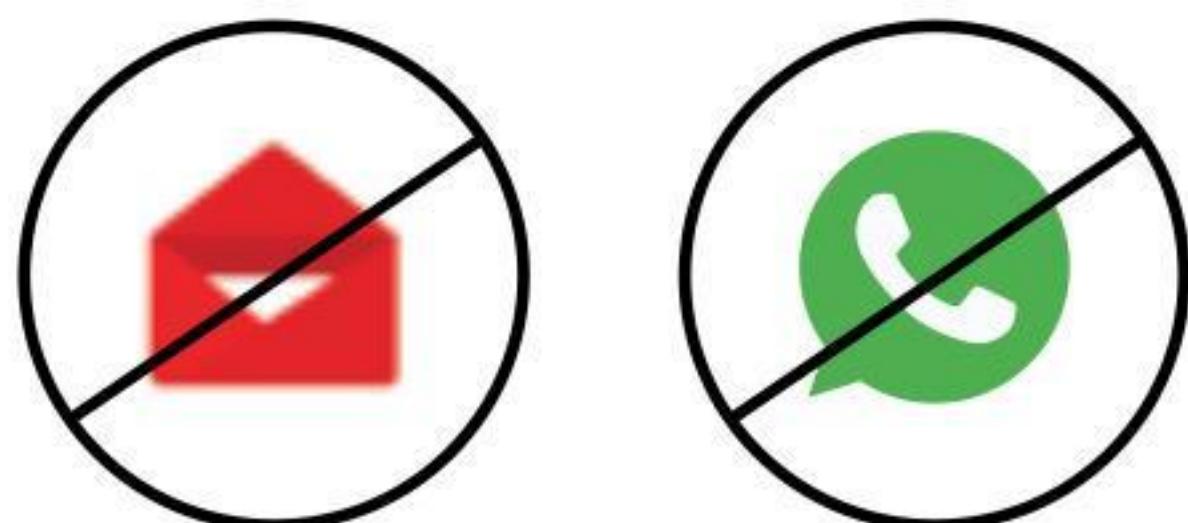


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VULNERABILITY CATEGORIES

National average for Covid exposure is 2.5% and 2nd dose of Covid vaccination is 50% as on Dec 30, 2021.

Special focus	Assumptions	No. of districts
Category 1	Covid exposure: below 0.5% Vaccination: below 50%	99
Category 2	Covid exposure: 0.5 to 2.5% Vaccination: below 50% OR Covid exposure: below 0.5% Vaccination: above 50%	212
Category 3	Covid exposure: above 2.5% Vaccination: below 50% OR Covid exposure: 0.5 to 2.5% Vaccination: above 50%	299
Category 4	Covid exposure: above 2.5% Vaccination: above 50%	104

Most of poll-bound UP, Punjab, Manipur vulnerable to Covid: empowered group

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

MOST OF the districts in three poll-bound states – Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Manipur – have been found to “represent high vulnerability to emerging Covid pandemic due to Omicron variant.” With their population at “heightened risk of severe disease and adverse outcomes”, according to an analysis by one of the empowered groups constituted by the Centre on Covid-19. The report – “Vulnerability of districts for Covid-19” – was shared with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Monday, two days after the Election Commission announced the Assembly poll schedule for five states (UP, Punjab, Manipur, Goa and Uttarakhand).

According to the report, seen by The Indian Express, 65 of 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh, 21 of

22 districts in Punjab, and 9 of 16 districts in Manipur are listed as “Category 1” and “Category 2” districts, which “represent high vulnerability to emerging Covid pandemic due to Omicron variant.”

The population of these districts is at heightened risk of severe disease and adverse outcomes,” says the analysis.

The vulnerability assessment of districts is based on two parameters: prior confirmed exposure to Covid (proportion of population infected), and vaccination coverage (both doses) as on December 30, 2021.

Based on these two indicators, 714 districts across the country have been categorised into four categories.

■ Category-1: Districts with prior confirmed Covid exposure less than 0.5% and vaccination (both doses) coverage less than 50%.

■ Category-2: Districts with prior confirmed Covid exposure

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

REBELS HEAD FOR SAMAJWADI PARTY IN POLL RUN-UP

Jolt for Yogi as key Minister exits, 3 MLAs say will quit too

Swami Maurya says UP govt anti-Dalit, anti-farmer; poses for photo with Akhilesh

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 11

IN A jolt to the ruling BJP less than a month before the start of the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, OBC leader and five-term MLA Swami Prasad Maurya resigned Tuesday as Minister for Labour and Employment from the Yogi Adityanath government and seemed headed to the rival SP, posing for a photograph with its chief Akhilesh Yadav soon after.

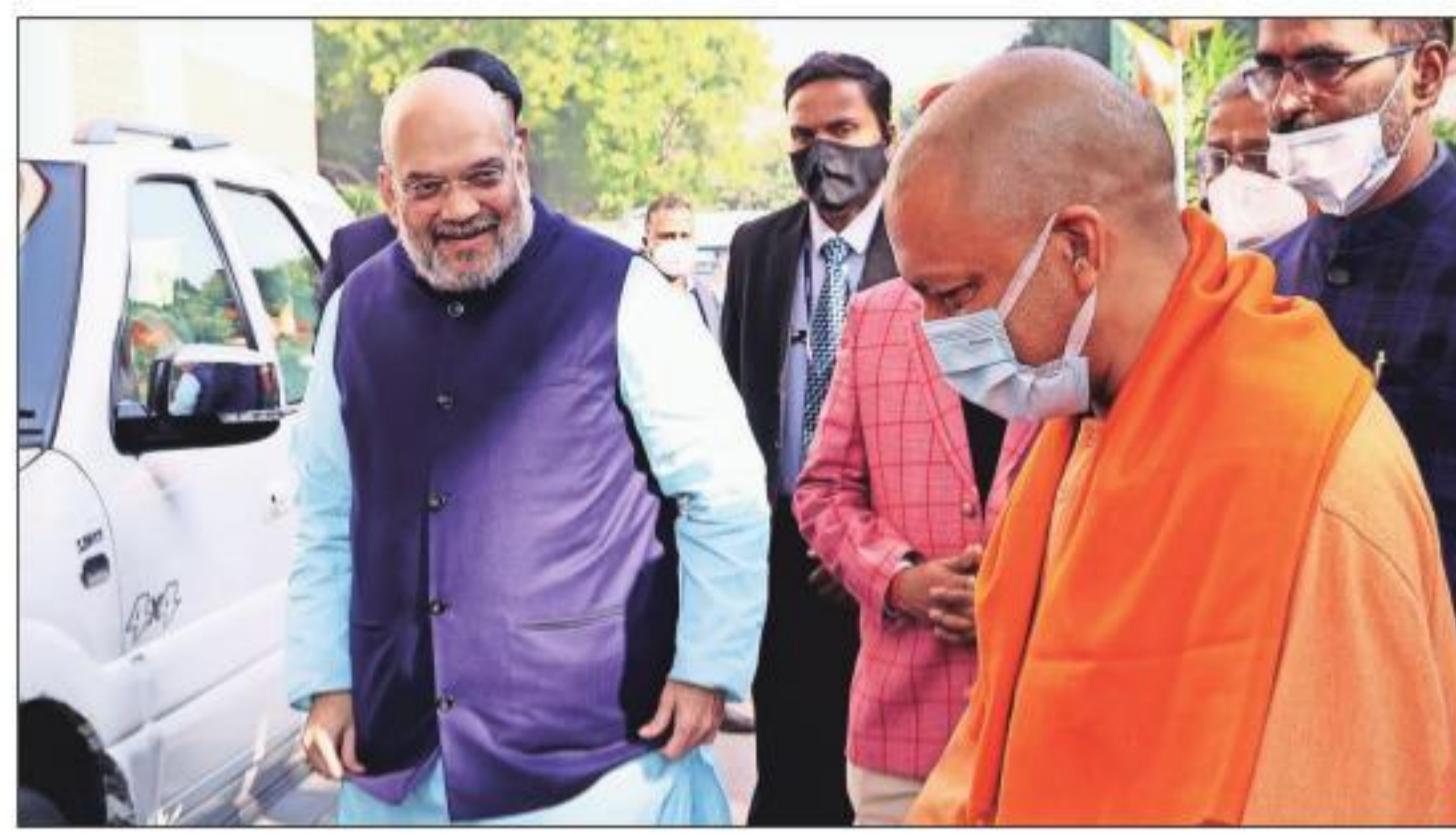
At least three other BJP MLAs – Roshan Lal Verma, Brijesh Prajapati and Bhagwati Prasad Sagar – said they would follow Maurya who indicated that more from the BJP would join him.

In his resignation letter to Governor Anandiben Patel, Maurya, who represents the Padrauna constituency in the eastern district of Kushinagar, alleged neglect of “Dalits, backwards, farmers, unemployed and small traders” by the government.

While there was no immediate response from Chief Minister Adityanath, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, in a Twitter post, said: “I am not aware of the reasons for which Swami Prasad Maurya ji has resigned but it is my appeal to him to sit



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Amit Shah, Yogi arrive for BJP meeting in Delhi Tuesday for candidate selection. Prem Nath Pandey

High-profile exit dents BJP's OBC push, forces rethink at Delhi meet

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE EXIT of long-time OBC leader Swami Prasad Maurya from the BJP Tuesday cast a shadow on a meeting held by the party's top leadership on the Uttar Pradesh elections in Delhi. Maurya's decision is likely to help the Opposition's campaign that the Yogi Adityanath government is a “pro-upper caste” regime, setting back its efforts to woo OBC votes.

At the Delhi meeting to discuss strategy for the polls and candidate names, Adityanath was present along



Photo tweeted by Akhilesh with Maurya on Tuesday

with Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, BJP state chief Swatantra Dev Singh and Union

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNY



MAURYA SPENT HIS CAREER FIGHTING SP P 6

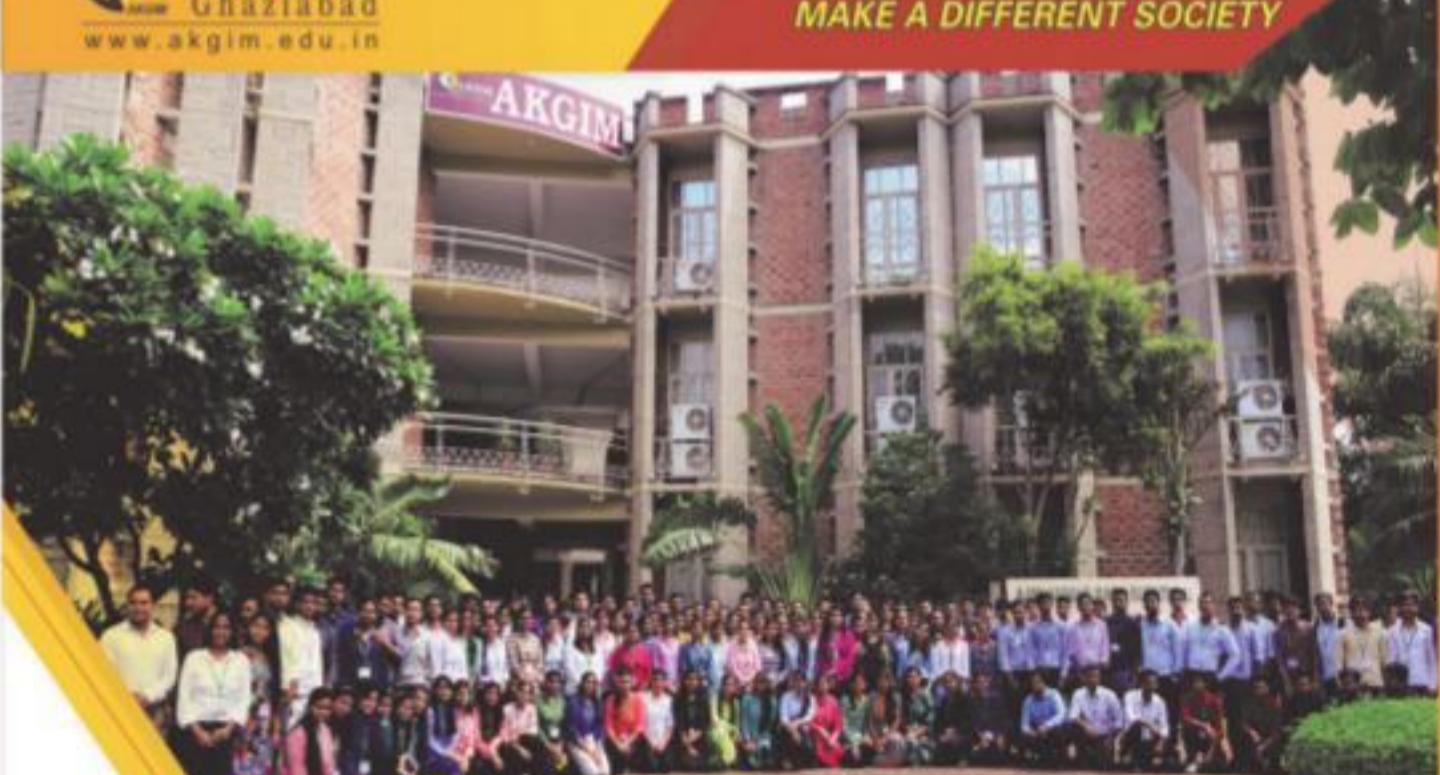
THE WORLD

HALF OF EUROPE COULD BE INFECTED IN 2 MONTHS: WHO

PAGE 12

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Channi nudges Cong to name candidate for CM, with a hint: he is quite popular



'Lost when CM not named'

EXPLAINED
E Different voices

THE CONGRESS has said it will fight the Punjab Assembly elections under a “collective leadership”. But Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi’s call for the announcement of a CM candidate, even as Punjab PCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu has made clear that he has his eyes on the top post, indicates that fissures remain.

