAD,NEW DELHI 110045,Changed my name to TANISHQ CHHIBBER, permanently. 0040598128-10

I,Suresh M Mairaj S/o Kashi Nath R/o 116, Group-1, Janta Flats, Hartsal, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Suresh Kashinath Mahim Raj. 0040598082-1

I,Shivani Awasthi,D/O Tulu Ram,R/O VII&Post Bhram Hoshiarpur Punjab-146103, have changed my name to Shivani,for all purposes. 0040598128-5

I,Savita Sharma,W/o Pawan Sharma,R/o H.No.B-204,Near Janki Public-School Adarsh-Nagar Ballabgarh, Faridabad Haryana-121004,declare that Savita Sharma & Priya Sharma both are same & one person. 0040598128-4

I,SUNIL KUMARS/O TEJARAM, R/O-25A SHERA MOHALLA, GARHI, SRINIWASPUR, SOUTH/ DELHI, DELHI-110065,Changed my name to SUNIL BASOYA. 0040598144-1

I,Rohitash S/O Ramam R/R,O, C-112/108, Plot.No-1/56, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005,have changed my name to Rohitash Kumar. 0040598109-7

I,Retesh Sachdeva,S/o Devender Kumach Sachdev, R/o 946, Sector-17, Faridabad, have changed my name to Retesh Kumar Sachdeva. 0040598135-9

I,Ravinder S/o-Surinder Singh, R/O-326/2, Near Dev Cinema, Mehrauli-Road, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001,have changed my name to Ravinder Kumar. 0040598109-4

I,Ankita Goel W/o,Sahil Goel R/H.No.8, Road-No.61, West-Punjabi Bagh, N.Delhi-110026,inform that Ankita Bansal and Ankita Goel both are one and same-person. 0040598117-1

I,Rajesh Ray,S/o-Ramnath Ray,R/o-40, Sadipur,Chak Daria,Sultanpur, Saran, Bihar-841101,declare that Rajesh Ray & Rajeshwari Roy are one, and the same person. 0040598122-3

I, Radhe Shyam Sharma,S/O Saudan,R/O,98,Vidhepr Tehsil Sasni Distt Mahamaya-Nagar Uttar-Pradesh-204216, have changed my name to Radhe Shyam. 0040598109-9

I,RAFIK AHMED S/O SFAFI R/O J-12-A, JJ CAMP,TIGRI, SOUTH DELHI,DELHI-62, have changed my name to RAFIQ AHMAD. 0040598109-3

I,Paviter Singh S/o Mohinder Singh R/o-Kh.No.620,Hari, Enclave,near Rishikul School, Alipur Delhi-1110036,changed my name to Paviter Singh 0040598122-2

I,Parveen son of Laxman Singh, R/O F-10 Harkesh-Nagar Okhla-phase-2,New Delhi-110020, have changed my name to Praveen Bhadana, permanently. 0040598128-3

I,Zuber S/o Suliman, R/o- VPO. Noorpur, Mewat (Haryana)-122105,have changed my name to Mohd. Juber. 0040598109-5

I,Babaloo Kumar, S/o Phoolbadan, R/o Village Muzar Burzug, Amila, Mai, Utta Prades-275301, have changed my name to Anant Kumar. 0070767468-1

I,Pallavi Sahni W/o Yatin Bahri, R/o BG-6/244-C,Paschim-Vihar, Delhi-110063,have changed my minor daughter's name from Shivanya to Shivanya Bahri,for all purposes. 0040598137-9

I,Nitin Agarwal S/o,Suresh Chander Aggarwal R/o-162, Vivekanand Puri,Azad-Marg, Sarai-Rohilla, Delhi-110007, inform that Nitin Aggarwal and Nitin Agarwal both are one and same-person. 0040598117-2

I,Manu Gupta,D/o Sh.Mahendra Kumar Gupta R/o.H.No.A-70, Dass Garden,S.No.26,Baprola-Vihar, Delhi-110045,have changed My Name to Suhani Gupta,For All Future Purposes. 0040598109-1

I,Krishna Kaushik,S/o Syoni Ram Kaushik,R/o E-24/5, G.F.BPTK Park Elite-Floor, Sector-85, Faridabad,have changed my name to Krishan Kumar Kaushik. 0040598135-8

I,Kahkashan W/o Mohammed Bilal,R/o KH-No.485 Masjid Chakkarpalli,Muthura Road, Hazrat Nizamuddin-East,New Delhi-110013,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Neten Gupta. 0070767465-1

I,Jasbir Singh S/o Gutab Singh R/o A-24, Khyala Road, Shyam Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Jasbir Singh 0040598094-1

I,Mukeem Khan,S/o-Nazir Khan, R/o-1L1/C, gali no-5, shivaji marg, kartar nagar Delhi-110053,have changed my name to Mukim Khan 0040598122-6

I,Mriganka Nath brother of No.4384263Y Sep Aditya Nath presently residing at village Komoraguri, PO-Komoraguri, District Morigaon(Assam), have changed my name & DOB from Mriganka Nath to Mriganka Nath & April 2002 to 22 April 2002 vide Affidavit dated 18/12/2021 before DC Court Morigaon. 00598097-1

I,Jeetu S/o Shri.Chand R/o.Ward. No.1, Nuh Road,Hodal, Palwal, have changed my name to Jeetu Jangid. 0040598135-10

I,Jaspreet Kaur Kohli,W/o Ghunjeet Singh Anand,R/o- 89,G.T.Karnal Road-State Bank-Colony,Dr.Mukherjee-Nagar, Delhi-110009,Have Changed My Name,from Jaspreet Kaur Kohli to Jaspreet Kaur Anand,After Marriage. 0040598128-8

I,Jagdev Singh,S/o,TARSAM SIDHU,ADD-354,POLICE-COLONY AIHATA KIDARA SADAR BAZAR NORTH DELHI-110066, changed my name to JAGDEV SIDHU, permanently. 0040598135-3

I,Geetanjali Lakhani W/o Deepak Lakhani R/o-B-50 first-floor,New Gupta-Colony G.T.B-Nagar,Delhi-110009,inform that Vanshika Lakhani and Geetanjali Lakhani Both name Are the same person 0040598135-4

I,Teerath Singh S/o,Payra Singh R/o,1007-B,Rani-Bagh Shakur Basti Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Tirath Singh. 0040598098-1

I,Gaganpreet Kaur,W/o Jaspreet Singh Minhas,R/o H.No.2, Road, No.71,West Punjab-Bagh, Delhi-110026,Have Changed my name to Gaganpreet Kaur Minhas,for all,future purposes. 0040598128-1

I,Deepak W/o-Sucha Singh,R/o D5A, South Anarkali, Gali.no.1, Krishn-Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Deepika,for all,future purposes. 0040598117-4

I,Birendra Tiwari S/o Harihar Tiwari R/o-D-158,Tripathi, Enclave Prem Nagar-2, Kirari, Suleman Nagar Delhi-110086, changed my name to Virender Kumar Tiwari. 0040598122-1

I,Anupama W/o Manish Gupta,R/o Flat,No.11-C, Block- C-2D,JanakPuri, Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Anupama Gupta,for all purposes. 0040598125-6

I,Ankita Goel W/o,Sahil Goel R/H.No.8, Road-No.61, West-Punjabi Bagh, N.Delhi-110026,inform that Ankita Bansal and Ankita Goel both are one and same-person. 0040598117-1

I,Vishal Kumar S/o Naurang Lal R/o 136 Second Floor Pocket-22 Sector-24 Rohini Delhi have changed my name as Vishal Agarwal permanently. 0040598089-1

I,Maya Varma W/o Nand Kishore R/o 3/A 134 Racha Vaishali Ghaziabad have changed my name from Mayawati Varma to Maya Varma 0050189804-1

I,Kritika D/O, Santosh Kumar Verma R/o 1203, Memory, 7 Lamps, Vatika India Next, Sector 82, Gurgaon, Haryana 120024 have changed my name to Kritika Verma for all purposes. 0040598095-1

I,Rajesh Ray,S/o-Ramnath Ray,R/o-40, Sadipur,Chak Daria,Sultanpur, Saran, Bihar-841101,declare that Rajesh Ray & Rajeshwari Roy are one, and the same person. 0040598122-3

I, Radhe Shyam Sharma,S/O Saudan,R/O,98,Vidhepr Tehsil Sasni Distt Mahamaya-Nagar Uttar-Pradesh-204216, have changed my name to Radhe Shyam. 0040598109-9

I,RAFIK AHMED S/O SFAFI R/O J-12-A, JJ CAMP,TIGRI, SOUTH DELHI,DELHI-62, have changed my name to RAFIQ AHMAD. 0040598109-3

I,Paviter Singh S/o Mohinder Singh R/o-Kh.No.620,Hari, Enclave,near Rishikul School, Alipur Delhi-1110036,changed my name to Paviter Singh 0040598122-2

I,Parveen son of Laxman Singh, R/O F-10 Harkesh-Nagar Okhla-phase-2,New Delhi-110020, have changed my name to Praveen Bhadana, permanently. 0040598128-3

I,Zuber S/o Suliman, R/o- VPO. Noorpur, Mewat (Haryana)-122105,have changed my name to Mohd. Juber. 0040598109-5

I,Babaloo Kumar, S/o Phoolbadan, R/o Village Muzar Burzug, Amila, Mai, Utta Prades-275301, have changed my name to Anant Kumar. 0070767468-1

I,Rounak Singh S/o Harvinder Singh Sabharwal R/o-H.No. 308/24, Onkar Nagar-B, Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Rounak Singh Sabharwal permanently. 0040598117-8

I,Ravinder Kour Sindhu W/o Gurmeet Singh R/o A-108, Second-Floor, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Ravinder Kaur. 0040598117-5

I,Nitin, S/o Chatar Singh, R/o E-30, Sector-36, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301, have changed my name to NITIN SINGH for all future purposes. 70767475-1

I,Nitin Gupta,D/o Sh.Mahendra Kumar Gupta R/o.H.No.A-70, Dass Garden,S.No.26,Baprola-Vihar, Delhi-110045,have changed My Name to Suhani Gupta,For All Future Purposes. 0040598109-1

I,Krishan Kaushik,S/o Syoni Ram Kaushik,R/o E-24/5, G.F.BPTK Park Elite-Floor, Sector-85, Faridabad,have changed my name to Krishan Kumar Kaushik. 0040598135-8

I,Kahkashan W/o Mohammed Bilal,R/o KH-No.485 Masjid Chakkarpalli,Muthura Road, Hazrat Nizamuddin-East,New Delhi-110013,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Neten Gupta. 0070767465-1

I,Mukeem Khan,S/o-Nazir Khan, R/o-1L1/C, gali no-5, shivaji marg, kartar nagar Delhi-110053,have changed my name to Mukim Khan 0040598122-6

I,Mriganka Nath brother of No.4384263Y Sep Aditya Nath presently residing at village Komoraguri, PO-Komoraguri, District Morigaon(Assam), have changed my name & DOB from Mriganka Nath to Mriganka Nath & April 2002 to 22 April 2002 vide Affidavit dated 18/12/2021 before DC Court Morigaon. 00598097-1

I,Jeetu S/o Shri.Chand R/o.Ward. No.1, Nuh Road,Hodal, Palwal, have changed my name to Jeetu Jangid. 0040598135-10

I,Jaspreet Kaur Kohli,W/o Ghunjeet Singh Anand,R/o- 89,G.T.Karnal Road-State Bank-Colony G.T.B-Nagar, Delhi-110009,Have Changed My Name,from Jaspreet Kaur Kohli to Jaspreet Kaur Anand,After Marriage. 0040598128-8

I,Jagdev Singh,S/o,TARSAM SIDHU,ADD-354,POLICE-COLONY AIHATA KIDARA SADAR BAZAR NORTH DELHI-110066, changed my name to JAGDEV SIDHU, permanently. 0040598135-3

I,Geetanjali Lakhani W/o Deepak Lakhani R/o-B-50 first-floor,New Gupta-Colony G.T.B-Nagar,Delhi-110009,inform that Vanshika Lakhani and Geetanjali Lakhani Both name Are the same person 0040598135-4

I,Harvinder Singh S/o/Gurdeep Singh R/o H.No.308/24, Onkar Nagar-B, Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Harvinder Singh Sabharwal permanently. 0040598117-7

I,Firoj Khan S/o/Daulat Ali R/o R-278 Raghbir Nagar, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name from Firoz Khan to Firoj Khan for all legal purposes in future. 0070767462-1

I,Davinder Singh S/o/Kundan Singh R/o WZ-496 Rishi Nagar Rani Bagh Delhi have changed my name as Devender Singh permanently. 0040598091-1