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 11

SIGNALLING MORE trouble for the Congress ahead of the elections in Punjab, where the party faces infighting. Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi said on Tuesday that the party “should announce” its chief ministerial candidate. “Whenever the party has not announced the CM candidate, it has lost,” he said.

Channi made the remarks while responding to a question on whether the Congress should declare its CM candidate, during an interview to a local channel, Pro Punjab TV.

“When the party declared its CM candidate during the 2017 elections, it won. Before that, when it did not declare the candidate, it lost. Whenever the party has not announced the CM candidate, it has lost. So the party should announce it,” he said.

He went to say that he was a popular leader and people waved at him and broke barricades to meet him. Channi, however, refused to comment when

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Vodafone opts for equity-linked rescue, Govt will own 35.8%

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

VI’S shares on August 14, 2021, which the Supreme Court decided would be the cut-off date, was below par value, the company would issue shares to the Government at par value of Rs 10 per share.

As a result, the Government would end up owning 35.8% of total outstanding shares of the company while the shareholding of current promoters, Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group, would fall to 28.5 percent and 17.8 per cent, respectively.

Currently, Vodafone Group owns close to 45 per cent of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Thirty-six children from an orphanage in Palam Vihar, New Delhi, leave a quarantine and care centre at the Commonwealth Games Village on Tuesday, after being cured of Covid, 12 days after they were admitted. Tashi Tobgyal

Delhi govt tells pvt offices to close, Kejriwal says restrictions will be lifted as cases fall

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

WITH THE Capital breaching the 20,000-mark in daily cases last week and the positivity rate continuing to rise, the Delhi government has ordered the closure of all private offices, barring those

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

listed in the exempted category. “The practice of work from home shall be followed,” said an order issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA). On Monday, all restaurants and bars were ordered to shut dine-in services, with only takeaway and home delivery services allowed.

Private offices that are allowed to remain open include banks, companies providing essential services like pharma

companies, telecom services, petrol pumps, transport of cargo, aviation services, RBI-regulated entities, offices of advocates, and courier services.

On Tuesday, the city reported 21,259 new cases, 23 deaths and a positivity rate of 25.65%. Officials said most of the people

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Special airport lanes, empty stadium, stringent bubble: Maharashtra lays ground for Asian Cup

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, JANUARY 11

BEFORE INDIA’S women footballers board the plane from Kochi to Mumbai on Thursday, each player will be handed a dossier of sorts. From basic Covid-appropriate behaviour to avoiding shops and cafes at the airport, the document will spell

out all the dos and don’ts for their trip.

And the moment they land in Mumbai, the 23-member squad and the coaching staff will be separated from other passengers and whisked away to a dedicated testing area at the Arrivals terminal through special lanes. Only after they test negative will the players board a bus for their hour-long journey to Navi Mumbai, where they will stay in a bio-secure environment for the next fortnight.

Mumbai had been reporting



Indian players train in Kochi. They leave for Mumbai Thursday

the highest number of cases for any city in the country till a few days ago, but there are clear signs now of the surge stabilising. On Tuesday, the city reported only 11,647 new cases, almost half of what it was reporting a few days ago.

But Maharashtra is not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DROP IN DAILY TALLY CONTINUES, MUMBAI LOGS 11,647 CASES
PAGE 8

FROM PAGE ONE

OBC face quits

and talk. Decisions taken in a hurry often turn out to be wrong."

Incidentally, it was Roshan Lal Verma who carried Maurya's resignation letter to the Raj Bhavan. "Hum Maurya ji ke supporter hain, jahan woh Jayenge wahan hum bhi Jayenge (I am a Maurya supporter, I will go wherever he does)," he said.

Verma, BJP MLA from Tilharin Shahjahanpur, was earlier the constituency's BSP MLA but quit the party along with Maurya in 2016. He contested the 2017 elections as the BJP candidate from the same seat and won.

Brijesh Prajapati, MLA from Tindwari in Banda, said: "Swami Prasad Maurya ji is our leader. Since he has sent his resignation letter, I have done it too."

Bhagwat Prasad Sagar, MLA from Bilhaur in Kanpur Nagar district, said: "We will all go together." He said they had to "struggle for four-and-a-half years in our own government".

Maurya's move comes as a shot in the arm for the SP which is trying to win over non-Yadav OBCs to bolster its Muslim-Yadav vote base. The non-Yadav OBCs played a key role in the BJP's sweep of the 2017 elections.

After Maurya's resignation, Akhilesh Yadav posted a photograph with him on Twitter, welcoming him to the SP fold. "Samajik nyay ka inquilab hogा, Bayis mein badla hoga (Social justice will triumph, there will be change in 2022)," he wrote.

Meanwhile, Maurya's daughter Sanghamitra, who is the BJP MP from Badaul Lok Sabha seat, had earlier backed the demand for an OBC census on the floor of Parliament, breaking away from the party's stand.

"Maurya leaving is not a shocker. It has been on the cards. It's a one-day sensation, after which it will die down," said a senior BJP leader.

That will be easier said than done. BJP leaders in Uttar Pradesh, including a sitting MLA, admitted Maurya's exit creates a "serious perception issue", with the party and government often accused of not giving OBCs their due. It might strengthen the charge that the BJP uses backward class votes only to come to power, and then ignores them, despite the OBCs playing a crucial role in Modi's emphatic win at the Centre in 2014.

Before this, another high-profile leader, Eknath Khadse from Maharashtra, had left in 2020. However, the BJP had sent a big message by inducing as many as 27 ministers belonging to backward classes in Modi's Cabinet expansion in July last year.

Alleys in UP will now turn towards Keshav Prasad Maurya, the BJP's senior-most OBC leader in the state who has been nursing a grudge for being made to settle

and make it clear who all are coming with me," he said.

In his resignation letter in Hindi, he said: "I have worked with responsibility and dedication in the Cabinet of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath as Labour and Employment Minister even under adverse situations and ideological positions but because of the neglect of Dalits, backwards, farmers, unemployed, youth as well as small traders, I resign from the Cabinet of Uttar Pradesh."

He told reporters that he tried to raise matters but his concerns were not resolved.

"For long, I raised my issues at appropriate platforms in the party. While I was heard, my issues were not resolved. I have resigned from the anti-Dalit, anti-farmer, anti-youth and anti-trader government," he said.

He said he had joined the BJP – from BSP – thinking "I will see a changed face" of the party.

"When joined, then the president of the party, Amit Shah, said I would be given respect according to my personality. The department offered did not matter and I worked with dedication and responsibility as Labour and Employment Minister despite ideological differences," he said.

Asked about claims that the BJP would win over 300 seats in the Assembly elections, he said: "Now they will know what Swami Prasad Maurya is capable of, the mandate he commands. They will realise my worth when the BJP loses the election."

Home Minister Amit Shah, apart from other senior leaders. However, the news of Maurya leaving upset all plans. As did speculation that more MLAs might follow him out; Maurya claimed as many as 15 would do so.

So while the state unit had zeroed in on two-three names for every constituency going to polls in the first three phases, a call was taken to review the list given the new uncertainty.

Also present at the meeting were organisation general secretary Sunil Bansal, UP election in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan, co-in-charge Anurag Thakur, and national general secretary organisation B L Santhosh. J P Nadda and UP in-charge Radha Mohan

Singh were also expected to attend, but could not as they are down with Covid.

Party leaders said that the BJP would have to rework its campaign for the state given Maurya's exit and the message it sends to the politically significant OBC communities. So far, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Adityanath have been the faces of the campaign.

The messaging would also be conscious of the gains the Samajwadi Party hopes to make from Maurya's exit. The party has been trying to expand its loyal Muslim-Yadav vote bank to include non-Yadav OBCs, who are estimated to constitute over 35% of the electorate.

As a minister, Maurya is the most high-profile leader to leave the BJP ahead of the UP polls. He had joined the party in 2016 from the BSP, where he was No. 2 to supremo Mayawati. Playing down the development, BJP leaders claimed Maurya was a fence-sitter for long and was sulking because the party had spurned his demand for a ticket for son Utkrisht. His daughter Sanghamitra Maurya, the BJP MP from Badaul Lok Sabha seat, had earlier backed the demand for an OBC census on the floor of Parliament, breaking away from the party's stand.

"Maurya leaving is not a shocker. It has been on the cards. It's a one-day sensation, after which it will die down," said a senior BJP leader.

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Before this, another high-profile leader, Eknath Khadse from Maharashtra, had left in 2020. However, the BJP had sent a big message by inducing as many as 27 ministers belonging to backward classes in Modi's Cabinet expansion in July last year.

Alleys in UP will now turn towards Keshav Prasad Maurya, the BJP's senior-most OBC leader in the state who has been nursing a grudge for being made to settle

for one of the two Deputy CM posts after the 2017 results, in spite of having led the party in the polls. Of late, Keshav Prasad has made several noises indicating his displeasure, including asserting that the issue of who would be CM should the BJP return to power was far from settled. This is despite Modi and Amit Shah making it clear that Adityanath was the face of the BJP state campaign.

On Tuesday, even as the BJP officially maintained silence over Maurya's exit, Keshav Prasad issued a public appeal as he tweeted: "I don't know why honorable Swami Prasad Mauryaji has quit. I would appeal to him to sit and talk as hasty decisions could prove wrong."

However, things have not been all sugar and sweet between the two Maurya leaders. Swami Prasad knew he could never gain the same eminence as he had in the BSP as long as Keshav Prasad held the Maurya mantle. "While he could never be the top OBC leader in the BJP, he can be the top non-Yadav OBC leader in the SP," a party functionary pointed out.

The heat for the BJP may first come from allies like Apna Dal (Soniyala), which also claims backward support, who would seek to press their advantage, a senior leader said.

Apart from the messaging to OBCs, Maurya's exit puts the spotlight back on the functioning of Adityanath as CM, said a BJP MP from the state. "Some call Yogi a polarising figure for other reasons. But inside the BJP, he is a highly polarising figure too. The party is divided into 'for Yogi' and 'against Yogi' now. While the first lot wants the BJP to return to power with his image and clout, the other side does not see a bright future under him," he said.

The development might also trigger fresh questions over induction of leaders from other parties, a cause of much heartburn. "The cadre feel that their stand against this stands vindicated. They would question the wisdom of the leadership on the matter," said the party functionary.

The SP's non-Yadav OBC push earlier got a boost with the entry of Madhuri Verma, an OBC leader and MLA from Behraich; Rakesh Rathore, a lower OBC community leader from the BJP; Shiv Shankar Singh Patel, former minister and BJP MLA from Banda; Congress leader Bal Krishna Patel; and Ram Achal Rajbhar and Lalji Verma who were expelled from the BSP

Another senior BJP leader and an MP, however, expressed confidence that the party could contain the damage from Maurya's leaving. Admitting that there would be an impact on the BJP's Kurmi / Maurya support base in Rae Bareli, Badaul and Kushinagar areas, the MP added: "Keshav Prasad Maurya's presence will arrest any outflow of votes. Plus, Akhilesh will not be able to mobilise votes in other areas because, on the ground, the tussle is not between upper castes and OBCs, it is between backward castes and Dalits. Vote transfer is not at all easy. Even among OBCs, there is not a larger backward consciousness, it breaks into smaller groups and each one wants their political share."

Vulnerable
0.5-2.5% and vaccination coverage less than 50%; or prior Covid exposure below 0.5% and vaccination above 50%.

■ Category-3: Districts with prior

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EXPRESS AUDIO
The logic behind India's 'precautionary dose'

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Asian Cup

taking any chances. The state government is going all out to ensure that the Asian Cup, which kicks off on January 20, is not derailed by the third wave. The 12-nation tournament, which is also a qualifier for the 2023 Women's World Cup, will be played behind closed doors in Pune, Navi Mumbai and Mumbai.

According to Aaditya Thackeray, state minister and president of the Mumbai District Football Association, the players and officials "will be in bio-bubbles and have testing protocols set for their own safety".

"The most stringent Covid-appropriate behaviour protocols have been put in place to ensure that all the teams, officials and support staff are safe inside the bubble, and also for the safety of our citizens," Thackeray told The Indian Express. "We are sure that the tournament will be a huge success, albeit at the moment without spectators and fans."

India's sporting calendar has already been hit by the latest Covid surge.

On Monday, the cricket board was forced to postpone the knockout matches of the U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy in Pune. Earlier, the All India Football Federation had to suspend the I-League, the country's second-tier football championship that was being held in Kolkata.

Covid cases have also been reported in the ongoing Indian Super League in Goa while the India Open badminton championship, which got underway in New Delhi on Tuesday, saw some top players withdrawing at the last moment after testing positive.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal reiterated that "there is no plan to impose any lockdown in Delhi" and restrictions will be lifted as the case count starts to fall.

"There is no plan to impose any lockdown in Delhi. We are imposing these restrictions out of compulsion as we have no choice. This is being done only for your safety. If we impose restrictions, the livelihood of people will be affected; and if we don't, then cases will increase and the public will face problems. So, keeping both these scenarios in mind, we are moving gradually with striking a balance between both restrictions and public safety. I assure you that all these restrictions will be gradually removed once the cases come down," he said.

The decision to shut private offices was taken on Monday at the DDMA meeting headed by Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal and attended by Kejriwal.

"The Covid situation in Delhi has been reviewed in the DDMA meeting... and it has been observed that the number of Covid-19 cases (including the cases of Omicron variant) has been rapidly increasing over the last few days and positivity rate has crossed 23%", the DDMA said in its order.

"Therefore, it has been felt necessary that some more additional restrictions are imposed in Delhi to contain the spread of Covid-19 virus, including the highly contagious and transmissible Omicron variant... All private offices shall be closed, except those which are falling under the exempted category. The practice of work from home shall be followed," it said.

Mangeshkar

Her niece Rachana Shah told The Indian Express: "She is stable and alert."

A family friend said the singer has been in good spirits.

"Ever since Covid started, the family took utmost care that visitors did not meet her. Her attendants were also regularly tested for Covid-19," this person said.

Mangeshkar, who started singing at 13, has over 30,000 songs in several Indian languages to her name in an over seven-decade career.

Considered one of Indian cinema's greatest singers, she received the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour, in 2001.

She is also the recipient of several other awards, including the Padma Bhushan, the Padma Vibhushan and the Dada Saheb Phalke Award, and multiple National Film Awards.

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Death puts focus on safety net for gig workers

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE CASE of Zomato delivery executive Salil Tripathi, who died after being knocked down by an SUV on Saturday, brings into focus the insurance policies of offered by online platforms to their delivery partners. While companies say they have been providing an insurance net to their active delivery partners, most of whom are contractual gig workers and spend a major portion of their working hours on the road typically driving two-wheelers, the safety net has become more inclusive and widespread with the onset of Covid-19 nearly two years ago.

Tripathi, according to a Zomato executive, was provided with an accidental death cover of Rs 10 lakh, as are all of Zomato's over 3 lakh delivery executives across the country. Zomato has extended this cover to its delivery partners through several insurance companies. In addition to the life cover, a Zomato official said Tripathi's family was also eligible for funeral expenses, which have already been disbursed.

"We have already initiated the claims process through our insurance partner," the executive said.

On its part, Zomato covers all of its active delivery partners through these insurance policies. On who is considered an active partner, the executive explained that any delivery executive who has completed at least one order in the preceding 14 days is deemed to be active and is provided with the benefits.

An official email query sent to Zomato did not elicit a response.

Zomato's rival Swiggy provides a Rs 6 lakh insurance cover. As per information from its website: "...all PDPs (pickup and delivery partners) and their families are covered under both

medical insurance and accident Insurance. The sum total of the insured amounts is Rs 60,000."

Shortly after the pandemic hit, and as gig workers continued to deliver essential goods, companies in this space bought fresh policy covers for their contractual workers. Flipkart, for example, had in 2020 offered a term-life cover of Rs 3 lakh to its contract employees.

According to insurance industry professionals, following the pandemic, these platform companies had bought medical and life insurance covers starting from Rs 50,000 per contract employee.

The social protection that includes cover for life will have to be made mandatory under the social security code. This incident underscores the need for the government to look at not only life cover but also broader social protection. It's not only the accident cover that is needed but also income security.

These incidents are cruel reminders to the lawmakers to amend the social security code to extend all forms of social protection beyond the conventional sectors to all kind of workers, including gig workers," labour economist and professor at XLRI, Xavier School of Management Jamshedpur, K R Shyam Sundar, told *The Indian Express*.

The Code on Wages, 2019, provides for universal minimum wage and floor wage across organised and unorganised sectors, including gig workers.

The Code on Social Security, 2020, recognises gig workers as a new occupational category. It defines them as a person who performs work or participates in work arrangement and earns from such activities, outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship, including insurance and benefits. However, these rules are yet to be enacted by the Centre.

SALIL TRIPATHI WAS KNOCKED DOWN BY POLICEMAN'S VEHICLE

Support pours in for wife and child of Zomato delivery executive, family says 'overwhelmed'

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

To make ends meet, he joined Zomato.

Salil's family said he worked 7-8 hours every day delivering food, and was earning Rs 8,000-Rs 10,000 a month based on the number of orders and the workload. Before Covid, he was earning Rs 40,000-50,000 per month at the restaurant.

He is survived by his wife Sucheta and their 10-year-old son. On Tuesday, several people reached out to the family to help in whatever way they can.

Among them was filmmaker Manish Mundra, who transferred Rs 4 lakh to Sucheta's bank account.

A man who works as a marketing director at a software company in Bangalore said he was willing to fund his son's ed-



A life in Covid: Hotel manager to delivery staff to roadside death
JIGNASA SINHA
Salil Tripathi, a Zomato delivery executive, died on January 9 after being hit by a police vehicle. His wife Sucheta and son are coping with grief and support from strangers.

Tripathi with his family; The Indian Express report dated January 11

ucation. "Salil's family must be going through a tough phase now that they have lost him. I spoke to the family and made a small contribution."

Rahul Srivastav, who owns a construction business, said, "It was heartbreaking. I contributed something so the child could

have a good education. The lockdown and Covid have affected many families."

Salil's former colleague, Sunil D'Souza (65), said he intends to start a fundraiser for the family: "I worked with him in 2010. He was an honest man, always smiling. At that time, he worked as

the head of the food and beverage section at hotel Park Plaza. He would work extra hours but never complain. I am speaking to his ex-colleagues and people in the hotel industry about a fundraiser."

The family said they were "overwhelmed" by the support being offered by strangers. Said his brother Manish: "Salil helped everyone in the family – he was taking care of his wife, son and would also send money to us in Ayodhya. I am happy people are helping Sucheta. She doesn't have a job, and has a young son. I want them to live in Delhi and have a good life."

A Zomato spokesperson said their team "is in touch with the family". "We will help them financially. There was a slight delay from the insurance partner's side but the process has been initiated." Meanwhile, the accused constable, Zile Singh (48), has been arrested, and suspended from duty. He has been booked under sections of rash driving and causing death by negligence.

Singh's MLC report mentions that when he was arrested, he had an "alleged history of alcohol intake... blurred voice". Officials said they have conducted a blood alcohol test and the sample has been sent to a forensic science lab. Results are awaited.

Pranav Tayal, DCP (Rohini), said, "Singh was posted at Budh Vihar police station and was going home when the accident took place. We are conducting a detailed investigation."

इंडियन बैंक		Indian Bank		INDIAN BANK	
		ALLAHABAD		Zonal Office, Budh Marg, Patna	
POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)					
<small>Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) and 13(12) read with Rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a Demand Notice on 02.09.2021 to the calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sec 13(4) of the said Act read with Rules 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each Account.</small>					
<small>The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned against each account herein below:</small>					
<small>The attention of borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.</small>					
Sr. No.	Name of the Branch	Name of the Account	Name of The Borrower/ Guarantor (owner of the property)	Description of the charged/ Mortgaged property (all the part & parcel of the property consisting of)	Date of Demand Notice
1.	Patna City Branch	1. M/s Maharanji Kirana Store	1. Shri Shyam Babu Singh, 2. Shri Manoj Kumar, S/o Shri Shyam Babu Singh, 3. Shri Santosh Kumar, S/o Shri Shyam Babu Singh, 4. Shri Raj Kishor Kumar, S/o Shri Shyam Babu Singh, 5. Shri Suji Kumar, S/o Shri Shyam Babu Singh.	All that part & parcel of property situated at Morcha Road, P.S - Chowk, P.O - Begumpur, Patna - 800009, M.S. Plot No - 512 & 513, Circle No - 191, Ward No - 29/36/67/53, Holding No - 57/49/169, Sheet No - 256 measuring Land Area - 03 dhur vide Registered Mortgaged Deed No - 14 dt 02.01.2013 executed by party No - 02 to 06 in favour of Erstwhile Allahabad Bank now Indian Bank, Patna City Branch in Book No - 01, Volume No - 01, CD - 1 page no - 145-152, registered with sub registry office - Patna City, Boundary :- North: Ram Babu Singh, South: PMC Lane (Gali), East: Morcha Road, West: Ram Babu Singh.	02.09.2021 06.01.2022
<small>Rs. 952955.00 (Rupees Nine Lacs fifty two thousand nine hundred fifty five Only) as on 02.09.2021 and interest, cost & charges till the date of realization.</small>					
Date : 06.01.2022 Place : Patna					
(Authorized Officer) Indian Bank					

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India

Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs), De-notified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic Tribes (DNTs), Safai Karamcharis including Waste Pickers & their dependents and transgender persons, in the age group of 18 to 45 years, are invited for free employment-oriented Skill Development Training Programmes (SDTPs) with stipend, under PM-DAKSH Yojana for Financial Year 2021-22.

Registration will be opened till 15.01.2022 .

Applications are also invited w.e.f. 01.03.2022 for the training programmes for the financial year 2022-23

Type of SDTPs: UP-skilling/Re-skilling, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes, Short Term and Long Term Training Programmes.

Interested candidates may register at pmdaksh.dosje.gov.in or on Mobile App "PMDAKSH" maybe downloaded from 'Google Play Store'

For more details call Toll-free No.:1800110396 or visit pmdaksh.dosje.gov.in, respective Corporations' website:

National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) - for SCs (Website: <https://www.nsfdc.nic.in> E-mail: support-nsfdc@nic.in)

National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBFDC) - for OBCs, EBCs and DNTs (Website: <https://nbcfdc.gov.in> E-mail: nbcfdcskilltraining@gmail.com)

National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFD) — for Safai Karamcharis including Waste Pickers & their dependents (Website: www.nskfdc.nic.in E-mail: nskfdc-msje@nic.in)

davp 38123/11/0003/2122

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Applications are invited from general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Group Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (details available at the Department website, i.e. tcpaharyana.gov.in).

PROJECT DETAILS

1. Coloniser/Developer: Sternal Buildcon Private Limited
2. Project Approval: Licence No. 63 Of 2021 Dated 01.09.2021. Building Plan Approved on 24-11-2021 Memo No. ZP-1499/AD(RA)/2021/29992
3. Location: Sector 37D, Gurugram, Haryana
4. Provisions Project Area: 814 no. of apartments available out of total 814 number of units in the housing scheme spread over 5.89 acres. As per Policy, 5% of total apartments are available for management quota and 95% of total apartments are for public. Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2000 sq ft. and One Anganwadi-cum-creche of 2000 sqft.
5. Apartment Details, Allotment Rates & Payment Terms

Category(Type)	No of Units	Carpet Area sqft (approx)	Carpet Area sqm(approx)	Balcony Area sqft(approx)	Balcony Area sqm(approx)	Allotment Rate of Apartment (all inclusive)*	With application Booking Amount 5%*	On Allotment 20%
2BHK TYPE-1	194	580.535	53.933	80.342	7.464	2518589	121912.35	507735
2BHK TYPE-2	252	588.931	54.713	80.450	7.474	2553960	123675.51	514815
2BHK TYPE-3 (2 UNIT FOR MQ)	194	597.779	55.535	89.298	8.296	2599970	125533.59	524459
2BHK TYPE-4	135	585.605	54.404	87.759	8.153	2547300	122977.05	513848
2BHK+STORE TYPE-5-MQ	29	645.603	59.978	102.656	9.537	2811533	135576.63	567307
2BHK+STORE TYPE-6-MQ	10	645.603	59.978	102.656	9.537	2811533	135576.63	567307

*Rate mentioned does not include GST and other statutory charges, Registration Fees etc.
Balance amount payable shall be equivalent to the amount payable as per the construction link payment plan of the project as applicable in terms of construction stage at relevant point of time

6. Parking: Two-wheeler parking with each apartment

7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment:
Flooring: Rooms Vitrified Tiles, Kitchen Vitrified / Ceramic Tiles, Toilet Anti-Skid Ceramic Tiles, Balcony Anti-Skid / Matt Finish Ceramic Tiles. • Windows: M.S. Sections as per IS Codes / Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Doors Frame: Red Merandi / Mild Steel/ Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Wall Tile: Ceramic Tiles till 4 Feet / 7 feet high & Oil Bound Distemper Above. • Kitchen Counter Top Green Marble / Granite • Wall: Oil Bond Distemper • Sanitary fitting: ISI marked CP Fittings, W.C & Washbasin • Electric Fitting: ISI Marked. Structure: RCC Frames Structure designed for SEISMIC forces as per latest IS code and NBC Recommendations.

8. Applications Timelines:
(i) Apply Online at TCP website ([https://edraw.tcpaharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home](http://edraw.tcpaharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home)) for submitting application for allotment of dwelling units by e-Draw, starting from date 05.01.2022. For more information, call 7053-121-121 (ii) Last Date of submission of Applications is 19.01.2022.

Eligibility: 1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.
2. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licenced colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats.
3. An applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retaining only one flat.
4. Supportive Affidavit and certificate suggesting eligibility are mandatory to be uploaded at TCP website while submitting application for allotment.
Allotment Criteria: 1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.
2. After fixing of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.
3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Group Housing Policy 2013 vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (available at the Department website, i.e., tcpaharyana.gov.in).

RERA REGISTRATION NO.:
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PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
 NUH, JANUARY 11

"KUDRAT KA jo niyam hai sehna padega (We have to bear the nation's law)," said Wali Mohammad on Tuesday, amid wails of crying, as hundreds gathered outside his house in Kangarkha village in Haryana's Nuh district on Tuesday to offer condolences on the death of four teenage girls – all from the same extended family – who were buried alive after a mound of earth caved in on them a day earlier.

Family members said that on Monday evening, Wakeela (18), Janista (18) Tasleema (11), Gulafsha (8) and Sofiya (9) had gone to fetch dry soil from a panchayat mound, typically used for tending to farm animals and to use for drying wet soil after heavy



The spot where the girls died; (right) Sher Mohammad, father of 18-year-old Wakeela, with relatives. Express



whose 8-year-old daughter Gulafsha was among the dead, said she had gone to the site to collect dry soil for the first time. "She must have tagged along with her cousins. I was returning from my shift when a relative informed me of the incident. Jab mein pahuncha woh mitti ke neeché dabi hui thi (When I reached, she was buried under the soil)," he said.

A pall of gloom descended on the village on Tuesday.

A day earlier, the Nuh district collector, sub-divisional magistrate and senior police officers had visited the family.

Wali said, "Everyone collects dry soil for use in their homes. Something like this has never happened before."

Family members said that when the girls did not return home for an hour, relatives and neighbours frantically started

searching for them, leading them to the site, about 500 metres from their house.

"There was a wedding in the village yesterday. So initially everyone suspected that they may have gone there to see the customs. Around 6.15 pm, someone found that soil had caved in and informed others. If we had known earlier, they could have been saved," said Israel, a relative.

Wali said, "One by one, three bodies were retrieved from underneath the soil and rocks by a JCB. Each time we hoped someone would survive. But, in vain."