I,Ashwin Jalan S/o,Ajay Jalan R/o-H.No.122, 2nd-Floor, Pkt-9, Rohini, Sector-21,Begumpur, Delhi-110086,have changed my name to Ashwin Jalan aged-15-years. 0040598117-4

I,Anuj Sharma, S/o Prem Chand, R/o I-64, Krishan Vihar, Sultanpuri, Block, Delhi-110086, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anuj. 0070767462-1

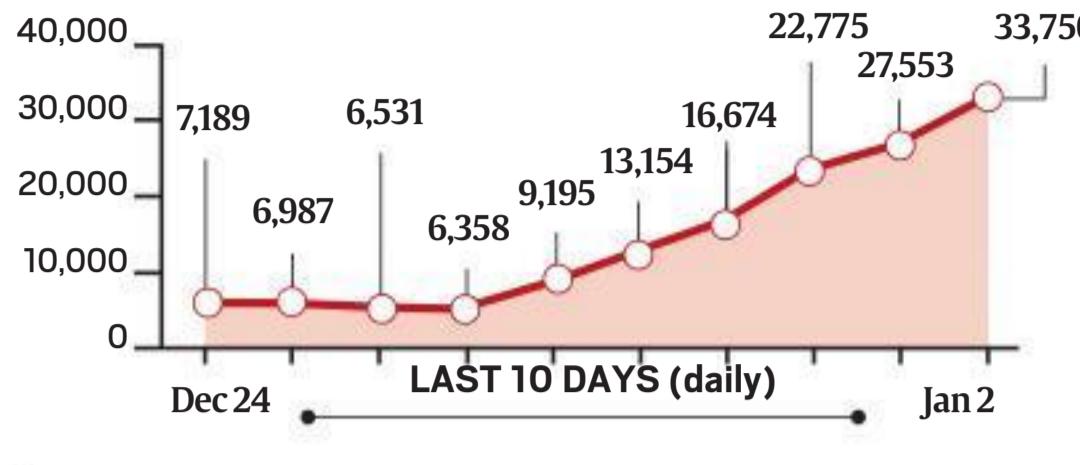
I,Ankusha D/o Late Jagdish Prasad W/o Sh. Arvind Kumar Dixit R/o 251, UGF, Nagin Lake Apartments, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Vandana Dixit for all purposes. 0040598124-4

I,Simranjeet kaur W/o Baljeet Singh R/o WZ-85, STREET NO.10, OLD SAHIB PURA, MBS NAGAR, TILAK NAGAR, DELHI-110018 inform that simranjeet kaur and SIMARANJEET KAUR is same and one person 0040598089-1

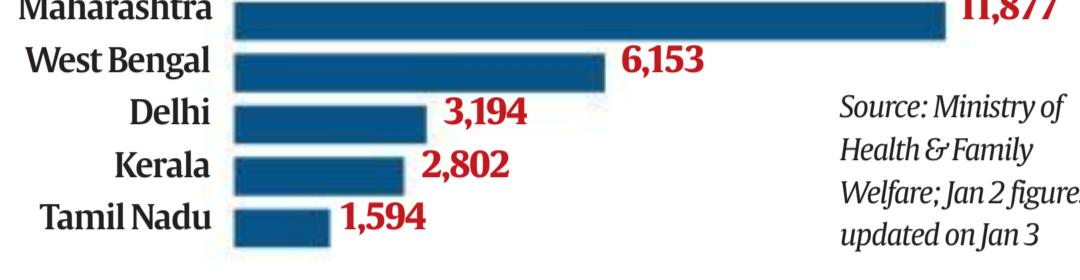
I,Umayamma N/D Narayanapillai born on 11/11/1961 residing at C 102, bharat city phase 1, indraprastha yojna, nistauli, ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh, have changed my name to Uma Amma Narayanapillai vide affidavit dated 20/08/21 at Ghaziabad 0050189806-1

I,Sim

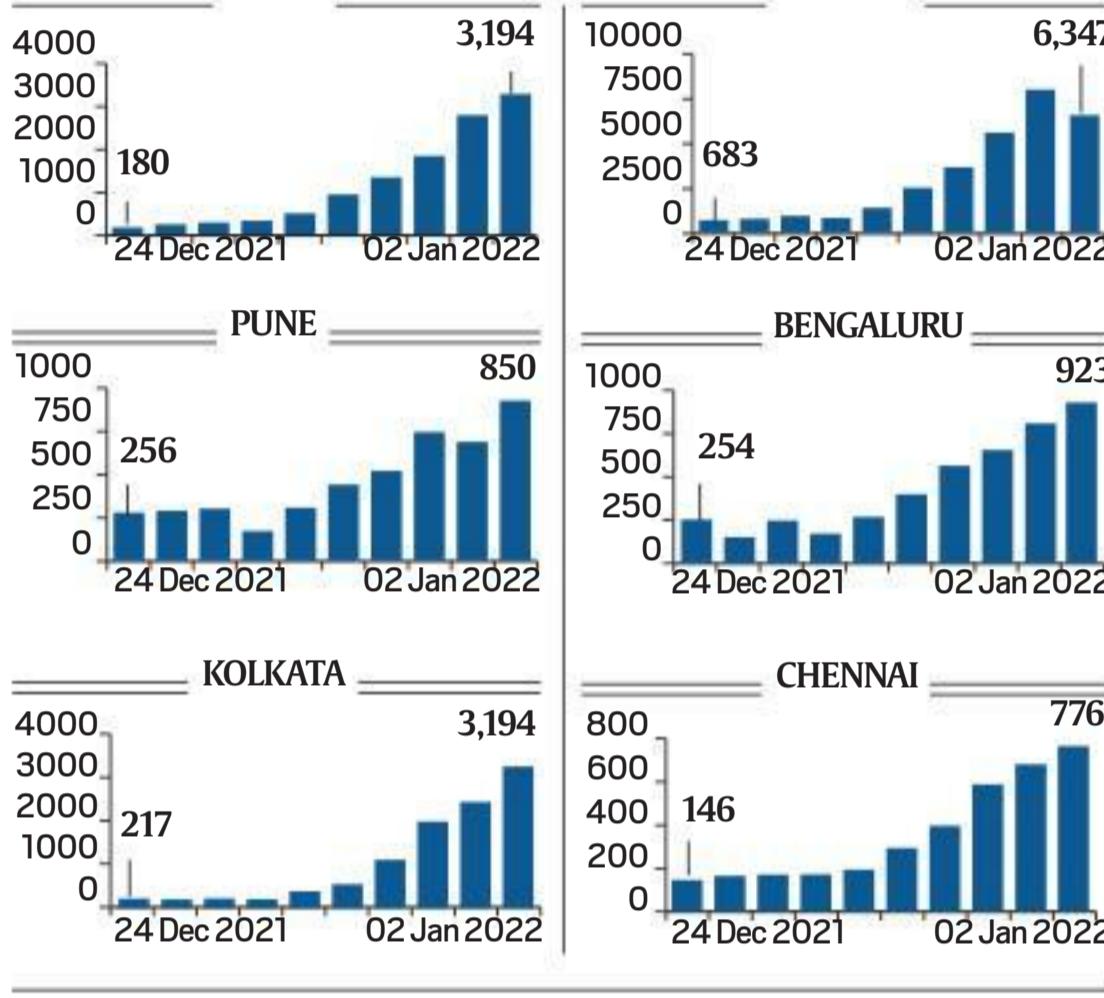
## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

INDIA NEW CASES (last 24 hours) **33,750**ACTIVE CASES, JANUARY 2: **145,582** (Jan 1: 1,22,801)

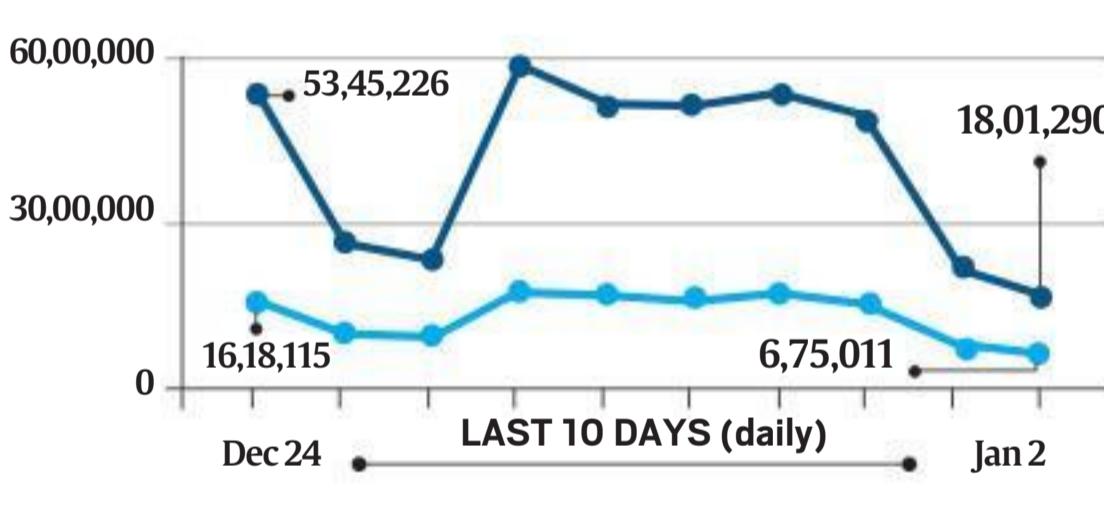
## NEW CASES, TOP 5 STATES



## SURGE IN THE CITIES: LAST 10 DAYS

INDIA TOTAL DOSES **145,68,89,306**

(1st DOSE: 84,62,78,939; 2nd: 61,06,10,367)



## DOSES ON JAN 2, TOP 5 STATES

DOSES ON JANUARY 2: **24,76,301**JAN 1: **27,88,855** (1st DOSE: 7,46,195; 2nd: 20,42,660)

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## What is GitHub, at the centre of an online sexual harassment probe?

SHRUTI DHAPOLA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

The open-source software repository service GitHub is in the news after it was used to create and share an offensively named app that sexually harassed Muslim women in India. The app used pictures of the women stolen from their social media handles and invited "users" to bid for them.

IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has announced that GitHub has blocked the user, and the Indian Computer Emergency Response System (Certi-In), the nodal agency for monitoring cyber security incidents, has been asked to form a "high-level committee" to investigate. Delhi and Mumbai Police have registered FIRs on complaints by some of the women who were targeted.

In June 2021, another app with a similar-sounding name, which too was hosted

on GitHub, had been used to harass Muslim women in the same way. Police in Delhi and Noida had registered FIRs, but the probe has not progressed. Delhi Police have said GitHub is not cooperating.

## What is GitHub?

Github is the world's largest open-source developer community platform where users upload their projects and code for others to view, edit, and tweak. The idea of GitHub is this: any developer can upload whatever software code or app code or software idea they have on the platform, and have others collaborate with them to help improve it, find errors, and fix problems.

Any public project can be viewed by others on the platform. Most of the features of the platform are free for users. Organisations can use paid accounts to upload their software and projects for collaboration.

The platform uses the software Git, which

was created in 2005 by Linus Torvalds, the developer of the open-source operating system Linux, to track changes in a set of files and for coordination in software development.

## What has it said on the complaints?

Github has taken down the app, but has not revealed who was responsible for it.

"GitHub has longstanding policies against content and conduct involving harassment, discrimination, and inciting violence. We suspended a user account following the investigation of reports of such activity, all of which violate our policies," it said in a statement.

## What is not allowed on GitHub?

Github's stated policies require content to be respectful and civil at all times. Threats of violence "towards others or using the site to organise, promote, or incite acts of real-world violence or terrorism" are not allowed.

Topics such as "age, body size, disability, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, level of experience, nationality, personal appearance, race, religion, or sexual identity and orientation" are not forbidden. But speech that attacks a person or group of persons on the basis of their identity or on any of these topics is not allowed.

The platform claims it does not "tolerate bullying or harassment", and "any habitual badgering or intimidation targeted at a specific person or group of people". In the current case, however, Muslim women in India have been targeted twice in the space of six months, with the use of apps that are very similar. Some of the women have said they have been targeted by both apps.

Github also says it does not allow doxxing – revealing personal information with malicious intent – and the invasion of privacy. It claims sexually obscene and pornographic content is not allowed on the

platform, even though this does not mean "all nudity or all code and content related to sexuality is prohibited".

Posting gratuitously violent content, misinformation or fake news, active malware or exploits on the platform are prohibited.

## When can an account be suspended or removed?

If a user is reported as violating the rules of the platform, GitHub can remove or block their content, and suspend or terminate the account. But it is not clear how long a suspension can last.

The policy page states, "We'll review each abuse report on a case-by-case basis. In each case, we will have a diverse team investigate the content and surrounding facts and respond as appropriate, using these guidelines to guide our decision."