Villagers said they would stop sending children to fetch dry soil from now on. "It used to be johad (percolation pond) where the incident took place. Frequent digging for soil made it unsafe. We never imagined something like this could happen," said the sarpanch.

suitors on Tuesday to get married.

Her father Sher Mohammad, a taxi driver, said, "His family was supposed to come meet her to-

day. Such is the fate that they attended her funeral."

Her family said she dropped out of school after class 8 and

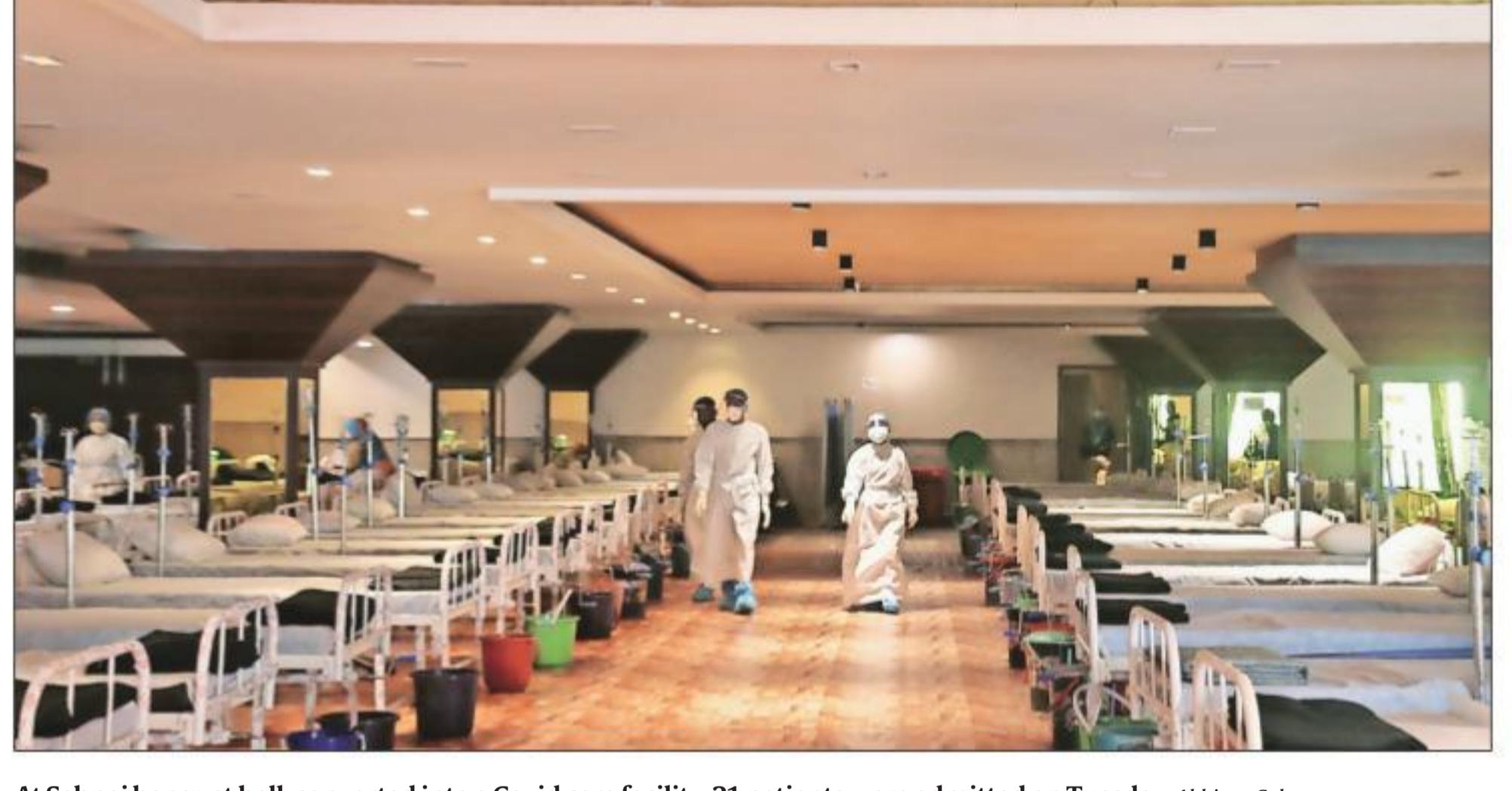
had been helping her mother run the household ever since. "Before I left for work at noon yesterday, she served me lunch

and we talked. I never knew I wouldn't see her again," said her father.

Hamid, a security guard,

Restrictions will be lifted as cases decline, says Kejriwal

Of 136 Covid patients at Lok Nayak, 130 came for treatment of other illnesses



At Sehrai banquet hall, converted into a Covid care facility, 21 patients were admitted on Tuesday. Abhinav Saha

GAYATHRI MANI
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

INDICATING THAT the current Covid wave is milder and fewer patients are requiring hospitalisation, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday said that of the 136 Covid patients currently at Lok Nayak Hospital, just six came in for treatment of the virus, while the rest were hospitalised for other diseases but also tested positive for Covid, he said.

Kejriwal also said there will be no lockdown in the national capital and all restrictions will be gradually lifted as and when the cases and fatality rate decrease.

"There is no plan to impose a lockdown in Delhi. We are imposing these restrictions out of compulsion. This is being done only for your safety. If we impose restrictions, the livelihood of people will be affected and without curbs, cases will increase. As a result, we need to strike a balance," Kejriwal told the media after examining treatment facili-

YOGA CLASSES FOR PATIENTS UNDER HOME ISOLATION



The government will start special yoga classes virtually from Wednesday for Covid patients under home isolation to help them recover from the disease, CM Arvind Kejriwal said. "Yoga and pranayam help improve the body's immunity and strength. We are starting online classes for these people. Instructors are being specially trained to teach yoga asanas that will help Covid patients," Kejriwal said. ENS

ICU/oxygen beds if the need arises."

"There are enough beds, oxygen, medicines (at LNJP Hospital). The number of people being admitted is less as compared to the second wave," he said.

Kejriwal said around 22,000 Covid patients admitted to the hospital have recovered so far. "It is the only hospital in Delhi that provides treatment to pregnant women. It has not denied admission to any woman and has so far treated 700 pregnant women, including Covid positive patients."

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority had on Monday decided to close restaurants and bars for dining but allowed takeaway and delivery of food. On Tuesday, it announced the shutting of all private offices, except those involved in essential activities.

The government has also requested the Centre to impose similar curbs in NCR regions, including Ghaziabad, Noida and Gurgaon.

NEARLY TWO years after the death of 23-year-old Faizan, who was seen in a video lying injured on the ground as security personnel forced him to sing Vande Mataram and the national anthem during the 2020 Delhi riots, the police on Tuesday informed the Delhi High Court that they have identified and questioned a head constable in the case.

The single-judge bench of Justice Mukta Gupta, however, questioned the delay in probing the case, and asked: "It has been two years, you have been able to just identify some person?" While adjourning the case for hearing on February 22, the court also sought a detailed status report on the investigation and directed the DCP and investigating officer to remain present on that day.

Faizan died in a hospital on February 26, 2020, a day after his release from a police station, where he was taken after he had been allegedly assaulted by policemen on 66 Foota Road in Northeast Delhi and, along with four others, was forced to sing Vande Mataram and the national anthem.

During the hearing of a petition filed by Faizan's mother Kismatun for a court-monitored SIT probe into her son's death, Justice Gupta said it should not have taken two years to identify the policemen. The court also asked why the cyber cell has not been able to trace the origin of the video.

Inspector Pankaj Arora, the initial investigating officer, submitted that police found head constable Ravinder had made

death, were preserved. Last year, the police had told the court that the cameras were not working between February 24 and March 4, 2020, due to technical reasons and that there was no tampering involved.

"I want all answers in my status report," said Justice Gupta, while asking the police to submit details about the exact time when the cameras stopped functioning. The bench also questioned whether statements of other injured victims have been recorded. Last year, the police in a written response had told the court that they are trying to ascertain the identity of personnel seen in the video and that only one policeman has been "pinpointed on probable basis".

"He was made to undergo a lie detector test which revealed that what he is saying is 'deceptive'. He also had a smoke gun, which is visible in the video..." Arora submitted.

Arora also told the court that Ravinder has not revealed names of other cops. However, the court was told that a forensic expert has given a report that Ravinder was the person making the video. "We have also taken his voice samples and sent them to FSL. The report is awaited," Arora told the court.

Justice Gupta asked whether the cyber expert had said anything about height, body stature or the policemen visible in the video. The court also said the police department would know the identity of the personnel who were deployed on the date of the incident. "You can zero down easily. How much time will the identification take place?" asked the court.

The court also asked whether CCTV footage of Jyoti Nagar Police Station, where Faizan was allegedly detained before his

'Umar defence wants to equate case with The Trial of Chicago 7'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11


Umar Khalid is accused in 'larger conspiracy' case

COURT ACQUITS 4

New Delhi: Acquitting four men facing trial for loot and arson at Muslim houses during the Northeast Delhi riots, a Delhi court tore into police witnesses in the case, calling their testimony "intensely doubtful". The ASJ acquitted Dinesh, Sahil, Sandeep and Tinku in a judgement passed on January 7. "This court feels absolute loath to place any trust upon the testimony of PW-8 (constable Vipin) & PW-12 (head constable Sanoj) on aspect of identification of the accused as rioters," the ASJ said.

is based on the 1984 riots. You want to refer to Family Man and Chicago 7 since they are popular," the SPP said. Prasad said it was "unfortunate" that Pais called the investigating agency communal. "Investigating agency is not of a particular person but a state. We have to reach out to the same investigating agency if we have a problem. The first conviction in the riots case was of a Hindu," he told the court.

High Court deliberates whether IPC Section 375 should cover non-consensual sex with wife

SOFIA AHSEN
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday observed that the nature of a relationship cannot put it on a different pedestal when it comes to dealing with cases of marital rape.

The court was hearing a bunch of petitions which challenge the legal exception that protects men who have forced, non-consensual intercourse with their wives. During the hearing, the Delhi government submitted that though the exception to IPC section 375 (rape) does not criminalise the act of unwilling intercourse with a spouse, it does not compel a wife to remain with or have sexual intercourse against her will with

her husband.

Advocate Nandita Rao, representing the government, also submitted that a woman has the remedy of divorce on the grounds of cruelty, and she can register a criminal case under IPC Section 498A or other provisions. "It is not a crime under 375 doesn't mean that I can't say no. It doesn't even mean that I cannot criminalise the act and send the man to jail. The only thing is the sections applicable to a married couple are different," submitted Rao, adding that a woman is not left without a remedy.

However, the division bench of Justice Rajiv Shukla and Justice Chari Shankar appeared unconvinced with the submission and said that section 375 deals with the situation where

the offence of rape has already taken place, and the exception creates a firewall in cases of married couples.

"375 deals with a situation where rape has occurred. 375 then says that when there is a marriage, the offence does not attract. Of course, nothing can compel... The state or a provision in a statute can't compel anyone to do something if she or doesn't want to do anything. The point is it has happened in a sense that if someone is unwilling and someone doesn't give consent, the man imposes himself," said Justice Shukla, adding that the man does not face penal consequences because of the exception.

Justice Shukla added that the argument is that the nature of a relationship cannot put it on

a different pedestal. "Woman remains a woman... You can show us sections but jurisdiction after jurisdiction has held that merely because you are married, it is not good enough to say it is not an offence. You want to persuade us that because she is married and there are other provisions in the law, she can only recourse to that, but cannot call him out for rape under 375," added the court.

Rao submitted that the court will have to come to a conclusion that the alternative remedy is inadequate to protect her dignity, and the exception in law is an intrinsic assault on her dignity. The court asked whether 50 countries have got it wrong. "Why is it so different for a non-married woman? It affects non-married women's dignity but doesn't af-

fect the married woman's dignity? What is the answer to that," it added.

When the court cited a situation where a man "brutalises" a woman who is on her menstrual cycle, despite her stating that she is not in a condition to have sex, and asked whether it does not violate her dignity, Rao responded that it is an offence.

"But not under 375," submitted the government counsel. "The act of forced sexual intercourse is a crime whether it is a wife or a live-in partner or stranger... the language of 375... legislature has drafted it in a way does not make it an offence."

The petitioners before the court have earlier argued that the exception violates Article 14 as it differentiates between a married and unmarried woman.

"The ultimate idea was to overrule the government and undermine the authority of the government, which enacted CAA, and destabilise democracy. Idea was to bring the government to its knees and withdraw CAA," he said. Prasad also addressed the argument put forth by Khalid's lawyer, senior advocate Trideep Pais, that the chargesheet was the "fertile imagination of the investigating officer" and that it felt like the script of a web series.

"He wants the present case to be decided based on web series and wants to equate (it) with Trial of Chicago 7 and Family Man. When you don't have merit, you want to create headlines. What happens with all this? You create a perception... Family Man is not related to riots... There is another show called Graham which

ADVERTORIAL

Epistle of Handsome Oriental

On the 159th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, Dr SC Vats revisits the teachings of the great monk



As we celebrate 159th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, it's time to revisit the teachings of the wandering monk in the context of the current mood of the nation. Swamiji worked on three premises - social discipline, patriotism and belongingness.

At the epochal Parliament of the World's Religions, which had opened on 11 September 1893 at the Art Institute of Chicago as part of the World's Columbian Exposition, Swami Vivekananda gave a brief speech representing India and Hinduism. He began his dialogue with those famous lines, "Sisters and Brothers of America!" At these words, Swamiji received a two-minute standing ovation from the crowd of 7000 delegates. When silence was restored he began his address, greeting the youngest of the nations on behalf of "the most ancient order of monks in the world, the Vedic order of *san-nayasis*, a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance."

The short discourse by Swami Vivekananda voiced the spirit of the Parliament.

On hearing Swamiji, Parliament President John Henry Barrows said, "India, the Mother of religions is represented by Swami Vivekananda, the Orange-monk who exercised the most wonderful influence over his auditors." Vivekananda attracted widespread attention in the press, which called him the "cyclonic monk from India."