Given the idea of GitHub, anyone can open an account and upload a code after

providing just an email id. So even if an account is blocked or terminated, a new one can be created with another email id – and the offensive software code or apps can be uploaded again with perhaps a slightly different name. This is what seems to have happened in the two instances of harassment of Muslim women in India.

A senior officer of Delhi Police's cyber cell said GitHub is yet to supply investigators with details of "the users or accused persons" in the earlier case. "We wrote to them and sent them a legal notice. GitHub officials asked us to follow Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty guidelines... We again sent a request and they forwarded it to their legal cell. They said some documents were missing and we had to apply again. We have approached the Home Ministry to push for an investigation from their (the company's) side," the officer said.

(WITH JIGNASA SINHA)

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

## SIMPLY PUT QUESTION &amp; ANSWER

## The shelf life of vaccines

How long does a vaccine stay potent? This depends on stability tests, and can be extended based on data, as has happened with Covishield and Covaxin. What data are analysed, and how is shelf life determined?

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS &  
KAUNAIN SHERIFFM  
PUNE, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

MORE THAN 40 lakh teenagers in the 15-18 age group received their first dose of Covid-19 vaccines on Monday as India began its drive to vaccinate the younger population groups. Some concerns were raised about 'expired' Covaxin being administered to this younger group, leading to the Health Ministry issuing a clarification.

The Ministry described these claims as "false and misleading" and said these were based on "incomplete information". It pointed out that the shelf life of Covaxin, the only vaccine being given to the people below 18 years of age, had been extended in November after proper regulatory scrutiny, and as such these vaccine doses were as good as any.

## What led to the concerns?

The anxiety arose after several people pointed out that vaccine batches that were supposed to expire in November were being administered to the younger people on Monday. The government later clarified that the shelf life of these vaccines had been extended from nine months to 12 months in November itself, and therefore there was nothing wrong with these batches.

The Health Ministry said the shelf life of vaccines is extended by the national regulator, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, or CDSCO, based on a comprehensive analysis and examination of stability study data furnished by the vaccine manufacturers. It also pointed out that CDSCO has earlier approved the extension of shelf life of Covishield as well, and nothing special had been done to Covaxin.

## Why was the date of expiry of Covaxin extended?

In response to an application from Bharat Biotech, the manufacturer of Covaxin, the CDSCO on October 25, 2021 approved the extension of the shelf life of this indigenously developed vaccine from 9 to 12 months from the date of manufacture. This approval was based on the availability of additional "stability data" which was submitted by the firm to CDSCO.

With the shelf-life extension, hospitals could utilise the stock that was nearing expiry and avoid vaccine wastage. An estimated



Teenagers queue up for their doses in New Delhi on Monday, as India began vaccination for the 15-18 age group. Amit Mehra

20 crore vaccine doses are required to fully vaccinate the nearly 10 crore people in the 15-18 age group.

In a recent statement, Bharat Biotech had said that they had documented excellent safety and immunogenicity data readouts in children. More than 15 crore Covaxin doses have been administered in the country to adults since vaccination commenced last year.

## What are 'stability' and 'shelf life' of a vaccine?

Vaccines are complex mixtures of proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, inactivated virus, or adjuvants – which are substances that are intended to enhance immune response and subsequent clinical efficacy of the vaccine. These together contribute to overall vaccine efficacy and safety.

Like other medicinal products, vaccines come with a date of expiry and shelf life determined by the manufacturer and approved by regulatory authorities. The constituents of a vaccine can go bad over time because of slow chemical reactions and lose efficacy.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), stability is the ability of a vaccine to retain its chemical, physical, microbiological and biological properties within specified limits throughout its shelf life.

A series of tests are designed to obtain information on the stability of a vaccine in order to define its shelf life and utilisation period under specified packaging and storage conditions. And depending on the nature of

the antigen and other components, and the manufacturing process, stability parameters are selected on a case-by-case basis, the WHO guidelines state.

There are three specific objectives of stability studies, which differ throughout a vaccine's lifetime. First, it is conducted to determine shelf life and storage conditions.

Second, the stability studies, monitor vaccine stability in the post-licensure period,

that is, when the vaccine is marketed commercially. Third, according to the WHO guidelines, stability studies are conducted to support manufacturing changes by demonstrating comparability of product manufactured by different processes.

## How is shelf life calculated?

Shelf life is calculated by storing the product at different temperatures for various lengths of time and then testing its effectiveness, leading virologist Dr Shahid Jameel said. By storing the particular product at various temperatures, and then periodically checking if there is any degradation of the product, an expiry date is arrived at.

The duration over which the product is stable and effective in the specified conditions is considered its shelf life. There are various biochemical ways in which the degradation can be estimated, said Dr Vineeta Bal, leading immunologist.

According to the WHO guidelines, the shelf life of a vaccine is the period of time during which the vaccine, if stored correctly, is expected to comply with the specification, as determined by stability studies on a number

of batches of the product. The shelf life is used to establish the expiry date of each batch.

For vaccines, it is done by injecting into small animals (typically mice) to assess if the ability to make antibodies goes down with storage time and temperature, Dr Jameel said. An expiry date means that roughly beyond that, the vaccine won't raise immunity as well as earlier. It may still work but sub-optimally, he said.

"The shelf life of a vaccine is a reflection of how long the vaccine retains its potency and stability at a given storage temperature and therefore its effectiveness. The shelf life is used to establish the expiry date of each batch of the vaccine product, the WHO regional office for Africa had said in a statement in May last year.

The WHO had said that any extension in the shelf life will only apply to vaccines not yet labelled and distributed. Hence the expired or near-to-expire doses in distribution for use will not be affected by any future decision of shelf life extension.

## Is this extension of date a special favour given to Covaxin?

No. As mentioned, the CDSCO had in February last year extended the shelf life of Covishield from nine months to 12 months, after a similar process. The manufacturer of the vaccine has to submit data to show that its vaccine retains its stability for longer periods. If the regulator is satisfied with the data, it can extend the expiry period.

## New chapter in judge vs Army in Pak



Justice Qazi Faez Isa, in line for the Pakistan CJ's position, has had several run-ins with government.

"The constitution emphatically prohibits members of the armed forces from engaging in any kind of political activity, which includes supporting a political party, faction, or individual," the ruling said. "The government of Pakistan through the Defence Ministry and respective chiefs of the army, the navy, and the air force are directed to initiate action against the personnel under their command who are found to have violated their oath."

## Establishment reaction

The Pakistan defence ministry filed a review petition, and Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf – whose election victory in 2018 was engineered in no small measure by the Army and ISI – asked the Supreme Court to overturn Justice Isa's verdict.

Also, a presidential reference was filed in Pakistan's Supreme Judicial Council, an oversight body of the Supreme Court, making allegations of undeclared foreign assets against five judges including Justice Isa. Had the allegation been upheld, it would have potentially led to his removal.

However, in June 2019, the Supreme Court, acting on a petition filed by Isa and by several bar associations in Pakistan, threw out

the reference, calling it "invalid", and quashed all proceedings against the judge in the Supreme Judicial Council.

## Background

Justice Isa, whose father Qazi Muhammad Essa played a prominent role in the formation of Pakistan as an associate of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, belongs to Balochistan.

He is a cousin of Ashraf Jahangir Qazi, who served as Pakistan's high commissioner to India in the later 1990s.

In 2016, Justice Isa headed a one-member judicial commission to inquire into the massacre of 90 people – most of them lawyers – in a suicide bombing at Quetta General Hospital in August that year. The lawyers had gathered at the hospital after the body of the president of the Quetta Bar Association, who had been killed in an attack that morning, was brought there. Justice Isa's report was an all-round indictment of the security and political establishment, and their conduct in Balochistan.

Justice Isa will have a 13-month term as chief justice, if he ascends to the position in September 2023.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, SOPORE**  
email : xphesopre@gmail.com

**TENDER DOCUMENT  
(Technical Bid-Volume-I)  
TOP SHEET**  
FreshE-NIT\_65 of 12/2021, dt.30 -12-2021

**E- TENDER FOR**  
Name of Work

S. No. 01 Design, Soil testing ,construction of 0.15 MGDFiltration Plant; 2 No. OHT's having capacity 30000 gallons & 45000 gallon with staging height of 20 Mtr and Sump Cum Pump House at Saidpora and Dangerpora and allied works/ electro mechanical components for W.S. Scheme Saidpora Dangerpora (under NRDWP) JMM

2. Design; Soil Testing; Construction of 0.30 MGDFRSFP/Clear water Stump; Balance work for intake channel, Sump-Cum Pump House & Design/Construction of 0.58 Lacs gallons OHT and other allied works and electro mechanical components for WSS Sejal (Under NRDWP) JMM.

The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the e-procurement Portal "http://jkenders.gov.in" as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Description	DD	DATE MM	YYYY	Time
1	Publishing date of NIT	30	12	2021	6:00PM
2	Download start date	30	12	2021	6:00PM
3	Bid submission start date	30	12	2021	6:00PM
4	Bid submission end date	17	01	2022	04:00PM
5	Bid opening date (Technical Cover)	18	01	2022	11:00AM

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir.  
SD/-  
DIPK-16077

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल  
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा  
(प्रथम आमंत्रण)

Tender reference No- DWSD/RPWS/GIRIDIH-1/15/2021-22 Date- 31-12-2021

क्र. No.	विवरणी	प्राकालित राशि (लाख में)	अधिकारी राशि (लाख में)	पारिमाण विवर राशि (लाख में)
1	Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of infiltration gallery and R.C.C. Intake Well cum Pump House, R.C.C. Gangway, 1.50 MLD capacity Water Treatment Plant, Elevated Service Reservoir- 3.55 Lacs Litre capacity with 24 M staging, Staff Quarter, Compound wall, Supplying and laying Raw and Clear Water rising main and Distribution Network, House Connection, Supplying and Installation of VT and Centrifugal pump motor and Five years operation & maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for Dhengdih Rural pipe Water Supply Scheme in Block Deuri under D.W. & S. Division Giridih-01 on turnkey basis	1457.04	29.20	10,00,000
2	कार्य पूर्ण करने की जिम्मे			24 Months + 3 months (trial and run)
3	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रक्रिया की लिखि			07-01-2022 at 4:00P.M
4	श्री-श्री बैठक का स्थान एवं तिथि			11-01-2022 /12:30 PM
5	विड प्राप्ति के लिए आविष्कार तिथि / समय			O/o Engineer-in-chief, DWSD, Nepal House, Ranchi 21-01-2022 up to 4:00P.M
6	निविदा की हार्दिक जारी जमा करने की तिथि/समय/ स्थान			22-01-2022 up to 4:00P.M
7	विड खाली की तिथि / समय			24-01-2022 up to 2:00P.M
8	निविदा प्राप्ति करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता।			कार्यालय अधिकारी, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमाणक संस्था-01, गिरिधीर/झारखण्ड अधिकारी, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमाणक संस्था-01, गिरिधीर/
9	प्राप्ति संस्था का सम्पर्क संख्या			7870778158
10	इ-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन संख्या			0651-2480345
	• किसी भी प्रकार का बदलाव <a href="http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in">http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a> पर देखा जा सकता है।			
	• अन्य किसी भी प्रकार की सूचना <a href="http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in">http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a> पर देखा जा सकता है।			
	• निविदा में प्राकालित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती हैं तत्परता अधिकारी की राशि मान्य होती है।			
	कार्यालय अधिकारी			

PR 260904 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 21-22 (D) पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमाणक, संख्या-01, गिरिधीर/

Office of the Executive Engineer  
Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Latehar

**E-Procurement Short Tender Notice (SBD)**

SI.No.	Particular	Details				
	Name of Work	Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of 13835 nos. FHTC in different block of Latehar District comprising of suitable R.C.C./Frame Structure ESR, Distribution Lines, Source (as required) & 05 years Operation and Maintenance all complete job "On Turnkey Basis" under D.W. & S. Division, Latehar for the Year 2021-22 under (JMM)				
	Group No.	No. of Panchayat	No. of FHTC	Estimated Cost (In Lac)	E.M Required (In Lac)	Cost of BOQ (In Rs.)
1	BRT/SVS/CLTR/02(A)(ii)	3	2395	912.13	9.13	10000/- 09 Months
	CHN/SVS/CLTR/03(A)(i)	3	2421	935.47	9.36	10000/- 09 Months
	BRD/SVS/CLTR/07(A)(i)	3	2019	755.23	7.56	10000/- 09 Months
	BRD/SVS/CLTR/07(B)(ii)	4	2426	895.83	8.96	10000/- 09 Months
	MAH/SVS/CLTR/08(B)(i)	2	2337	902.17	9.03	10000/- 09 Months
	MAH/SVS/CLTR/08(B)(ii)	3	2337	892.34	8.93	10000/- 09 Months
2	Date of Tender Uploading in Website					05.01.2022 AT 5:00 PM
3	Date of starting submission of Bid					05.01.2022 AT 5:00 PM
4	Last date receipt of Bid					15.01.2022 up to 5:00 PM
5	Last Date Submission Cost of BOQ and EMD (Hard Copy)					17.01.2022 up to 5:00 PM in the Office of – 1. Executive Engineer D.W. & S. Division, Latehar 2. Superintending Engineer, D.W. & S. Circle, Medininagar 3. Regional Chief Engineer, D.W. & S. Department Ranchi Zone, Ranchi.
6	Date of Opening Tender					18.01.2022 at 3:00 PM
7	Name & Address of Opening Officer					Executive Engineer D.W. & S. Division, Latehar (Jharkhand)
8	Name & Address of Tender Inviting Authority					Executive Engineer D.W. & S. Division, Latehar (Jharkhand)
9	Contact No. of Procurement Office					9430725642, 6202470446, 6201242103
10	Contact No. of Procurement Cell					0651-2480345

• Estimated Cost & EMD Cost may be changed.

• Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer  
D.W. & S. Division, Latehar

PR 260928 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22)#D

Sr. No.	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Document/Tender Fee (In rs.)	Earnest Money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of Work (Days)
1	Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for each district/geo-graphically different zone for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. These works are broadly consisting of: a. Constructing water supply schemes by way of individual pumps, pump houses, service reservoir, overhead tanks, laying of distribution mains. b. Retrofitting of electro-mechanical equipment's at various Water Supply Schemes	Work/Scheme wise details given in Section-II of tender document	1000/-		180 Days	
	Group-V	Above 3 Crore upto 10 Crores & above		1.00		180 Days

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Kashmari/Jammu Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.

Note: In view of the fact, that this NIT for item rate contract has been framed for the first time in the Department, a helpdesk shall be established at the Directorate level as well as State level for encouraging and facilitating the intending bidders for participation in the instant NIT to ensure wide participation across all the Districts.

KEY/CRITICAL DATES:

I	PUBLISH DATE	31.12.2021
II	DOCUMENT DOWNLOAD/SALE START DATE	31.12.2021
III	CLARIFICATION START DATE	31.12.2021
IV	BID SUBMISSION START DATE	04.01.2022
V	CLARIFICATION END DATE	20.01.2022
VI	PRE-BID MEETING DATE	04.01.2022
VII	DOCUMENT DOWNLOAD/SALE END DATE	28.01.2022
VIII	BID SUBMISSION END DATE	28.01.2022
IX	DATE AND TIME OF BID OPENING	31.01.2022

1. Bid documents can be assessed at and downloaded from the website <http://jkenders.gov.in>  
2. The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Kashmari/Jammu, PHE Department, through virtual/online mode.  
3. The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jkenders.gov.in>.  
4. The complete bidding process will be online <http://jkenders.gov.in>.  
5. The financial bids of the bidders shall be opened in the office of the Chief Engineer, Kashmari/Jammu, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.  
6. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 6 & 7 of the table and shall be payable at State level.  
a. Bid Security to be pledged in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmari/Jammu, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/ FDR/BG of any specified amount and shall be valid for one year after last date of submission of bid. The Bid of bidders having bid security less than specified above will be rejected.  
b. The cost of download tender documents should be in form of DD/ T/R/e challan in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmari/Jammu, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.  
7. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/T/R/e challan, earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as I.I after opening of financial cover of bid.  
8. The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.  
9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jkenders.gov.in>.

10. Querries by email may be made at [kmpred@gmail.com](mailto:kmpred@gmail.com)/[phecejm@gmail.com](mailto:phecejm@gmail.com)

Chief Engineer,  
Kashmari, Jal Shakti, PHE Department.

Date: 30.12.2021 DIPK-16016

Office of the Chief Engineer  
KASHMIR PHE JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT SRINAGAR  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 121 OF 2021-22 Dated: 30.12.2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmari/Jammu invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Contractors/Civil Engineers/Joint Venture firms of all classes registered with the State for Heavy Civil, Lifting and Transport, Government for "Empanelment of Eligible Contractors at Provincial Level" for execution of works for Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Bidding, Tender fee, earnest money, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr. No. 1 Particular

Estimated Cost (Lacs)

Cost of Document/Tender Fee (In rs.)

Earnest Money (Lacs)

Bid Validity

Time of Completion of Work (Days)

1. Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for each district/geo-graphically different zone for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. These works are broadly consisting of:  
a. Constructing water supply schemes by way of individual pumps, pump houses, service reservoir, overhead tanks, laying of distribution mains.  
b. Retrofitting of electro-mechanical equipment's at various Water Supply Schemes

Group-V

15

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022

# ECONOMY

SENSEX: 59,183.22 ▲ 929.40 (1.60%) NIFTY: 17,625.70 ▲ 271.65 (1.57%) NIKKEI: 28,791.71 ▼ 115.17 HANG SENG: 23,274.75 ▼ 122.92 FTSE: 7,384.54 ▼ 18.47 DAX: 16,031.36 ▲ 146.50



GOLD

₹47,053



RUPEE

₹74.28



OIL

\$77.08



SILVER

₹61,037

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of December 31

International market data till 1900 IST

## SECTOR WATCH EMPLOYMENT

**Jobless rate touches '4-mth high': How Omicron fears may hit numbers further**

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE touched a four-month high of 7.9 per cent last month in India, data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) showed on Monday.

### What is the latest unemployment rate?

The unemployment rate rose to 7.9 per cent in December 2021, up from 7.0 per cent in November. The previous highest unemployment rate was 8.3 per cent in August. It stood at 9.1 per cent in December 2020.

Urban unemployment rate rose to 9.3 per cent in December 2021 from 8.2 per cent in the previous month, while the rural unemployment rate increased to 7.3 per cent from 6.4 per cent, the data showed.

### What are the risks to employment?

Urban unemployment rate on a weekly level had spiked to a double-digit rate to around 10.09 per cent in mid-December. Urban employment is a proxy for better pay-

### RISES TO 7.9% IN DECEMBER

■ Unemployment rate rose to 7.9% in December 2021, up from 7.0% in November, according to data from Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)

ing jobs and a decline in its numbers reflects the impact on better-paying organised sector jobs. Economic activity and consumption levels have been affected with rising cases of Omicron coronavirus variant and restrictions imposed by many states, which could adversely affect economic recovery further going ahead.

On Monday, the country reported 33,750 fresh Covid-19 cases and 123 deaths. With 10,846 recoveries, the active caseload stood at 145,582.

The December employment numbers are also significant as they show a declining trend even before the new Covid-19 wave has forced fresh restrictions on business.

## AIMS TO SORT OUT DETAILS ON SPECTRUM, BANDS HELD BY MINISTRIES

# To expedite 5G auction, DoT to meet MoD, ISRO, other officials

AASHISH ARYAN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) is likely to meet senior officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) soon to sort out the final details on 5G spectrum airwaves and the different bands currently occupied by these ministries, sources in know of the development said.

The DoT, officials said, wants this "formality" to be completed as soon as possible so that the spectrum auction for 5G airwaves can be held as early as possible during the next financial year, and no later than the end of the April-June quarter.

In October last year, the DoT had written to the MoD, asking them to vacate 100 megahertz

### 'AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE NEXT FY'



■ The DoT, officials said, wants this "formality" to be completed as soon as possible so that the spectrum auction for 5G can be held as early as possible in the next fiscal, and no later than the end of the April-June quarter

(MHz) of spectrum in the frequency band of 3,300-3,400 MHz and instead use the 3,000-3,100 MHz frequency band.

Apart from this, it had also requested ISRO and the Department of Space to not press for its claim

on the 26MHz, so that the DoT could make available at least 3000 MHz, in line with the recommendations made by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Later, in January last year, ISRO, the Department of Space and MoD had agreed to the DoT's demands to vacate spectrum in the frequencies requested by the latter. The said frequencies are worth over Rs 60,000 crore, an official said.

"Only the formalities of who will operate in which bands needs to be agreed upon. We hope to complete the auction in March at the earliest but no later than June," the official said.

While the DoT is waiting for the final recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on 5G spectrum pricing and other details, it has said that cities of Gurgaon, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jamnagar, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Pune, and Gandhinagar would be

among the first ones to get 5G services in 2022.

Trials for 5G services and its competency have been ongoing at specific locations in these cities for some time now. The three private telecom service providers, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio Infocomm, and Vodafone Idea have been working with telecom equipment makers such as Ericsson, Nokia, and others and have been conducting trials at test sites in these cities.

5G or fifth generation is the latest upgrade in the long term evolution mobile broadband networks. 5G works in 3 bands, low, mid and high frequency spectrum, all of which have their own uses as well as limitations. Though the government has said that the auction of 5G spectrum would take place either in March or April next year, some experts say that it could be delayed by at least one quarter as telecom service providers are yet to complete their trials and test various aspects.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said merchandise exports during April-December grew 48.9 per cent over the year ago period, surpassing exports in the entire FY21 fiscal. Imports, however, have grown even faster, at 69.3 per cent in the same period, pushing India's trade deficit to \$144 billion.

Goyal said he was confident that India's merchandise exports would reach \$400 billion this fiscal despite the recent rise in Covid-19 infections due to the spread of the Omicron variant of Sars-CoV-2.

"We are making full efforts and we believe that we will cross \$400 billion," he said, noting that shipping lines and container availability would likely become issues due to the spread of Covid globally.

The minister also said that India's overall trade with all countries had increased. India's trade with China had grown by 44 per cent, but that with Australia had

In 9 mths, exports top full FY21 figure; imports rise nearly 70% over a year ago

Trade deficit widens to \$144 billion

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS rose to an all-time high of \$37.3 billion last month, up 37 per cent over the year-ago period due to a sharp growth in exports of engineering goods, petroleum products and gems and jewellery, data from the Commerce Ministry showed Monday. The nation's imports too hit an all-time high of \$59.3 billion, rising 38 per cent on-year amid an increase in import of petroleum products, electronic goods and machinery. The trade deficit also rose sharply to \$22 billion in December 2021, up 40 per cent from December 2020.

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The minister also said that India's overall trade with all countries had increased. India's trade with China had grown by 44 per cent, but that with Australia had

grown by 102 per cent, with South Africa by 82 per cent, and with the UAE by 65 per cent, he added.

## RECORD NUMBERS IN DECEMBER

■ For December, both merchandise exports and imports rose to all-time highs of \$37.3 billion and \$59.3 billion, respectively, as per government data

exports in FY22.

He added that the Centre did not expect any immediate disruptions in the global supply chain due to the pandemic, noting that no major countries had imposed lockdowns and disruptions would likely be due to the spread of Covid among shipping staff.

Goyal also said there was "no extraordinary increase in trade with China," in response to concerns that India's trade deficit with China had risen sharply. "In fact, it (trade deficit with China) was \$48 billion in 2014-15, when we had just come into government and in 2021, it was brought down to 44 billion," Goyal said, adding that the trade deficit with China had "increased drastically" from \$1.5 billion in FY05 to \$36 billion in FY13 under the then UPA government.

The minister also said that India's overall trade with all countries had increased. India's trade with China had grown by 44 per cent, but that with Australia had

grown by 102 per cent, with South Africa by 82 per cent, and with the UAE by 65 per cent, he added.

# RBI allows payment up to ₹200 per transaction in offline mode

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 3

GIVING A big push to digital transactions in areas with poor internet connectivity, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed offline mode of payments using any channel or instrument like cards, wallets or mobile devices. The new framework is applicable with immediate effect, the RBI said.

According to the RBI, transactions are subject to a limit of Rs 200 per transaction and an overall limit of Rs 2,000 for all transactions until balance in the account is replenished. An offline digital payment means a transaction which does not require internet or telecom connectivity. Under this new framework, such payments can be carried out face-to-face (proximity mode) using any channel or instrument like cards, wallets and mobile devices. Such transactions would not require an Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA), the RBI said.

"Offline transactions are expected to give a push to digital transactions in areas with poor or weak internet or telecom connectivity, particularly in semi-urban and rural areas," it said.

### USING CARDS, WALLETS

■ Payment can be done using cards, wallets or mobile devices without net connectivity

"Since the transactions are offline, alerts (by way of SMS or e-mail) will be received by the customer after a time lag. Balance replenishment can only occur in an online mode," the central bank said. The RBI said offline mode of payment can be enabled only after obtaining specific consent of the customer. Customers will enjoy protection under the provisions of circulars limiting customer liability issued by Reserve Bank, as amended from time to time.

"Offline transactions are expected to give a push to digital transactions in areas with poor or weak internet or telecom connectivity, particularly in semi-urban and rural areas," it said.

However, replenishment of used limit should be allowed only in the online mode with AFA.

"The issuer shall send transaction alerts to users as soon as transaction details are received. There is no compulsion to send alert for each transaction. However, details of each transaction should be adequately conveyed. The acquirer shall incur all liabilities arising out of technical or transaction security issues at merchant's end," the RBI said.

The RBI announced the framework after getting the feedback from the pilot experiments on offline transactions conducted in different parts of the country during the period from September 2020 to June 2021. "The absence of — or erratic — internet connectivity, especially in remote areas, is a major impediment for adoption of digital payments," it said.

Availability of options to make offline payments, using cards, wallets or mobile devices could boost the adoption of digital payments, the RBI said.

# Irdai sets tenure of insurance CEOs, dirs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 3

THE INSURANCE Regulatory and Development Authority of India has aligned the tenure of chief executives and directors of insurance companies with the banking sector set by the Reserve Bank of India.

The tenure of MDs, CEOs and whole-time directors (WTD) of an insurance company has been set at 15 years. As applicable to banks, the prescribed maximum age of these functionaries will be 70 years.

The total tenure of a non-executive director (NED), continuously or otherwise, on the board of a bank, should not exceed 8 years.

After completing 8 years on the board, the person may be considered for re-appointment only after a minimum gap of three years.

For WTDs, Managing Directors and CEOs, the remuneration structure will be divided between fixed

### As applicable to banks, the prescribed max age of these functionaries will be 70 years

pay, perquisites and variable pay. Fixed Pay should be reasonable and all the fixed items, including perquisites, should be treated as part of fixed pay, Irdai said.

For non-executive directors (NEDs), apart from sitting fee and other expenses, it provides for payment of remuneration commensurate with an individual director's responsibilities and demands on time, which are considered sufficient to attract qualified competent individuals, in the form of fixed remuneration. Such remuneration, however, should not exceed Rs 20 lakh per annum for each such director excluding Chairman. For the Chairman of the board, the remuneration may be decided by the Board of Directors of the respective company.

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For WTDs, Managing Directors and CEOs, the remuneration structure will be divided between fixed

Sensex kicks off year with 1.6% rally, shrugs off Omicron worries

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 3

MANUFACTURING SECTOR activity moderated last month but output remained in the growth territory, amid slower rise in sales and new orders and concerns surrounding supply-chain disruptions, new Covid variant and inflationary pressures, a monthly survey IHS Markit said Monday.

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) eased to 55.5 in December 2021, from November's ten-month high of 57.6. The latest reading still pointed to a robust improvement in overall operating conditions that was elevated by historical standards.

Moreover, the latest quarterly reading was at 56.3, its highest since the final quarter of fiscal 2020-21, IHS Markit said.

"The health of the Indian manufacturing industry improved further in December, with growth of new work and production remaining sharp in spite of losing momentum," it said. Although input costs rose sharply, rate of inflation eased to three-month low.

Banking, metal and auto stocks were in focus as investors went for bargain hunting in leading stocks.

Another factor that buoyed the sentiment was that India's Manufacturing PMI continued to be in the expansion zone at 55.5 in December supported by strong

momentum in production and new orders, although the growth was slower on a sequential basis, said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services. Foreign investors who were big sellers in December bought stocks worth Rs 903 crore on Monday.

"..the update on the Covid situation combined with the performance of the global markets would play a critical role ahead," said Ajit Mishra, VP-research, Religare Broking Ltd.

# Apple becomes 1st company to hit \$3-tn market value

REUTERS  
BENGALURU, JANUARY 3

APPLE INC on Monday became the first company in the world to hit \$3 trillion in market capitalisation, thanks to investor confidence that the iPhone maker will keep launching best-selling products as it explores new markets such as automated cars and met

Brazil President  
Jair BolsonaroBRAZIL  
Bolsonaro  
hospitalised in  
Sao Paulo

BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT Jair Bolsonaro was taken to a Sao Paulo hospital for tests early Monday after experiencing abdominal discomfort, the government said. Bolsonaro is "doing well" and further information will be provided later in a medical bulletin, a government statement published by the Globo media outlet said. Bolsonaro returned to the financial capital during the night from a New Year break on the coast and was immediately taken to Hospital Vila Nova Star, according to Globo. Globo quoted Bolsonaro's doctor, Antônio Luiz Macedo, as saying Bolsonaro had stomach pains. Macedo operated on Bolsonaro after he was stabbed at a political rally in 2018. AP

NIGER  
Police seize over  
200 kg of  
cocaine from  
mayor's truck

POLICE IN northern Niger have seized more than 200 kg of cocaine worth around \$8.7 million that was being transported in the local mayor's official truck, two police sources said on Monday. The mayor and his driver, who were in the vehicle at the time, were arrested with 199 bricks of cocaine at a checkpoint on the road heading north out of the desert trading hub of Agadez on Sunday, the sources said. West Africa, most often a transit route for illegal drugs on the way from South America to Europe, has registered a series of record busts in recent years. REUTERS

THE KOREAS  
Man who crossed  
DMZ was  
previous defector  
from North: Seoul

A MAN observed crossing the heavily fortified border from South Korea into North Korea last week believed to be a North Korean who previously defected to the South in 2020 in the same area, Seoul's defence ministry said on Monday. South Korea's joint Chiefs of Staff had said it carried out a search operation after detecting the person on Saturday on the eastern side of the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas. REUTERS

## Richard Leakey, fossil hunter who helped cement Africa's standing as cradle of humanity, dies at 77

ALYSSA LUKPAT &  
CHRISTINE CHUNG  
JANUARY 3

RICHARD LEKEYE, the Kenyan paleoanthropologist and fossil hunter whose discoveries of ancient human skulls and skeletons helped cement Africa's place as the cradle of humanity, died Sunday in Kenya. He was 77.

President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya announced Leakey's death in a statement, but did not specify the cause of death. Leakey died at his home outside Nairobi, said professor Lawrence Martin, director of Stony Brook University's Turkana Basin Institute, which Leakey founded.

## Australia set to push ahead with reopening amid record Covid cases

We have to stop thinking about case numbers and think about serious illness: PM Morrison

REUTERS

SYDNEY, JANUARY 3

AUSTRALIA'S GOVERNMENT said the milder impact of the Omicron strain of Covid-19 meant the country could push ahead with plans to reopen the economy even as new infections hit a record of more than 37,000 and the number of people hospitalised rose.

Record daily case numbers were reported on Monday in the states of Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania, as well as the Australian Capital Territory.

In New South Wales, there were 20,794 cases, higher than Sunday's figure but below the daily record of 22,577 set on Saturday, with testing numbers lower over the New Year's holiday weekend.

The national daily total hit a record of more than 37,150 cases, exceeding Saturday's 35,327 cases, with Western Australia and the Northern Territory still to report.

"We have to stop thinking about case numbers and think about serious illness, living with the virus, managing our own health and ensuring that we're monitoring those symptoms and we keep our economy going," Prime Minister Scott Morrison told Channel Seven.

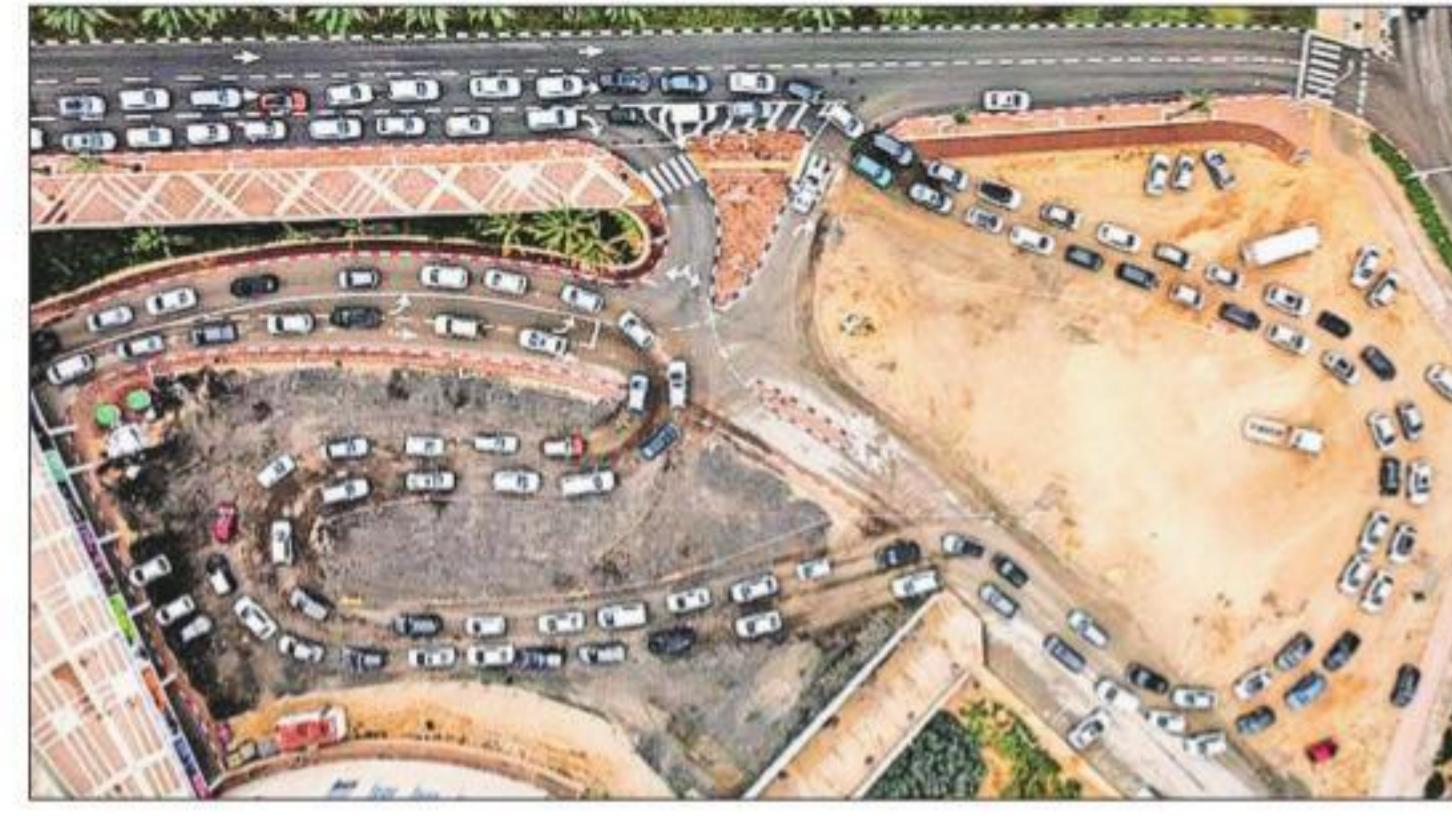
Hospitalisations rose to 1,204 in New South Wales, up more than 10% from Sunday and over three times the level on Christmas Day.

Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said the advice to the government was that the Omicron strain was more transmissible but also milder than other variants, which reduced the risk to both individuals and the health system.

Michael Bonning, chairman of the Australian Medical Association's New South Wales Council, said the significant increase in hospitalisations combined with the peak holiday period and the number of health workers exposed to Covid were putting pressure on capacity.

"With both the Christmas period and with hospital workers being furloughed due to their close contact status... we're finding that it is becoming quite difficult to staff, especially critical areas of hospitals," he told ABC Television.

In late December, the government changed its advice on when people should get a free PCR test for Covid-19, and is calling for greater use of rapid antigen tests, in part to relieve pressure on testing capacity.



ISRAEL FACES OMICRON SURGE: People queue in their cars to be tested for Covid-19 in Ashdod, Israel, on Monday as the country faces a surge in infections caused by the Omicron variant. Reuters

## More Americans are getting unapproved 4th or 5th doses

AMANDA MORRIS  
JANUARY 3

IF ASKED to show her vaccine card, Stacey Ricks can choose from three.

Ricks, 49, a kidney transplant recipient who takes immune suppressing medication, didn't develop antibodies after her first two Moderna shots.

In June, without disclosing she already had received the Moderna shots, she got a dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine before federal health officials had approved anyone for a third shot.

Getting her fourth and fifth shots was trickier. By July, pharmacy records in the Houston area where she lives finally showed her prior shots. Armed with a doctor's note explaining that she hadn't developed antibodies,



Vaccination rates continue to be low in many areas, worrying those with weak immune systems. NYT

Ricks convinced a pharmacist to give her two doses of the Pfizer vaccine over the summer.

Ricks is one of many people with compromised immune systems in the US who have sidestepped government guidelines and received unauthorised fourth or fifth shots.

The US Food and Drug Administration and the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention are in charge of determining when additional doses should be administered, but some patients and their doctors feel that federal agencies have acted too slowly to protect the most vulnerable.