Vivekananda's speeches at the Parliament had the common theme of universality, emphasising religious tolerance. He soon became known as a "handsome oriental" and made a huge impact as an orator.

After the Parliament of Religions, he toured many parts of the US delivering lectures on the "life and religion to thousands."

Vivekananda spent nearly two years lecturing in the eastern and central United States, primarily in Chicago, Detroit, Boston and New York.



He founded the Vedanta Society of New York in 1894. During one such session at Brooklyn Ethical Society, he remarked, "I have a message to the West as Buddha had a message to the East." During another such session he said, "I do not come to convert you to a new belief. I want you to keep your own belief; I want to make the Methodist a better Methodist; the Presbyterian a better Presbyterian; the Unitarian a better Unitarian. I want to teach you to live the truth, to reveal the light within your own soul."

Many decades later, looking for that within my own soul, in the lap of the Himalayas I came face-to-face with Swami Jitmananda.

It was in the year 1997 that I met Swami Jitmanandaji, an eminent educationist, management expert, author of books, *Modern Physics & Vedanta* and *Indian Ethos in Management*, an active social worker and the editor of *Prabuddha Bharat* (Awakened India), a journal started by Swami Vivekananda.

This was not my first interface with Swami Vivekananda's legacy. I was initiated as a disciple by Swami Bhuteshananda, then president of the Rama Krishna Mission order, way back in 1977. Since then discourses by knowledgeable monks like Swami Ranganathananda, Swami Swami Budhananda, Swami Vandanananda and Swami Gokulananda at Shyamalata Ashram, Almora Ashram and

Mayavati Ashram kept me greatly engaged with Swamiji's intellectual and spiritual inheritance. I drew immense satisfaction serving at the RK Mission Ashram in Delhi as part of the managing committee.

As the destiny ordained under a silver oak tree at "Advait Ashram" in Mayawati in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, vibrating thoughts flowed from Swami Jitmananda's lips in the balmiyaroma of the dense pine and fir forest and he almost gave a diktat to me to set up an Institute, for higher learning in the capital city of India, in the name of Swami Vivekananda, to me and several others, a prophet and a path finder.

It was a gigantic task that fell upon my shoulders. But resolved as I was, I returned to Delhi and in a couple of months' time sold my ancestral house and from the sales proceed of that house seed capital was created, which was so very important for establishing a new Institute with high ideals.

In order to give shape to Swamiji's dreams, I rolled out a road map. As a first step, I held brain storming session with eminent scholars and people from academia along with some legal luminaries and retired civil servants. The brain child of which was a society for Total Revival of Nation, thus called the Society for Total Revival and National Glory and True Heritage (STRENGTH), which was later registered in 1998, as a charitable soci-

ety under the Registration of Societies Act of 1860, with a mission of making Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS) an ideal educational Institution with the clear objective of "Man Making, Character Building, Nation Building" as envisaged by Swami Vivekananda.

"INDIA, THE MOTHER OF RELIGIONS IS REPRESENTED BY SWAMI VIVEKANANDA, THE ORANGE-MONK WHO EXERCISED THE MOST WONDERFUL INFLUENCE OVER HIS AUDITORS"

Many years after Swami Vivekananda had passed away, Noble laureate Rabindranath Tagore told his French counterpart Romain Rolland, "If you want to know India, study Vivekananda. In him everything is positive and nothing negative."

Swamiji's writings impressed several other western intellectuals. He communicated with orientalist Max Müller, and scientist Nikola Tesla, who were influenced by his Vedic teachings. American industrialist John D Rockefeller is said to have made his first large donation for public welfare and later became a notable philanthropist after a

meeting with Vivekananda. Swamiji laconically explained to Rockefeller that his philanthropy could be a channel to help the poor and distressed people.

He inspired India's first modern corporate honcho, Jamsetji Tata to set-up Indian Institute of Science. In 1893, during the journey from Yokohama to Canada on the ship *Empress*, Vivekananda met Jamsetji Tata who was also going to Chicago. During the conversation Vivekananda told Tata about the necessity of establishing a world class scientific Institution in India and this encouraged Tata to establish the Indian Institute of Science, which gradually has become India's best-known research university.

My endeavour is a small step in that direction; to take VIPS to the level of eminence which IIS has achieved but not in just one field of research but with an interdisciplinary approach towards education. That's what had Swamiji ordained - Eastern Wisdom Must Meet Western Science.

Swami Vivekananda's writings inspired a generation of leaders of freedom struggle including Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Aurobindo Ghose, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bagha Jatin. Kamala Nehru was an initiated disciple of the order, so is our Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On 6 February 1921, Mahatma Gandhi came to Belur Math and



VIPS
योगः कर्मसु कौशलम्
IN PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

these great social philosophical treatises. Gandhian reformer and Bhoodan Movement's driving force Acharya Vinoba Bhave praised Vivekananda's contribution in making the Indians conscious of their strength and said that Swamiji showed them their shortcomings and defects and also taught them to overcome these.

Inspired by these ideals, we at the VIPS have adopted Swamiji's ideas and ideals in the field of education. Vivekananda believed education is the manifestation of perfection already in human beings. He thought it a pity that the existing system of education did not enable a person to stand on her/his own feet, nor did it teach her/him self-confidence and self-respect.

To Vivekananda, education was not only collection of information, but something more meaningful; he felt education should be ***man-making, life giving and character-building***. To him education was an assimilation of noble ideas.

Swami Vivekananda prescribed 'positive' education. He said, if young boys and girls are encouraged and are not unnecessarily criticized, they were bound to improve.

He also told the youth: "Set yourselves to the task of spreading education among the masses. Tell them and make them understand, you are our brothers-a part and parcel of our bodies, and we love you and never hate you." These are the ideas we try to inculcate at Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies through innovative teaching-learning process and imbibing ideals of social responsibility.

To us at Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS), work is like journey towards discovering our inner self; ***man-making, life giving and character-building*** the destination.

(The writer is Founder & Chairman, Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies [VIPS], Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi)



FREE ONLINE YOGA CLASSES FOR COVID PATIENTS IN HOME ISOLATION

- Yoga to boost immunity for COVID-19 infected people in home isolation
- Yoga instructors trained to facilitate COVID-19 care
- Anyone who tests positive will receive a registration link from the Department of Health
- Sign up using the link in the message sent by Department of Health



दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Directorate of AYUSH, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi





HASHTAG POLITICS



• TMC launches Goa campaign song

Trinamool Congress Goa unit released the party's campaign song today with #GoenchiNaviSakal.

"Goa is chanting in one voice... 'Don Fulanco Kaal, Goenchi Navi Sakal'. Presenting to you the official campaign song of Goa Trinamool Congress, Goa Election 2022, 'Goenchi Navi Sakal'. This song celebrates Goa and the Goenkar spirit, getting set to usher in a New Dawn in Goa."

639 LIKES, 422 RETWEETS IN 10 HOURS

• Channi explains why Punjabis are 'famous'

In a short video clip, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi said, "The reason why we Punjabis are famous around the globe is that we return double the love we receive. We fight for our Punjab and can stand against the world for its integrity."

12.3 K LIKES, 222 RETWEETS IN 11 HOURS

• RLD woos farmers, Dalits

In a series of tweets, Rashtriya Lok Dal (@RLDparty) criticised the Yogi government over 'violence against Dalits across the state', and promised 'to get respect for farmers'.

BALLOTIN



In Lucknow, Tuesday. With rallies banned due to rising Covid-19 cases, BJP has launched a door-to-door campaign. Courtesy: Twitter/BJP's Swatantra Dev Singh

Opp flays Yogi over '80-20' quip

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday hit out at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over his remark that the assembly polls in the state will be about '80 per cent vs 20 per cent', and urged the youth to make the election about issues such as employment and education. Opposition leaders said the CM's comment pointed to the ratio of Hindus and Muslims in UP, and was an attempt to polarise voters. Making such remarks is a way to divert attention, Priyanka wrote on Twitter, adding: "...make the UP polls, an election of issues such as employment and education."

Manipur sets up SIT over killings

The Manipur government on Tuesday constituted a SIT to probe alleged political killings of two people, including a BJP worker in Samruddha, Imphal West, according to a police order. The victims, Abujam John and Abujam Sashikanta, were shot by unknown armed assailants on Sunday night. John was a close aide of Manipur Agriculture Minister O Lukhoin and Sashikanta was a havildar in the India Reserve Battalion. They later succumbed to their injuries during treatment.

— ENS & Agencies

Farm leader Rajewal may contest from Samrala seat

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 11

PROMINENT FARM leader Balbir Singh Rajewal is likely to contest the Punjab election from Samrala Assembly constituency in Ludhiana district as a candidate of the Samyukta Samaj Morcha (SSM) - the political outfit floated by several farmer unions after the end of their year-long agitation.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (Mansa) president Ruldu Singh is also expected to fight the election from Mansa.

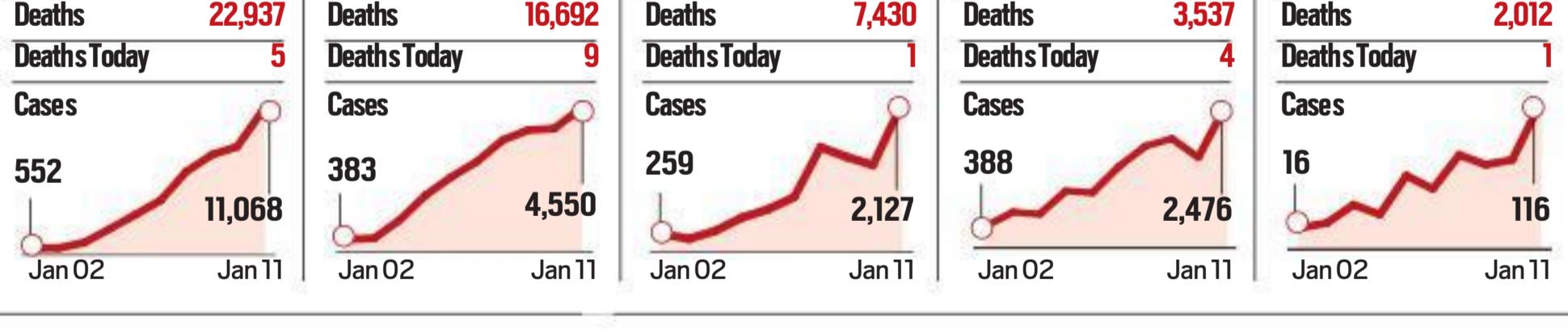
A senior leader of the SSM told *The Indian Express* on Tuesday that a formal list of the candidates will be released soon, but Rajewal and Ruldu's seats are almost final.

When asked, Rajewal - the president of BKU (Rajewal) - did not deny the possibility and said: "My home is in Samrala."

Rajewal is also a key face of the SSM, which was formed last month after nearly two dozen farmer unions that had spearheaded the agitation against the central laws announced that they will fight all 117 seats in Punjab. The state votes to elect its next government on February 14.



TRACKING COVID IN ELECTION-BOUND STATES



RELIGION & POLITICS

Top Jathedars pitch for SAD threatens his credibility

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, JANUARY 11

LOCATED OPPOSITE the Golden Temple, the Akal Takht serves as the supreme seat of the Sikh faith's power. And in its present Jathedars, it has a head who was until recently seen as someone who could take different panthic factions along. But as Punjabi heads to polls, Jathedars like Giani Harpreet Singh have batted for the Badals-led Akali Dal in a way that has dented the popular perception about him.

At a 'panthic ikat' held on January 2 at Golden Temple by SAD to protest the incident of sacrilege, the Jathedars called the party the political body of Khalsa Panth. He then urged the community to strengthen Akal Takht and SGPC, adding that "the SAD will get stronger automatically". His

words drew flak from the Congress, who pointed to allegations in the sacrilege cases against the Badals. This is not the first time that Giani Harpreet Singh has thrown his weight behind SAD. In 2020, while speaking during an event to mark the 100th foundation day of the SGPC in Harimandir Sahib complex, he had given a call to SAD to start a journey "from Punjab to Panth" in presence of party chief Sukhbir Badal. During the same SGPC event, he had attacked the BJP government at the Centre, calling it "EVM-elected government".

More recently, the Jathedars confronted Congress MP Abhishek Singhvi on social media as the latter called for "strict action against all who took law into their own hand". The Congress MP was speaking about the killing of the sacrilege accused in Harimandir Sahib.



Jathedars of Akali Takht
Giani Harpreet Singh

VOTING ON
FEBRUARY 14

While SAD had remained defensive on the sacrilege issue ever since 2015, it was Giani Harpreet Singh who openly backed the party's narrative of a political conspiracy. Holding his first briefing as Akal Takht Jathedars in July,

2021, six years after the Bargari sacrilege incident, the Jathedars alleged there were political reasons behind Dera Sacha Sauda head not being questioned in the case. It was first time that an Akal Takht Jathedars had taken a strong stand on sacrilege issue.

Then on July 26, 2021, he invited former DIG Ranbir Singh Khatra, who probed the 2015 Bargari sacrilege case, to the Akal Takht secretariat to address the meeting of Sikh bodies. It once again gave SAD an opportunity to push its political narrative.

Most importantly, the biggest shot in the arm for SAD in run-up to the polls - return of Ranbir Singh Brahmpura, who had quit SAD in 2018, to its fold - came on the day the Akal Takht Jathedars ranted to all Sikh bodies to close ranks to face the challenges before community. Not long ago in December last

year, there were pictures of CM Charanjit Singh Channi touching the Jathedars' feet. During that meeting, Channi was even reported to have got a patient hearing to his request to end monopoly of a Badals' controlled channel in broadcasting gurbani from the Golden Temple. On October 10, he was the priest conducting ceremonies at the wedding of the CM's son.

But it is not just Channi, Giani Harpreet Singh, who was made the officiating Jathedars in 2018, is known to share friendly terms with other panthic leaders as well. He was seen as a "bold Jathedars" who attacked SAD, called for a ban on RSS and defended pro-Khalistan slogans during the 36th Operation Blue Star anniversary inside the Golden Temple premises. But his support to SAD now threatens to ruin the goodwill earned by him.

Not worried, ready for MLAs denied tickets leaving: BJP

Central leadership asks party to reach out to Swami Prasad Maurya

leave," said a BJP leader.

A senior BJP functionary said Maurya was keen on a ticket not just for his son Utkrist from Unchahar in Rae Bareli district, but as many as 22 others.

"Maurya gave the BJP a list of around 22 leaders, demanding tickets for them. The party was in no mood to do so, though it was ready to field Maurya from his seat of Padrauna," said a BJP leader.

On BJP MLA from Nanpara Madhuri Verma, who joined the SP a few days ago, a BJP leader in Bahraich said: "The BJP had expelled her husband Dilip Verma last year for indiscipline during panchayat polls. Hence she was not active in the BJP any more."

A BJP leader similarly played down MLA from Bilsi RK Sharma switching over to the SP on Monday, saying Sharma had got the feedback that he was going to be denied a ticket for the coming polls. Earlier, BJP MLA from Khalilabad Jay Chaubey and Sitapur MLA Rakesh Rathore had joined the SP. When asked why Maurya and other MLAs were leaving, MLC and BJP state vice-president Vijay Bahadur Pathak said, "The reason is Swami Prasad Maurya to give his reasons. The BJP always gave respect to him and accommodated him."

Another senior party leader said, "Around 10-12 more MLAs may quit the BJP in the coming days because the party is likely to deny them tickets following adverse reports from the ground. The BJP is ready for that situation, with better candidates..."

also set to vote on February 14. In 2017, SP's Azam Khan won from here for his eighth term, before getting elected to the Lok Sabha from Rampur in 2019. His wife Tazeen Fatima is the sitting MLA.

In Badaun district, the BJP received a jolt on Monday when party MLA from Bilsi, RK Sharma, joined the SP. Badaun has been an SP stronghold in the past but in 2017, the BJP won five of the six seats here.

Shahjahanpur is another significant district in the region where Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently laid the foundation stone for an ambitious 594-km Ganga Expressway. In 2017, BJP won five seats in Shahjahanpur, barring Jalalabad, where Adityanath visited a few weeks ago as part of the BJP's special focus on seats the party lost in 2017.

The SP bastion of Rampur is

After a day of waiting, Lobo joins Cong with wife

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, JANUARY 11

FORMER GOA minister and two-time BJP MLA Micheal Lobo was inducted into the Congress on Tuesday evening, a day after he quit the Bharatiya Janata Party.

This came hours after he said he was still in discussions with his supporters over which party to join. Besides Lobo, his wife Delilah Lobo, who is Sarpanch of the Parra village panchayat, and several of their supporters were inducted into the party. The ceremony put to rest speculation over the party rethinking Lobo's entry.

Lobo was the first minister in the Pramod Sawant-led government to leave the BJP ahead of the February 14 Assembly polls. At his induction at the Congress House in Panaji, Lobo said the Congress-Goa Forward Party combine would win over 22 seats in the 40-member House.

"We have joined in the interest of Goa. The way forward for the people of Goa is only the Congress," Lobo said.

He said Sawant who has repeatedly said "22 in 22" (22 seats in the 2022 election), was, in fact, speaking for the Congress. "We will definitely win more than 22 seats," Lobo, who severed his 15-year ties with the BJP on Monday, said: "When I was deputy Speaker



Michael Lobo (right) and his wife Delilah joined the Congress on Tuesday. Courtesy: Congress/Twitter

VOTING ON FEBRUARY 14

I had taken a very strong stand. Defection has to end. You cannot switch sides. You have to resign."

Congress Goa desk-in-charge Dinesh Gundu Rao said: "A very strong, powerful grass-root leader is joining the Congress party... A big force has entered the Congress party."

On Tuesday, former Maharashtra Gomantak Party MLA Lavoo Mamledar also joined Congress, two weeks after he quit the Trinamool Congress. Among the first batch of Goa leaders to be inducted into the TMC, Mamledar had quit alleging that the TMC-MGP combine was trying to divide Goans on the basis of religion".



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



LS Speaker Om Birla interacts with Parliament officials on Tuesday during his visit to review preparations for the Budget Session. PTI

GETTING HOUSE IN ORDER

WITH MANY Parliament staff members testing positive for coronavirus, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla have directed the secretaries-general of both Houses to examine in detail the prevailing scenario and suggest effective measures at the earliest for safe conduct of the coming Budget Session. They have sought a review of the adequacy of Covid-19 protocols followed during the Winter Session. The 2020 Monsoon Session was the first full session held under Covid-19 protocols, with Rajya Sabha meeting in the first half of the day and Lok Sabha in the latter half, and MPs were seated across the chambers of the two Houses and galleries to maintain adequate distance. These protocols were followed for the first part of the 2021 Budget Session, but returned to normal timings after the second part of the session – the members sat in chambers and galleries of their respective Houses.

Criminal law revamp: Shah asks CJI, MPs, CMs for views

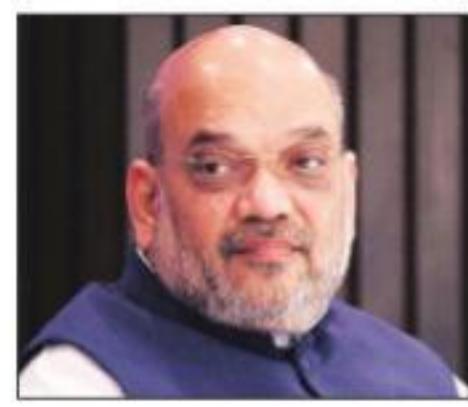
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

KICKING OFF the process for a "comprehensive review" of India's criminal laws to create what he called a "people-centric legal structure", Union Home Minister Amit Shah has sought suggestions from within the judiciary, including the Chief Justice of India, MPs and Chief Ministers for amendments to the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act.

In a letter dated December 31, 2021, Shah also requested the Chief Justices of High Courts, Administrators of Union Territories, Bar Councils and law universities to send their suggestions.

Shah wrote in his letter that the Union Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi "is committed to ensure speedy justice to all the citizens of India, especially those belonging to the weaker and backward sections".

"In conformity with these constitutional and democratic aspirations, the Government of India has resolved to make comprehensive changes in the framework of



Union Home Minister
Amit Shah

criminal laws. The experience of seven decades of Indian democracy calls for comprehensive review of our criminal laws especially the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1973, and the Indian Evidence Act 1872 and adapt them in accordance with the contemporary needs and aspirations of our people," the letter stated.

In July last year, the Ministry of Home Affairs set up a five-member committee to review criminal laws -- from criminalising marital rape and making sexual offences gender neutral to revising the sedition charge. The committee, headed by

Dr Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor of National Law University, Delhi, had sought a round of online public and expert consultation on substantive and procedural criminal law and evidence. In a questionnaire with 49 questions, the committee also asked if fresh modes of punishment must be introduced. The committee is yet to submit its report.

In his letter, Shah called the "endeavour of bringing about a paradigm shift in the criminal justice system" an "enormous exercise of public participation, which can only be successful with the participation of all stakeholders".

He added that the Home Ministry "intends to make comprehensive amendments in criminal laws after receiving suggestions from various stakeholders".

Calling the Parliament "one of the three important pillars of democracy", he said that MPs have a "significant role in law making process" and mentioned that their suggestions "will be invaluable in this exercise".

The letter did not give any specific timeline for the review process, but called for MPs to send their suggestions regarding the amendments "at the earliest".



NCP chief Sharad Pawar at a press conference in Mumbai on Tuesday. Ganesh Shirsekar

Tie-up with SP for UP; talks on for Goa: Pawar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 11

NATIONALIST CONGRESS Party (NCP) CHIEF Sharad Pawar said on Tuesday that his party will contest the coming Uttar Pradesh elections in alliance with the Samajwadi Party (SP) even as he claimed that some BJP legislators were set to join Akhilesh Yadav's party soon. He also said that talks are on with "like-minded parties" to take on the BJP together in next month's Goa Assembly elections.

"We have formalised an alliance with Samajwadi Party and other regional allies for the state. A formal meeting of the parties will be held in Lucknow on Wednesday in which seat-shar-

ing will be formalised," Pawar said while addressing reporters.

Alleging that communal polarisation was on in Uttar Pradesh, he said, "The people of Uttar Pradesh will give a befitting reply to this." While responding to a question on UP minister Swami Prasad Maurya resigning from the BJP and joining the SP, Pawar said, "Thirteen BJP MLAs are going to join the SP."

Elaborating on the plans for another poll-bound state, Goa, he said, "NCP leader Praful Patel and Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut are talking with the local Congress leaders there."

The NCP chief said his party will also contest elections in Manipur. "The NCP will contest five seats in Manipur with the Congress," he said.

Madras HC sets aside over 50% women's quota in Chennai civic body

Chennai: Madras High Court on Tuesday set aside a government order providing over and above 50% reservation for women in elections to Greater Chennai Corporation. The order came on a petition challenging the validity of a 2019 order.

The petition filed by R Parthiban was about amendments brought in by the state government in 2016 to municipal laws, including Chennai City Corporation Act, to provide 50% reservation to women in local body elections. In 2019, a Government Order was issued, reserving 16 seats of Chennai Corporation for Scheduled Castes, 16 for Scheduled Tribes and 89 for women in general category.

The bench of Acting Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhadrani and Justice P D Audisavali, which passed the order, also directed the state election commission to restrict reservations of seats for women in urban local bodies to 50%, as mandated in law.

The petitioner submitted that 105 of 200 seats in the Corporation have been allocated to women. He argued this allocation is unconstitutional and a discrimination against men. ENS

ERA ERROR

THE PRESS Information Bureau's fortnightly magazine, New India Samachar's January 1-15 issue may have largely gone unnoticed until Tuesday, when the PIB tweeted from its official handle a page from the latest issue. The article, part of its cover report "Towards a golden era", has mentioned two well-known Hindu personalities as contributors to the Bhakti movement, which the article said "served as a precursor to the revolt of 1857". Of the three people mentioned, Swami Vivekanand and Ramana Maharshi were not even born by 1857. While Vivekanand was born in 1863, Maharshi was born in 1879. The mistake, mentioned under the "golden period" in the article, was pointed out by many on social media. The tweet by PIB, sharing the page, on Tuesday mentioned that there was "great participation of the common man in freedom movement" but many have been forgotten.

PLEA BY MAHARASHTRA BJP MLAs

House can't suspend member for more than 59 days, says SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

without its permission for a period of 60 days, the House may declare the seat vacant.

The bench said it will accept the arguments of the petitioner's counsel, senior advocate Siddharth Bhatnagar, that the "decision is worse than expulsion". It remarked that the "consequences are dreadful", as "none can represent these constituencies" in the absence of the elected MLAs.

The House is also governed by the Constitution and fundamental rights," the bench said. It added that going beyond the period permitted is "not punishing the member but punishing the constituency as a whole". Adjourning the hearing, the court said it will pass a brief order soon.

Senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, also representing the petitioners, pointed to the suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs and said it was only for the remainder of the session. There is the constituency and constituent rights as well, he said.

Appearing for the state of Maharashtra, senior advocate Arayama Sundaram said the House was acting within its legislative competence and that legislature is not subject to jurisdiction of the courts when it comes to procedural irregularities. The bench did not seem to agree.

Majithia: PM's security breach a conspiracy by the Cong govt



NAVJEEVAN GOPAL
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 11

Bikram Singh Majithia

can harm him on the way.... I would only say that if diversions can be planned for PPCC chief and the CM, and are not done for PM, it was well planned to embarrass BJP."

Addressing the media in Chandigarh after being on the run for 21 days, Majithia, while suspecting an "assassination" attempt on the PM, said it was "grace of God" that nothing happened. Responding to a query, he said he had not seen the CM or the PPCC president "sitting on road for 15-20 minutes".

Majithia said the DGPhimself gave clearance, but was "absent" when Modi took to the road route. Such a lapse never occurred under previous PMs Manmohan Singh, Inder Kumar Gujral and H D Deve Gowda, he said.

VACCINE FOR ALL FREE FOR ALL

Haryana has started vaccination of adolescents falling in the age group of 15 to 18 years and booster dose for elderly persons above 60 years of age

Get Vaccinated, Stay Safe
Visit www.cowin.gov.in to register and get full details

TOGETHER LET US DEFEAT COVID-19, GET YOURSELF VACCINATED

Thank You PM Modi!

Corona Will Lose, India Will Win

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in | [@DiprHaryana](https://www.facebook.com/DiprHaryana)

Lakhimpur
Kheri violence:
Minister's kin
first to get bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 11

UNION MINISTER Ajay Mishra's relative Virendra Shukla has obtained bail from a court in Lakhimpur Kheri in a case related to the death of four farmers and a journalist in the district's Tikonia area last October. An SIT probing the case has named Shukla in its chargesheet, accusing him of destroying evidence.

Senior prosecuting officer SP Yadav on Tuesday said the SIT filed the chargesheet last week, following which a notice was served on Shukla. On Monday, the Pallia block pramukh surrendered before the local court that granted him bail.

Shukla is among the 14 people the SIT has named in its chargesheet, and the first and only person to receive bail in the case. Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra is also among the accused.

According to Yadav, Shukla has been booked under IPC section 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving information to screen offender). The others face various charges such as murder and criminal conspiracy.

The SIT has said during investigation it found a convoy of three SUVs, including a Thar belonging to Ajay Mishra, ran over a group of farmers assembled at the Tikonia crossing. The protesters set ablaze the Thar and a Fortuner belonging to accused Ankit Das, the nephew of former MP Akhilesh Das.

The driver of the third SUV escaped with his vehicle. According to the SIT, the third vehicle belongs to Shukla and he hid it after the incident. The vehicle is now in the agency's possession.