The CDC updated their guidelines in late October to say that immunocompromised groups would be eligible for a fourth dose six months after a third. For those who followed the rules, the earliest eligibility for a fourth would be in late February.

However, as new variants like Omicron arise and vaccination rates continue to be sluggish in many areas, worrying those with weak immune systems, many of them are getting extra shots without being certain of whether they are safe or effective. NYT

## Pentagon chief says he tested positive for Covid

Washington: US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said Sunday he has tested positive for Covid-19 and was experiencing mild symptoms while quarantining at home.

In a statement Sunday night, Austin said he plans to attend key meetings and discussions virtually in the coming week "to the degree possible". He said Deputy Secretary Kathleen Hicks would represent him in appropriate matters. AP

Lloyd Austin

## Israel to offer 4th Covid shot to people over 60

MAAYAN LUBELL  
JERUSALEM, JANUARY 3

PRIME MINISTER Naftali Bennett said on Sunday that Israel would offer a fourth dose of Covid-19 vaccine to people over 60 and to medical staff as it faces a surge in Omicron variant infections.

Israel last week approved a fourth dose of the vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, a second booster, for people who are immune-compromised and the elderly living in care homes.

"We now have a new layer of defence," Bennett said in a televised news conference, adding that Israel's top government

medical official, whose approval is needed to expand the booster campaign, had signed off on the latest move.

"Israel will once again be pioneering the global vaccination effort," Bennett said.

Earlier, the Health Ministry's Director-General Nachman Ash said Israel could reach herd im-

munity as Omicron infections mounted and Merck's molnupiravir anti-viral pill was approved for use in Covid patients over 18.

Herd immunity is the point at which a population is protected from a virus, either through vaccination or by people having developed antibodies by contracting the disease. REUTERS

## WEST ASIAN TENSIONS RISE



Supporters of the Popular Mobilization Forces hold posters of Iranian General Soleimani on the anniversary of his assassination, in Baghdad last week. AP

## Yemen rebels seize UAE ship; hackers hit Israeli newspaper

Iran vows revenge for Soleimani killing if Trump not put on trial

AP &amp; REUTERS

DUBAI, JANUARY 3

YEMEN'S HOUTHI rebels seized a ship in the Red Sea, armed drones targeted Baghdad's international airport, and hackers hit a major Israeli newspaper Monday — a string of assaults that showed the reach of Iran-aligned militias on the anniversary of America's killing of a top Iranian general.

All three coincided with a massive memorial in Tehran for Qassem Soleimani, the general killed by a US drone strike in 2020 in Iraq. Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi demanded the world prosecute former US President Donald Trump and sentenced him to death for ordering the strike.

If Trump and (former US secretary of state Mike) Pompeo are not tried in a fair court for the criminal act of assassinating General Soleimani, Muslims will take our martyr's revenge," Raisi said in a speech on Monday.

Monday's events highlight tensions in West Asia, which has been roiled by Trump's 2018 decision to unilaterally withdraw America from a deal aimed at limiting Tehran's nuclear pro-

gram. As talks continue in Vienna to try to resurrect the accord, Iran remains able to apply pressure from outside of the negotiations even as it is squeezed by sanctions and a shadow war with Israel.

The taking of the Emirati ship Rwabe marks the latest assault in the Red Sea, a crucial route for international trade and energy shipments. The Iranian-backed Houthis acknowledged the seizure off the coast of Hodeida, a long-contested prize of the grinding war in Yemen between the rebels and a Saudi-led coalition that includes the United Arab Emirates.

A statement from the Saudi-led coalition said the ship was carrying medical equipment.

A Houthi military spokesman, Yahia Sarei, described the ship as an Emirati "military cargo ship" carrying equipment into Yemen's territorial waters.

Meanwhile, no group immediately claimed responsibility for the hacking of the Jerusalem Post's website. The hackers replaced the Post's homepage with an image depicting a missile coming from a fist bearing a ring long associated with Soleimani.

In a tweet, the Post acknowledged being the target of hackers.

## Twitter permanently suspends account of Marjorie Taylor Greene

DAVEY ALBA  
JANUARY 3

TWITTER ON Sunday permanently suspended the personal account of US Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Republican of Georgia, after the company said she had violated its Covid-19 misinformation policies.

Twitter suspended Greene's account after she tweeted on Saturday, falsely, about "extremely high amounts of Covid vaccine deaths". She included a misleading chart that pulled information from a government database of unverified raw data called the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, or VAERS, a decades-old system that relies on self-reported cases from patients and health care providers.

Meanwhile, new laws have changed how Hong Kongers vote for their representatives, including a requirement that any who seek office must be "patriots," effectively bringing the body under Beijing's control. AP

Greene was given a third strike less than a month before that when she had tweeted that Covid was not dangerous and that vaccines should not be mandated.

Greene's official Congressional account, @RepMTG, remains active because that account's tweets did not violate the service's rules.

On the alternative social messaging platform Telegram, Greene said that Twitter "is an enemy to America and can't handle the truth".

Her suspension comes as coronavirus cases have surged again in the US.

NYT

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NYT

## HK news site to shut; pro-Beijing lawmakers sworn in

HUIZHONG WU & ZEN SOO  
HONG KONG, JANUARY 3

Chris Yeung, Citizen News founder, outside his office in Hong Kong on Monday. AP

der to close, they said Monday that deteriorating media freedoms in the financial hub put

## China tightens grip on Hong Kong

CHINA HAS been tightening its grip on Hong Kong over the past couple of years, and the imposition of a new security law has seen severe limitations being placed on freedom of speech in a city that had previously been known to



have a free and aggressive news media. A number of independent news outlets have shut down, including Citizen News, Stand News and Apple Daily, and several journalists and activists have been arrested, charged or fled.

them in an impossible position.

"We all love this place, deeply. Regrettably, what was ahead of

us is not just pouring rains or blowing winds, but hurricanes and tsunamis," Citizen News said

in a statement on Sunday, when it announced the closure.

Citizen News was founded in 2017 by a group of veteran journalists. The small site focused on political news and analysis pieces, as well as investigations — and in recent months became a refuge for many journalists who had lost their jobs when other outlets closed or faced other pressures.

Meanwhile, new laws have changed how Hong Kongers vote for their representatives, including a requirement that any who seek office must be "patriots," effectively bringing the body under Beijing's control. AP

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phere of security.

"We declare there could be no winners in a nuclear war, it should never be started," the Russian-language version of the statement read.

"As the use of nuclear arms would have far-reaching conse-

quences, we also confirm that nuclear arms — as long as they exist — should serve defensive aims, deterrence against aggression and prevention of war."

France also released the statement, underscoring that the five powers reiterated their

termination for nuclear arms control and disarmament. They would continue bilateral and multilateral approaches to nuclear arms control, it said.

The statement comes amid increased geopolitical tensions between Moscow and Western nations over concerns about Russia's military buildup near neighbouring Ukraine. Moscow says it can move its army around its own territory as it deems necessary.

Last Thursday US President Joe Biden told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin that a possible move on Ukraine will draw sanctions and an increased US presence in Europe, where tensions are high after Russia's military buildup at the border.



The headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency, China, Russia, Britain, France and the US said it was their primary responsibility to avoid a nuclear war

paper.indianexpress.com

## Stokes backs Root, says 'no ambition' to be captain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SYDNEY, JANUARY 3

ENGLAND'S PREMIER all-rounder Ben Stokes has made it clear that he has no captaincy ambition, backing to the hilt, his under-fire Test skipper Joe Root and head coach Chris Silverwood in the wake of the Ashes debacle.

Root and Silverwood have faced sharp criticism following England's dismal show in the ongoing Ashes series, which the visitors trail 0-3. Root has come under fire for his captaincy during the Ashes with Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Atherton, Ian Chappell and Ricky Ponting among his more high-profile critics. "I've never really had an ambition to be a captain," Stokes, the England vice-captain, told reporters.

The 30-year-old has led England in one previous Test, a defeat by West Indies in 2020 when Root was on paternity leave. He also led England to a 3-0 ODI series win over Pakistan last year when an entire squad had to be replaced because of an outbreak of COVID-19.

"Captaincy is more than about setting fields, picking the team, making decisions out there in the middle. "A captain is someone you want to go out and play for. Joe Root is someone I always want to play for."

Root is set to become England's longest-serving Test skipper when he leads the side out in the fourth Test here on Wednesday. He will overtake predecessor Alastair Cook, who captained the side for a record 59 matches.

While Root has been in imperious touch with the bat, this is the third Ashes series he has led without a win, but Stokes doesn't expect the 31-year-old to step down just yet.

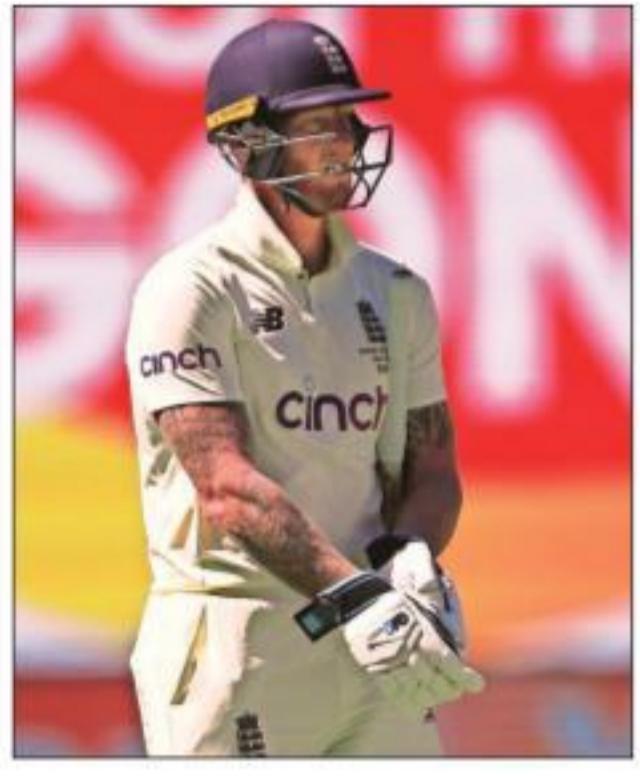
"It's totally Joe's decision. He shouldn't be forced into doing it. I'm sure Cooky (Alastair Cook) felt the same way. He did it for so long and when he knew his time was up, his time was up. Those discussions haven't entered anywhere near Joe yet. I don't sense that at all with Joe. He's brought this team a long way. He's done some great things. Obviously this series hasn't gone too well, not from a captaincy point of view, but from a team and results point of view," he said.

Stokes also backed Silverwood, whose job hangs in balance. "Unfortunately, the captain and coach bear the scrutiny, but there are 10 other guys out there in the field," said Stokes. "Chris Silverwood is a real players' coach. He stands up for you as individuals and players as well. All the hype in the media recently about their futures, it's your job to write that, but they know full well they have the support of everyone in there and that's all that matters," Stokes said.

### Smith surprised

Star Australian batter Steve Smith on Monday said England pacer Stuart Broad's limited role in the ongoing Ashes series has left even the home team "surprised".

Broad, who has snared 526 Test wickets



Ben Stokes supported his captain and coach ahead of the fourth Test. AP

**Unfortunately, the captain and coach bear the scrutiny, but there are 10 other guys out there in the field."**

**BEN STOKES**  
ENGLAND ALL-ROUNDER

for England in 150 games, only featured in the Adelaide match, missing out on the opening and Boxing Day Tests. "We have been a bit surprised. Two wickets that would have suited him pretty well," Smith was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au. "He bowled well in Adelaide. He's always been a good contest for me. He's got me out quite few times, I've scored some runs off him so it's been a decent battle," Smith added.

While Broad is in line to bowl in tandem with fellow veteran pacer James Anderson in the Pink Test, starting here on Wednesday, England will only be fighting to avoid a whitewash as hosts Australia have taken and unassailable 3-0 lead in the series.

"They've got quality bowlers. Him and Jimmy (Anderson) together are two world class performers, they have been for a long time. Maybe we'll see them out here together this week, I'm not sure," Smith added.

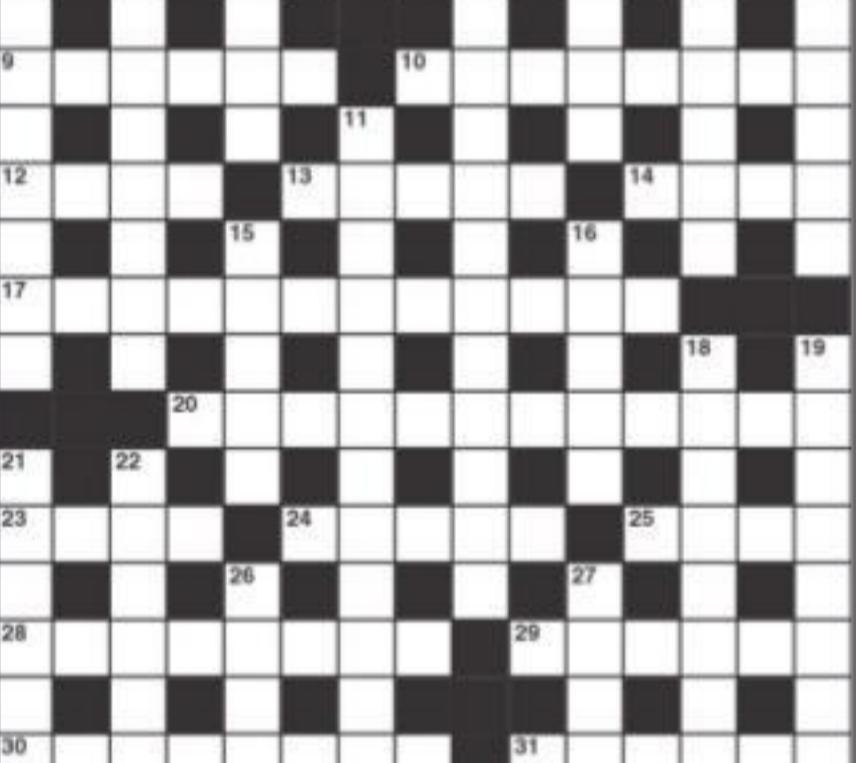
Smith's comments came a few days after teammate David Warner, who struggled against Broad in England in 2019, said "from our perspective, I think it's great he is not playing," after the MCG Test.

The southpaw has been dismissed by Broad a remarkable seven times in five Tests in 2019. England's selection in the series has coppered up sharp criticism with questions also being raised over skipper Joe Root's leadership and head coach Chris Silverwood, who is also responsible for selecting the squads.

**FOURTH ASHES TEST: Live on Sony Sports Network, 5am (Wednesday)**

1

### CROSSWORD 4628



#### ACROSS

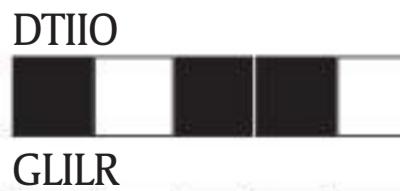
- 1 Talk of arranging a replay (6)
- 4 Novelist has to drink without something to eat (8)
- 9 Star actors upset (6)
- 10 Scholarly in theory (8)
- 12 It's a word of warning of course (4)
- 13 Time of strain? (5)
- 14 A record's high points (4)
- 17 In need of a rest cure? (4,3,5)
- 20 It's useful for making a comeback (6,6)
- 23 Shoemaking tools (4)
- 24 Bert's getting out the port (5)
- 25 A lifetime of bridge (4)
- 28 Sinner in action (8)
- 29 A 3hp Russian vehicle (6)
- 30 Entertainer; possibly Sudanese (8)
- 31 Asked for breakfast in bed? (6)

Solutions Crossword 4628: Across: 1 Sepia, 4 Fork out, 8 Ego, 9 Snowdrift, 10 Gripped, 11 Organ, 13 Triads, 15 Straps, 18 Tonic, 19 Flavour, 21 Entertain, 23 Ice, 24 Steamer, 25 Latin. Down: 1 Sleight, 2 Provision, 3 Aesop, 4 Fords, 5 Redcoat, 6 Obi, 7 Titan, 12 Geologist, 14 Decorum, 16 Surgeon, 17 Affair, 18 Tress, 20 Annul, 22 Toe.

### 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.

Don't get with \_\_\_ and \_\_\_. You don't have forever. - Leo Buscaglia (6,,6)



WANING

EIOTVV

## In Chelsea-Liverpool stalemate, Man City emerge winners

Even as their rivals entertain, Premier League leaders in control of title race

REUTERS  
MANCHESTER, JANUARY 3

ENGLISH FOOTBALL treasures the packed programme of action over the festive season and, despite the disruption of COVID-19 and the complaints of some managers, it again delivered in spades.

As so often, the intense spell of games not only provided fans with the chance to get out of the house and leave the leftovers in the fridge but led to real clarity in the title race.

Chelsea and Liverpool produced a Premier League classic on Sunday with an enthralling 2-2 draw at Stamford Bridge, but that only helped Manchester City, who now have a 10-point lead at the top of the table.

City beat Arsenal 2-1 at the Emirates on Saturday, the winning goal coming in the final seconds from midfielder Rodri. In many ways, those two games encapsulated this title race — City found a way to win for the 11th game in a row, while their rivals entertained in frantic fashion but gave up crucial points.

The quality of Chelsea and Liverpool is undeniable. Both have been crowned Europe's best in the past three years by winning the Champions League, an honour that has eluded City.

But both are perhaps better suited to the high-octane challenges of a knockout competition than the long haul of a Premier League season that by its nature rewards consistency. Pep Guardiola's City, on course for their fourth Premier League title in five years, play a style of football in which they usually control games, wearing down opponents with their unmatched ability to keep possession and create openings.

They have evolved in recent seasons but Guardiola's fundamental approach to the game, honed at Barcelona, is unchanged — the high technical level of his superbly drilled team and their understanding of their approach to games delivers consistently.

The German coaches of Liverpool and Chelsea, Jürgen Klopp and Thomas Tuchel, instead prefer a more high-energy game with attacks launched down the flanks by attacking full-backs, intense pressing and fast breaks in transition.

### Imported style from Bundesliga

The style imported from the Bundesliga is enthralling to watch and has the potential to sweep aside weaker opponents but feels somewhat anarchic compared with City's disciplined destruction of opponents.

Liverpool found the consistency needed during their title run in 2020 when they were close to unstoppable, going on an 18-match winning streak mid-season and winning all



Chelsea and Liverpool played out an entertaining 2-2 draw on Sunday. Reuters

### HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Man City	21	17	2	2	40	53
Chelsea	21	12	7	2	29	43
Liverpool	20	12	6	2	34	42
Arsenal	20	11	2	7	8	35
W Ham	20	10	4	6	10	34

**It is a big gap. They (Man City) have the title, maybe, to lose but anything can happen."**

**VIRGIL VAN DIJK**  
LIVERPOOL DEFENDER, ON TITLE RACE

but one home game.

This year, they have already dropped points at home three times and won only six of 11 away games. "What Liverpool are lacking now that they had in the title-winning season is control of a football game," said former Liverpool captain and now Sky Sports pundit Jamie Carragher, who compared the performance at Chelsea to Klopp's first two seasons at the club. "That was the best game I've seen this season, but in terms of Liverpool winning the title, that's what's going to cost them. Five times now, they've taken the lead this season and they've not won the game. That's the difference between Liverpool and Man City right now."

Chelsea may still be a work in progress

one year after Tuchel took over from Frank Lampard, and the problems with their big summer signing Romelu Lukaku are hardly helping.

Tuchel's side have won just once in their last five games — dropping points against Brighton, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Everton before Sunday's thriller.

The title race isn't over, but the fight for Champions League qualification is looking like the bigger battle. Arsenal currently occupy the fourth slot but West Ham United, Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United are all in contention with just four points separating them. Should United beat Wolves on Monday they would go level on points with the Gunners.

### Lukaku set for crisis talks with manager

**London:** Chelsea record-signing Romelu Lukaku heads into talks with manager Thomas Tuchel uncertain when he will play again but assured he has a future despite being dropped for going public with his frustrations. The striker, who missed Sunday's 2-2 draw with Liverpool, had said he was "not happy with the situation" at Chelsea and indicated he didn't like Tuchel's style of play. The comments were last Sunday and again on Wednesday.

One year after Tuchel took over from Frank Lampard, and the problems with their big summer signing Romelu Lukaku are hardly helping.

Tuchel's side have won just once in their last five games — dropping points against Brighton, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Everton before Sunday's thriller.

### Odisha stun Mumbai City

Odisha FC completed a scintillating second-half comeback to record a 4-2 win over defending champions Mumbai City in the Indian Super League on Monday. The result leaves Des Buckingham's men winless in three games while Odisha's victory means they are only three points separate them from the league leaders despite being in seventh place on the table.

### DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

#### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Today's passionate planetary relationships encourage your imagination, but may make it rather difficult for you to keep a grip on the facts. Professional Ariens run the risk of confusion at work, but if you're involved in any artistic or glamorous activity you'll do well.

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You may have been deeply confused by events beyond your control or understanding. Perhaps a dream that is only half-remembered has left you feeling rather uncertain. The truth will burst into the open in a few days' time, so get ready for the consequences.

#### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

There is still a slight risk of arguments, possibly over trivial points and with complete strangers. However, ironically, the only thing that is clear at the moment is that nothing is clear. The advantage is that if you're doing anything which depends on your imagination then you should do better than ever.

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The immediate crisis at work seems to be past, but there remains a danger that colleagues are likely to blow up without warning. The odds are stacked in your favour, so don't worry. You can use your time profitably by rearranging your spending plans.

#### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

The fiery planet Mars is now passing through a favourable and supportive region of your chart, encouraging friends and partners to go their own way. You will gain from encouraging loved ones to take up new interests rather than attempting to hold them back.

#### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

In your solar chart the radical and philanthropic sign of Aquarius represents your ability to bring an entirely different quality to work, whether paid employment or domestic chores. Right now this indicates that you will find new ways to team up with like-minded people.

#### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You certainly appear to be living up to your reputation as someone with a rare appreciation of beauty and the finer things of life. This is a time for cultural pursuits and self-indulgence rather than graft. Don't worry, the hard work will come later, all in good time.

#### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

No body has such a sharp eye for the truth as you. You see, you know exactly how folk in authority are likely to behave. You also realise that it is very difficult for people to fulfil their promises. So, why don't you give them the benefit of the doubt?

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

After a lot of near misses or false starts, you may finally be about to achieve a cherished goal. The first requirement, though, is to sort out the continuing complications dogging your financial affairs. In matters of the heart, keep talking: if you don't tell loved ones what's going on, then they can't be blamed for not knowing how you feel.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You Capricorns are not known for your emotional sensitivity, yet like all of us you have changed and come to appreciate that to be more open with your feelings leads to improvements all round. You may soon be experiencing sensations that you never knew existed.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Having stood your ground over career matters and worldly ambitions, you must now realise that there are periods to go it alone and moments to bend to other people's desires. Everything hinges around your sense of timing, so wait and make sure you pick the perfect moment.

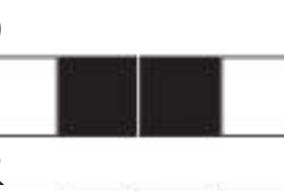
#### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You may be feeling unsettled in your current surroundings. Loved ones are waiting for you to make a decisive move, but nobody is yet sure what is the correct step to take. You may have to wait another week and you feel clear about the next phase.

### CROSSWORD 4628

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.

Don't get with \_\_\_ and \_\_\_. You don't have forever. - Leo Buscaglia (6,,6)



WANING

EIOTVV

## In Chelsea-Liverpool stalemate, Man City emerge winners

Even as their rivals entertain, Premier League leaders in control of title race

## BRIEFLY

Nehra set to become head coach of Ahmedabad IPL team

New Delhi: Former India fast bowler Ashish Nehra will be Ahmedabad IPL franchise's head coach during the 2022 Indian Premier League season while England opener of yesteryears Vikram Solanki is in line to become 'Director of Cricket'. World Cup-winning former India coach Gary Kirsten will be the 'Mentor' of the franchise which is expecting to get its formal 'Letter of Intent' (LOI) during the month. "As far as I have heard, they have signed Ashish as their head coach and someone who would be in overall charge of the franchise. Solanki will be the 'Director of Cricket' and also expected to double up as batting coach and Kirsten will be in a mentorship role," a senior IPL source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

PTI

## Will try new lineups for Asiad: Manpreet

Jaipur: Anticipating tough competition at the Asian Games this year, Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh says the FIH Pro League will be a perfect platform to try out new combinations for the big-ticket event in Hangzhou. Manpreet had led India to first Olympic medal in 41 years in Tokyo, where the team won a historic bronze. "Asian Games will undoubtedly be the biggest event for us this year. Surely the competition will be quite tough at the Asian Games as all teams will be vying to make the Olympics cut (by winning gold)," he said. Gold medal-winning country at the Asian Games, starting September 10, automatically qualifies for the Olympics. India had won a bronze in the Jakarta Games in 2018. "The FIH Pro League will help us gain some really good match experience ahead of Asian Games. Additionally, it will give us great opportunity to try out different combinations ahead of Asian Games," he said in a Hockey India release.