SC no to Bihar's appeals against liquor case bails

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

IN A jolt to the Bihar government, the Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed its batch of appeals challenging grant of anticipatory and regular bails to accused under the state's stringent liquor law, saying these matters have choked courts and 14-15 Patna high court judges are hearing these cases only.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana rejected the contention of the Bihar government that guidelines be framed to ensure reasoned bail orders are passed taking into account the quantity of liquor seized from an accused.

"You know how much impact this law (The Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016) has created in the working of the Patna High Court and it is taking one year to get a matter listed there and all the courts are choked with the liquor bail matters," the chief justice said.

"I have been told that 14-15 high court judges are hearing these bail matters every day and no other matters are being taken up," Justice Ramana observed.

The observations assume significance as the CJI recently at a function at Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh had referred to the Bihar liquor prohibition law and had said it has resulted in filing of a lot of bail applications in courts and the state high court.

Suspended IPS officer held after six months on the run

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAJPIUR, JANUARY 11

SUSPENDED IPS officer G P Singh, who was absconding for almost six months after being booked on charges of disproportionate assets and sedition, was on Tuesday taken into custody by the state Economic Offence Wing.

A 1994-batch officer, Singh was earlier Additional Director General of the Anti Corruption Bureau and also served as Inspector General, Raipur. He was posted as head of the police training academy before being suspended on July 5.

After his appeal for a stay on investigation and arrest warrants against him before the High Court and later Supreme

Mumbai records 11,647 fresh cases, 4th straight day of fall

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, JANUARY 11

THE DOWNWARD spiral of Covid cases continued for the fourth day running in Mumbai with the city registering 11,647 cases on Tuesday. This corresponds with a dip in the daily positivity rates which fell from 23 per cent on Monday to 18.7 per cent on Tuesday.

The daily Covid cases in Maharashtra however increased marginally to 34,424 from 33,470 recorded on Monday. The state also recorded a spike in deaths – 22 on Tuesday compared to 8 reported on Monday, which is a three-fold rise.

Mumbai's daily cases have been dropping since January 7 when the city recorded 20,971 daily cases. On January, the number fell to 20,318. The next day, it dropped to 19,474. On Monday, the number dropped exponentially to 13,648 cases – a 30 per cent plunge. Tuesday's numbers translate into a 14.6 per cent



A student gets vaccinated in Mumbai, Tuesday. Amit Chakravarty

drop in cases.

The test positivity rate (TPR)

– ratio of positive cases out of the total tests conducted – also dropped sharply. On January 10, a total of 59,242 tests were conducted with 23 per cent TPR. On January 11, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) conducted 62,097 tests, of which 18.7 per cent were positive. The drop in TPR compared to the previous day can also be because of

the rise in testing on Tuesday.

The gradual drop in cases is also reflected in the occupancy of beds. On January 10, 7,408 beds were occupied and the number dropped to 7,283 on Tuesday.

On Monday, there were 1,03,862 active cases which decreased to 1,00,523 on Tuesday.

The sudden change in the trajectory of the wave is hinting towards a plateauing. But, health

69.87 lakh
TOTAL POSITIVE CASES
IN MAHARASHTRA

New cases 34,424
Total deaths 1,41,669
Deaths today 22

9,3,781

TOTAL POSITIVE
CASES IN MUMBAI
New cases 11,647
Total deaths 16,413
Deaths today 2

CBI to SC: Bid to jeopardise probe against Deshmukh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE CBI has told the Supreme Court that there appears to be an "attempt to meddle...and jeopardise" its investigation into allegations of corruption against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

In an affidavit filed in the top court, the CBI, which took up the probe following a Bombay High Court order, referred to SC's November 22 order that referred to exchanges between former Mumbai Police commissioner Parambir Singh and his successor, Sanjay Pandey.

The agency stated, "from

prusal...it prima facie appears that there is clearly an attempt to meddle in court-entrusted investigation carried on by CBI and,

further, an attempt to jeopardise

the same." Considering this, CBI urged the court to "ensure that such attempts by various quarters are thwarted once and for all".

The CBI also said media reports seemed to indicate attempts to frustrate the probe by registering cases with overlapping effect.

Pointing out that its investigation is proceeding, CBI said that in the meanwhile it has been learnt from "news...in media that efforts are being made to frustrate the investigation" "by resorting to register such cases (with) overlapping effect over case being investigated by CBI".

Referring to one such FIR at Goregaon police station on July 20, 2021, CBI said that "subject to a detailed analysis of the investigation of the State of Maharashtra in the FIR...it is prima facie discernable that the same is an attempt to overreach..."



Anil Deshmukh

Singh and Pandey, said "The sum and substance of the discussion was that the matter was broached by the Commissioner, who advised him (Singh) not to fight against the system and in effect withdraw the letter sent to the Chief Minister (Uddhav Thackeray) making complaints against the Home Minister (Deshmukh), as otherwise the consequences could be varied."

The CBI affidavit was filed in response to a plea on the issue of protecting such witnesses, a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant said vulnerable witnesses will not be limited to mean only child witnesses, but will include age neutral and gender neutral victims of sexual assault under Section 377 IPC (unnatural offences), witnesses suffering from mental illness as defined in Mental Healthcare Act, witnesses with threat perception and any speech or hearing impaired individual suffering from any other disability who is considered to be vulnerable by the court concerned.

Underlining the need for setting up special facilities to create a safe and barrier-free environment for recording the evidence of vulnerable witnesses, the court also directed that all high courts adopt and notify a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre (VWDC) Scheme within two months. It asked the high courts to give an estimate of manpower required to have VWDC in their states within three months.

Agreeing with the suggestion by Senior Advocate Vibha Makija, who assisted the court as amicus curiae, the court urged former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Justice Gita Mittal to act as chairperson of a panel for designing an All India VWDC training programme.

As cases surge in Karnataka, concern over likely rise in hospital bed demand

JOHNSONTA
BENGALURU, JANUARY 11

IN A sign of growing demand for hospital beds, 857 patients have been admitted to hospitals across Karnataka between January 7 and 10, out of a total reported 42,598 Covid-19 cases.

In comparison, the first week of this year saw 886 Covid-19 patients being hospitalised – and both figures are a huge jump from 61 such patients requiring hospital support through December 2021, according to data gathered by the state Covid-19 war-room.

While hospitalisation is still relatively low in terms of per cent – 2 or thereabouts – experts are concerned that hospitals in the state can soon come under severe pressure from coronavirus patients in need of hospital beds if the number of daily positive cases stays over

EXPLAINED

Bid to curb another steep curve

DURING THE second wave, in April-May 2021, 8,922 people died in Bengaluru alone. With infection rate jumping by the day, in an effort to address the situation before it gets out of hand, the government Tuesday extended Covid-19 restrictions in the state till the end of January.

10,000 for a long spell.

On Sunday, the state registered 12,000 fresh Covid-19 cases, of which Bengaluru accounted for nearly 9,000 cases, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had said on Monday.

On Tuesday, the state reported 14,473 new cases, along with five deaths. Bengaluru alone clocked 10,800 new cases, taking the number of active cases in the city to over 59,000.

According to data collated by

the Covid-19 war-room, 2.45 per cent of 50,114 patients required hospitalisation between December 1, 2021 and January 7 this year. The first 10 days of the new year saw 66,469 fresh cases reported across the state, with 1,492 of them hospitalised, working out a rate of 2.28 per cent.

The positivity rate remains highest in the 70-plus and 80-plus age groups – each has jumped, respectively, from 1.25 per cent and 1.74 per cent in December last

year to 7.02 per cent and 7.51 per cent, respectively, in the first 10 days of this month.

"Positivity rate in the state has risen to 6.8 per cent; it is 10 per cent in Bengaluru. Karnataka is at the third spot among states in terms of Covid-19 cases," Bommai, who announced having tested positive for the infection, said on Monday.

Analysis of Covid-linked hospital admissions reported in Karnataka between December 1, 2021 and January 7 by the Covid-19 war-room also shows that unvaccinated people are "10 times more likely" to be hospitalised and 30 times more likely to be admitted to ICUs.

The analysis was carried out on the basis of data collected from 947 patients admitted to hospitals for Covid-19 treatment in the December 1-January 7 period.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

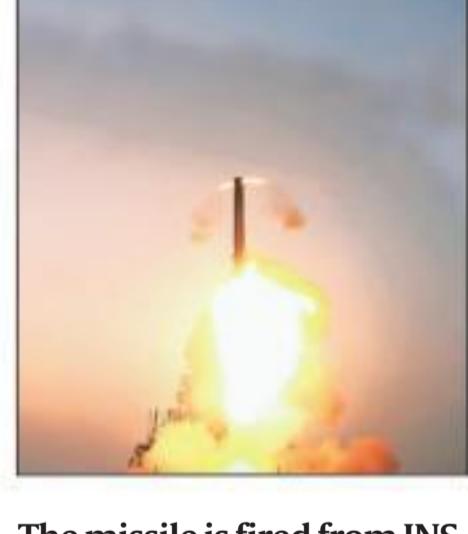
Sea-to-sea variant of BrahMos supersonic missile test-fired

SUSHANT KULKARNI
PUNE, JANUARY 11

AN EXTENDED range sea-to-sea variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired by India from the Indian Navy's newly commissioned INS Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, the Defence Research and Development Organisation said.

"Advanced sea to sea variant of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile was tested from INS Visakhapatnam today. Missile hit the designated target ship precisely," the DRDO tweeted.

The Navy too said the launch was an achievement. "Successful test-firing of the extended-range BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile from INS Visakhapatnam, Indian Navy's newest indigenous-built guided missile de-



The missile is fired from INS Visakhapatnam, Tuesday. PTI

the Nation," it tweeted.

BrahMos, deployed by the Navy on its warships first in 2005, has the capability to hit sea-based targets beyond radar horizon.

The naval variant was originally tested in October and December 2020 from Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai and Rajput-class destroyer INS Ranvir, respectively.

This version of the missile has been designed to launch either in a vertical or a horizontal mode from moving/stationary assets to target both land and sea targets. The missiles, fired at a speed of 2.8 Mach or nearly three times the speed of sound, significantly increase the capability of the ships in engaging long-range targets.

On Tuesday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO and other stakeholders for the launch.

Tripti's family had in the past tried to resolve the alleged dispute between the couple, he said.

Kashyap further said he was informed of his daughter's death by her elder sibling. He said: "I was in my constituency when I got a call from my elder daughter, asking me to urgently go to Tripti's house because something was wrong. I asked my wife to go as I was away. She reached there and found our daughter lying dead and her body being kept on a bed in her sister-in-law's room."

Police have sent a voice note on the alleged torture by the accused for forensic analysis

her husband, SSP Bahuguna said the voice note has been sent for forensic analysis.

Tripti was the youngest of the former minister's four daughters and had married Patle in 2018 against her father's wishes. Having fallen in love, the two had known each other as Mahesh, a BJP worker, would frequent her house when Kashyap was an MLA and then a minister of state.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Kashyap alleged Mahesh used to frequently beat Tripti up under the influence of alcohol.

Hate speeches: SC to hear plea for probe today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

SUPREME COURT will take up on Wednesday a PIL seeking probe into the alleged hate speech by participants in two separate events in Haridwar and Delhi on December 17 and 21 last year.

The matter has been listed before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal had on Monday urged the CJI to take up the plea by Delhi resident Qurban Ali and Senior Advocate Anjana Prakash urgently. The CJI had asked if an inquiry was not already going on in the matter. Sibal replied that although FIRs have been filed, no one had been arrested. The CJI then said that "we will take up the matter".

The matter has been listed before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana.

He used to say he would get satisfaction only if he showers abuse on the officials in the minister's presence. He is also planning to target the officials. I call him a VIP because he has influence in a wide spectrum of society."

It was after director Balachandran Kumar's revelations that the Crime branch last Sunday registered a fresh case against Dileep and five others, including his brother and brother-in-law, on charges of conspiring to kill the police officers. Of the five other accused, however, the FIR had named only four. The fifth was listed as an unknown person.

On Tuesday, after depositing before the special investigation team, Balachandran Kumar told reporters the "unknown person" was a VIP "very close" to Dileep

and "speaks about ministers".

He said: "In presence of a minister, that person had gone to the extent of saying the police officials should be verbally abused. He is close to the minister. He used to say he would get satisfaction only if he showers abuse on the officials in the minister's presence. He is also planning to target the officials. I call him a VIP because he has influence in a wide spectrum of society."

The director said he had handed over more evidence on Dileep's role in the alleged conspiracy, which he said was "planned" and not accidental".

Maintaining that Pillai's reluctance stemmed from "instructions" from "someone", Khan had on Monday said his "head hung in shame" after seeing the "language and style" of Pillai's letter, and the latter's explanation. "...Pity, the V-C can't write two sentences properly....This university is one of the oldest in the country..." he had said.

THE CASE against Malayalam actor Dileep after allegations he had planned to kill investigators in the abduction and sexual assault of an actress, for which he is already facing trial, got a new twist on Tuesday. Film director Balachandran Kumar, who had made the allegations, has alleged that one of the five others accused in the alleged conspiracy case is "very close" to a Kerala minister.