PTI

## Dennerby: India in hunt to make knockouts

New Delhi: Indian women's football team head coach Thomas Dennerby insisted that "we will fight with our lives" to reach the knockout stage of the AFC Asian Cup and realise their dream of securing qualification to the 2023 FIFA World Cup. Asked if he is confident of taking India to their first FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023, Dennerby did not give a direct answer but said "anything can happen" if his team reaches the knockout stage (quarterfinals) of the Asian Cup. "Let's take it step by step. Of course, we have a dream, and that starts with us being one among the eight teams in the quarter-finals of the Asian Cup," said the experienced Swede on FIFA website. "If we can reach that level, anything can happen. I can only promise everyone that we will go out with a winning mentality and put in a huge effort. And that we will fight with our lives." Five teams from the Asian Cup, to be played in Mumbai and Pune from Jan 20 to Feb 4, will qualify directly for the 2023 World Cup.

PTI

## VITAL CONTRIBUTION

## What India wanted from Pant, Ashwin delivered – an attacking cameo



Ravichandran Ashwin took 50 balls for his 46 runs while hitting six 4s.

ing with the crease, the set-up, the technique and all that sort of stuff. Whereas my batting was more about hands, getting through the ball and sort of thinking tactically rather than thinking technically," Ashwin said last February.

"Ajinkya [Rahane] played a crucial role in terms of telling me that I'm overthinking it and have to just get it done. All those things played a massive role but that innings Sydney really set the tone for me," he had added.

That innings is part of cricketing folklore already. The battle with the body, the battle with the Aussies, the intense focus to even conceive that one could defend for hours, and the discipline for an usually innovative batsman to curb all those urges was quite something.

This one at Johannesburg was far easier in composition. Not in execution as there weren't many runs from top order batsmen, the pitch threw up awkward variable bounce but in terms of mental discipline. It was clear that an attacking cameo was the way to go and he didn't waste any time doing it.

He drove the on-the-up, punched over the infield but in the V, and drove at every opportunity. The bat cradled in his hands

at crease, the elbow stayed crooked up, and the bat swing was supremely fluid. He is one of the best timers in this Indian team.

Unsurprisingly, South Africans tried to bounce him out. Always a done thing with him and always worth a try. His hip swivel can be a bit slower at times, and he can lap-pull it in the air. He has also found it difficult to sway or duck and more often than not tries to put bat to the short ball. That's why in Sydney, he correctly decided the risk-percentage wasn't on his side and took body blows.

That's how it has played out for the last year. Not just in Australia but then he came back and starred with a ton at his home-town Chennai against England. Tactically, he is very astute; he knows when to attack, when to defend. He identifies the right pace of bat-better than many.

And that's why his over-thinking frustrated him in the past. "My batting was more about hands". He had veered away from that realisation and couldn't produce scores consistently. In an interview with Cricbuzz couple of years back, he had talked about how he had grown too "defensive" in his mindset while batting. And intended to sort that out by trusting his instinct. And the wonderful batting hands.

## B'luru likely to be Kohli's 100th Test

Kolkata: A BACK injury forced Virat Kohli out of the second Test against South Africa at Johannesburg, with KL Rahul leading India in his absence. "Unfortunately Virat has an upper back spasm. Physios are working on him. Hopefully, he will be OK by next Test," stand-in skipper Rahul told the host broadcaster after winning the toss.

Kohli, with 98 Test matches under his belt, was set to play his 100th Test at Cape Town, the venue for the third match, before the injury struck.

India's next Test series will be at home against Sri Lanka, a two-match assignment during which Kohli is expected to play his landmark 100th game. The first Test is scheduled to be held in Bengaluru from February 25, a venue which is Kohli's second home because of his long stint with Royal Challengers Bangalore.

ENS

**SAQLAIN REFUSES FULL-TIME PAK JOB**  
Former Pakistan spinner Saqlain Mushtaq has conveyed to the PCB that he would be unable to take up the head coach job with the national team on a full time basis due to his personal commitments. The PCB has already given advertisements for five coaching positions including a power hitting batting coach and head coach for the High Performance Centre.

PTI

## Olivier adds the twist

Proteas pacers dismiss Kohli-less India for modest total to take first-day honours in second Test

## ABHISHEK PUROHIT

JANUARY 3

THE FIRST nine overs of the Wanderers Test suggested a near-repeat of the first hour of the Centurion Test. South Africa had squandered the new ball on Boxing Day, bowling too wide and serving up too many boundary balls to build any sort of pressure with the new Kookaburra. India's openers KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal had gone on to add 117, and the match was to slip away from South Africa right there.

But in sharp contrast, at the end of the day in Johannesburg, hosts were the happier lot after dismissing India for 202 and reaching 35/1.

Had it not been for a resolute half-century by KL Rahul, leading India in the absence of Virat Kohli who is nursing an upper back spasm and a valuable cameo from Ravichandran Ashwin, the tourists would have struggled to cross 150.

With the pitch offering some spice for pacers, it seems to be game on going into the second day.

On the first day of the New Year's Test, Duanne Olivier shared the new ball with Kagiso Rabada in his highly-anticipated return to Test cricket after a three-year Kolpak career in England. His opening spell lasted four overs.

As he moved it in and out gently in the mid-120s, one started to wonder whether he was still in county cricket mode. After all the fuss over Olivier missing Centurion and all the build-up ahead of the Wanderers game, had South Africa sacrificed an all-rounder for this? Wiaan Mulder had bowled a tad quicker at Centurion, and is supposed to offer a few runs with the bat too, unlike Olivier.

The 29-year-old Olivier had made Rahul hop to a lifter that had missed the outside edge and nicked his shoulder on its way to the keeper, but that had been about the only threat he'd posed, and it had come out of nowhere.

At the other end, Kagiso Rabada had been surprisingly shorn of speed and bite, and India had ticked along to 32 in nine overs.

Then came Lungi Ngidi, bang on target from ball one and allowing a single run in his first three overs. Angling the ball in around off-stump and making it straighten, Ngidi was posing a constant threat. But it was to be one of those days; he would end wicketless in 11 overs.

But Ngidi, and Marco Jansen after him, tightened things up considerably, and the latter broke through soon. The previous five overs had brought only four runs, and the first ball after the drinks break, Agarwal saw one pitched up and decided to drive to end the brief struggle. But the young left-armer Jansen can get it to rise even from a full length because of his immense height, and Agarwal nicked it behind.

Something snapped into place for the South African new-ball pair now, especially Olivier; the pace increased slightly, but crucially, he started getting it to take off tennis-ball like from a good length, something he has been known for and brought him a Test average below 20.

## Veterans disappoint

Cheteshwar Pujara had already been made to fend a couple, out of the reach of backward short-leg. He wasn't as lucky when Olivier made it climb again, and lobbed it to point off the splice. Pujara has often got into trouble overseas for his tendency to sort of lean half-forward and try to ride the extra bounce. He failed again trying that, for just 3.

Pujara had lasted 33 balls; the second under-pressure veteran, Ajinkya Rahane, was to go first ball. Olivier found bounce once more, but it would have been a straightfor-

ward leave had Rahane not gone fishing to edge it to the cordon.

The pitch seemed to be playing quicker now as it baked under the sun. Following a brief resistance in his first Test in a year, Hanuma Vihari got a snorter from Rabada for Rassie van der Dussen to take a flying catch at short leg.

All this while, Rahul had batted in a cocoon of his own. It's like he has squeezed himself into this protective shell and will not be lured to step out of it no matter what is thrown at him. He holds the bat calmly behind the pad to let deliveries on fourth or fifth stump pass. The bat does not stray away from the body despite enticements galore, nor does the balance betray him.

Almost an identical ball from Jansen to the one that got Agarwal on the drive, Rahul played out without fuss a while later. He was able to do that because he had not committed and watched the ball closely until the very last instant.

Even as Agarwal took the lead at the start with a few fours, Rahul was on 1 off 28. He then got a full delivery on the pads from Olivier. One'd expect a sub-continent batter in particular to be delighted at the offering and whip it square or through midwicket for the release shot. But Rahul has disciplined himself to the extent that he accounted for the bit of late swing, and eased it with a dead straight bat through mid-on for four.

That discipline, however, was to desert him soon after he reached his half-century. With two men in the deep for the hook, Rahul still played the shot off Jansen and fell to an excellent sliding take by Rabada.

An enterprising 46 off 50 by Ashwin stretched the innings from 116/5 to 202, but it was way short of the average first-innings score of 317 at Centurion. In only his second Test, 21-year-old Jansen finished with figures of 17-5-31-4.

Dean Elgar and Keegan Petersen survived an 18-over barrage from stand-in vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah & Co even as Aiden Markram fell to Mohammed Shami for the third time in three innings. India will be worried that Mohammed Siraj walked off the field without completing his fourth over. Unlike Centurion, they do not have the cushion of runs to play with at Wanderers.

## SCOREBOARD

## India 1st Innings:

KL Rahul c Rabada b Jansen	50
Mayank Agarwal c Verreyne b Jansen	26
Cheteshwar Pujara c Bavuma b Olivier	3
Ajinkya Rahane c Petersen b Olivier	0
Hanuma Vihari c van der Dussen b Rabada	20
Rishabh Pant c Verreyne b Jansen	17
Ravichandran Ashwin c Petersen b Jansen	46
Shardul Thakur c Petersen b Olivier	0
Mohammed Shami c & b Rabada	9
Jasprit Bumrah not out	14
Mohammed Siraj c Verreyne b Rabada	1
<b>Total:</b> (All out in 63.1 overs)	<b>202</b>

## Fall of wickets: 1/36, 2/49, 3/49, 4/91, 5/116, 6/156, 7/157, 8/185, 9/187, 10/202

## Bowling:

Kagiso Rabada 17.1-2-64-3, Duanne Olivier 17.1-6-4-3, Lungi Ngidi 11-4-26-0, Marco Jansen 17.5-31-4, Keshav Maharaj 1-0-6-0.

## South Africa 1st Innings:

Dean Elgar batting	11
Aiden Markram lbw b Shami	7
Keegan Petersen batting	14
Extras: (LB-2 NB-5)	3
<b>Total:</b> (For 1 wicket in 18 overs)	<b>35</b>

## Fall of wickets: 1/14

**Bowling:** Jasprit Bumrah 8-3-14-0, Mohammed Shami 6-2-15-1, Mohammed Siraj 3.5-2-4-0, Shardul Thakur 0.1-0-0-0.



Duanne Olivier celebrates after taking the wicket of Cheteshwar Pujara.

Reuters

## Pujara, Rahane can't seem to turn a corner as batting woes continue at Wanderers

## SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY

JANUARY 3

A POROUS Indian middle-order became even weaker after backsplasms ruled Virat Kohli out of the second Test. Even in the middle of an elongated fallow period, Kohli has been scoring 30s and 40s, and India missed their captain today.

In his absence, the onus fell on two senior batsmen, Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane, to raise their game. Pujara is horribly out of form at the moment. Rahane, despite not scoring big in the first Test at Centurion, looked good and showed intent. Both came to this tour walking a tightrope and so far they have failed to live up to the pressure.

On Monday, if Pujara fell prey to extra bounce, Rahane played a loose shot. Kohli's replacement, Hanuma Vihari, got out by committing to front-foot early.

## Pujara stays low

To start with, Pujara's approach to bide his time was fraught with risks. A wicket was always just around the corner on this surface. The Wanderers pitch was unusually dry on Day One all right, but it had its customary bounce, steep enough for the batsmen to leave deliveries on length.

Then again, Pujara has played like this all his life, absorbing pressure and wearing down the bowlers. When out of form, though, he can be in a bind.

South African fast bowlers had a clear plan for Pujara, short ball into the body off a length. A leg gully was in place and a catch narrowly escaped the fielder once.

On the face of it, maybe Pujara was a tad



Ajinkya Rahane exits the stage after a golden duck.

AP

unlucky the way Duanne Olivier's delivery reared from back-of-a-length and took the shoulder of the bat to point. But Sunil Gavaskar, on air, spoke about Pujara staying low (in his forward press) and how difficult it could be for a batsman to counter the bounce by staying low on this. He didn't meet the ball below his eye-line and a little more uprightness might have allowed Pujara to counter the extra bounce.

The 33-year-old has been playing his 94th Test, scoring more than 6,600 runs. He has been successful on the bouncier pitches in Australia also. But he is not getting any younger and struggling for form, he failed to smother the bounce.

## Rahane fishes outside off

Rahane came at No. 4 and got a golden duck, a poor shot bringing about his downfall. Olivier once again bowled back-of-a-length outside off and the batsman hung his bat and gave catching practice to Pietersen at gully. Once again, Gavaskar wasn't impressed. "After

these two dismissals, one can say that they probably have just next innings, both Pujara and Rahane, to save their Test careers," the batting maestro said while commenting. Pujara so far has scored 19 runs in three innings. Rahane has 68 runs from three outings.

## Vihari's forward press

As long as the South African