It was after director

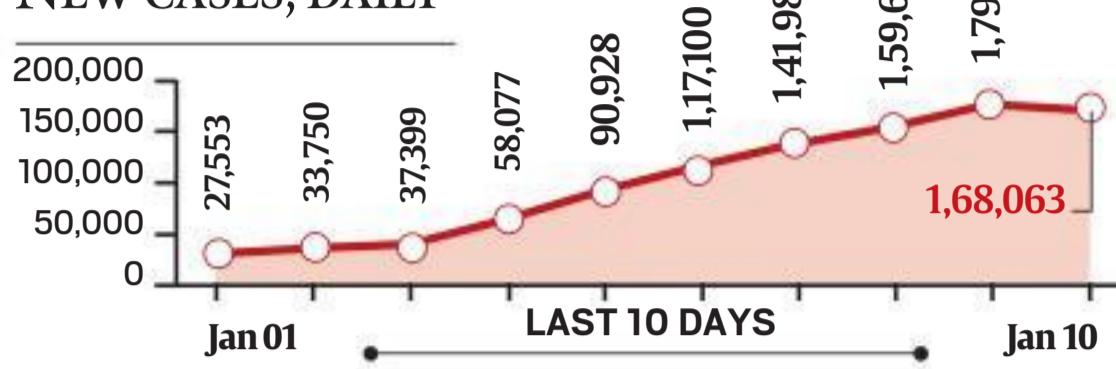
Balachandran Kumar's revelations

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

DASHBOARD, AS ON JAN 10

680 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN	New cases 1,68,063	Active cases 8,21,446	Deaths 277
	Weekly CFR: 4.62% Overall CFR: 1.39% Total deaths: 4,84,213		

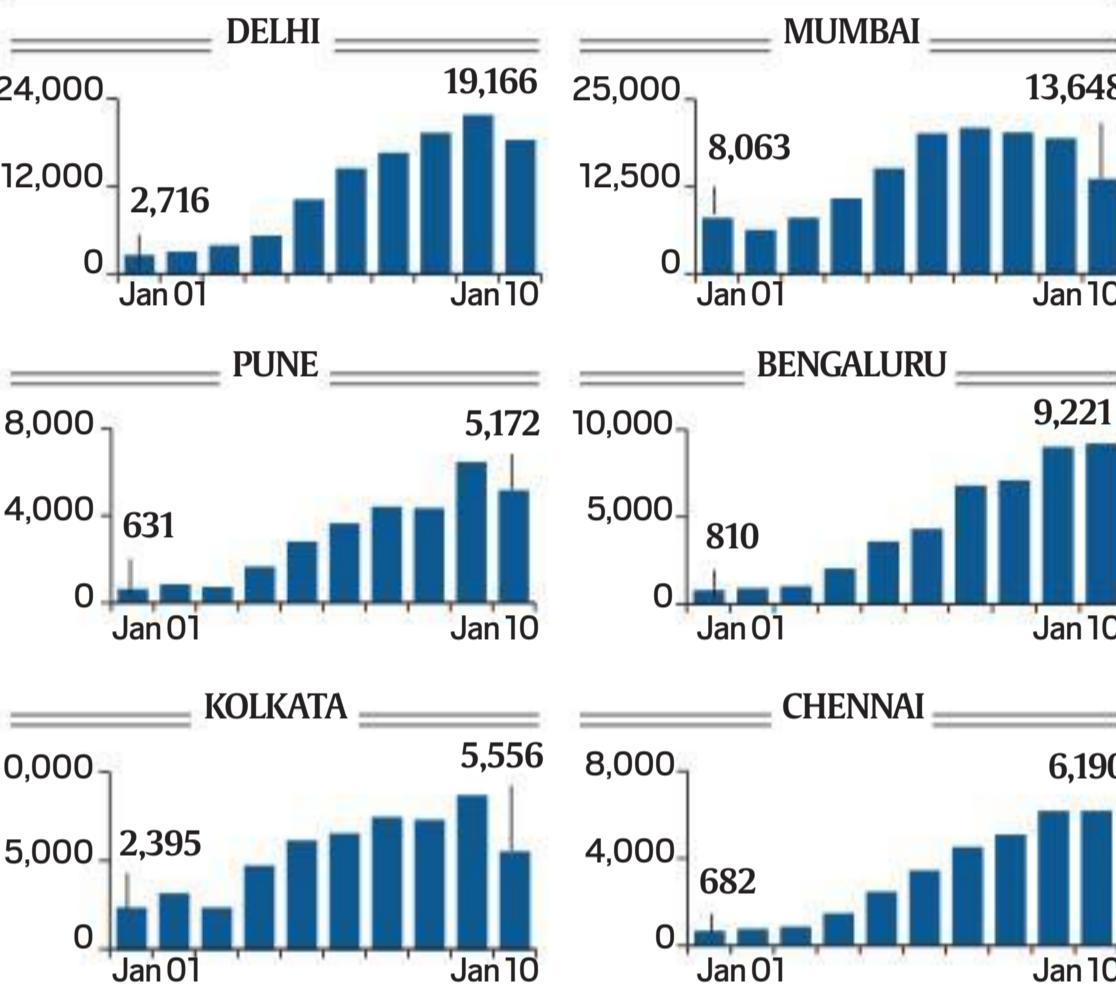
NEW CASES, DAILY



SURGE IN THE STATES

State	ON JANUARY 9			Weekly positivity
	New Cases	Active Cases	Deaths	
Maharashtra	33,470	2,06,046	12	17.90%
West Bengal	19,286	89,194	16	27.91%
Delhi	19,166	65,806	17	17.63%
Tamil Nadu	13,990	62,767	11	6.75%
Karnataka	11,698	60,177	4	4.99%

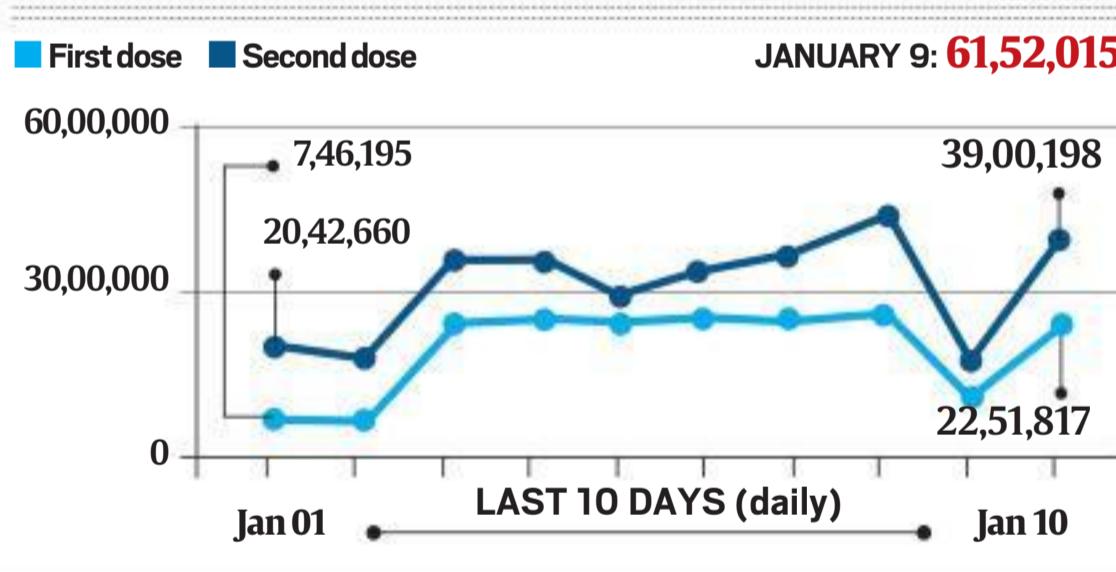
SURGE IN THE CITIES, LAST 10 DAYS



TOTAL TESTS

TESTS ON JAN 10: 15,79,928 | WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 8.53% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 5.18%

INDIA TOTAL DOSES: 150,17,50,087
(1st DOSE: 86,40,93,838; 2nd: 63,76,56,249)



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How scientists are using grime-eating bacteria to restore classical art

ASWATHIPACHA
KOCHI, JANUARY 11

AS A once-in-a-century virus either shut down or restricted the open hours of the world's great museums, art restorers in Italy worked to rid a priceless Michelangelo of centuries of accumulated dirt and grime. They let loose the bacteria.

Art restorers have usually employed chemical agents and, more recently laser techniques, to remove dirt, oil, glue, or pollutants from monuments, stoneworks, and paintings. But since the 1980s, when researchers first used the bacteria *Desulfovibrio vulgaris* to clean a marble monument at the Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, US, the role of micro-organisms has been recognised in protecting the artistic heritage of humanity.

D. vulgaris went on to meet several works, including, in 2013, the *Allegoria della Morte* – the Allegory of Death – at the English Cemetery in Florence. Art restorers from the Opificio delle Pietre Dure museum allowed the bacteria to eat away the thick black crust that had veiled the beauty of the blindfolded

skeleton statue taking a scythe to a bunch of flowers, carved by Giuseppe Lazzarini in 1870.

Calling in the bugs

Environmental microbiology researcher Chiara Alisi, who was part of the team that restored one of Michelangelo's masterpieces in the New Sacristy at the Medici Chapels in Florence during the 2020 lockdowns, told *The Indian Express* over Zoom from Rome:

"At our lab in ENEA (Italy's national agency for new technologies and sustainable development), we have over 1,500 bacteria that like to eat different enzymes. My first bio restoration in 2014 was on a 16th-century wall painting. We screened the bacteria we had with us and selected three that could digest protein. The living bacterial cells were suspended in a gel and applied to the vertical walls and left for 24 and 48 hours. The bacteria did not disappoint us, they did their job well. When the gel was removed, we saw that the inorganic dark brown layer and also the other deposits were removed."

The New York Times, which first reported the initially secret restoration in Florence, said the team washed the hair of one of the mar-

ble statues with *Pseudomonas stutzeri* CONC11 bacterium isolated from the waste of a tannery near Naples, and cleaned the residue of casting moulds, glue, and oil using *Rhodococcus sp. ZCONT*, another strain that came from soil contaminated with diesel.

Faith in Pseudomonas

Over the past decade, Dr Pilar Bosch Roig,

a specialist in bio-cleaning and bio-deterioration of artworks in Spain, has trusted *P. stutzeri* to clean a range of monuments, as well as the stones of historic bridges and granite slabs of chapels in Spain.

She told *The Indian Express* in an email that over a decade ago, this strain of bacteria was used for the bio-restoration of frescoes in the 17th century Church of Santos Juanes in

Valencia, Spain, and murals of the Camposanto Monumentale di Pisa in Italy.

A team led by environment microbiologist Giancarlo Ranalli from the University of Molise in Campobasso, Italy, recently used *P. stutzeri* to clean the 14th century *Triumph of Death* fresco at the Campo Santo. The cemetery was bombed during World War II.

Dr Ranalli's team arrived in 2018, and applied the bacterial suspension on the fresco, and after three hours "the bacterial activity was so intense that the treated areas were largely bio-cleaned and no residues of proteinaceous materials were present," according to a paper published in the *Journal of Applied Microbiology*.

"The treatment was soft and delicate and did not show any structural damage," the authors reported.

"There is a general notion that bacteria are harmful," Alisi said. "But not all are pathogens. In fact, our lab is not allowed to use pathogens. Also, these bacteria are not modified or genetically engineered. They are just common ones from natural environments that love to eat various proteins and we are just using them to save our beloved artworks."

Could they clean Taj?

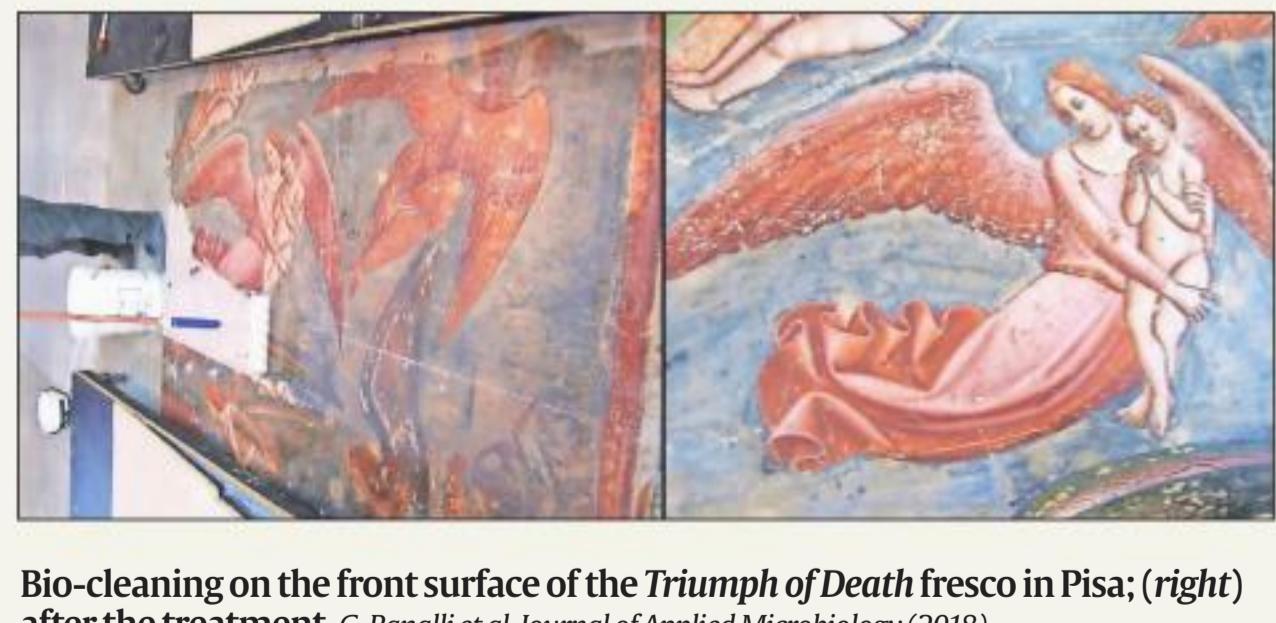
On whether these bacteria could be used to fix the discolouration of the Taj Mahal, Alisi told *The Indian Express*: "We first need to study the marble to understand if it is just dust and particulate carbon causing the dark colour or if there is a biofilm formation."

Biofilms are formed when communities of microorganisms adhere to a surface.

Dr Archana Tiwari, associate professor at Amity Institute of Biotechnology in Noida, expressed confidence that bio-restoration can save many of India's monuments. "We have tested these bacteria and now have a repository. The technology needs to move from lab to field and we can see our monuments like Taj Mahal get a new life," she said.

In 2014, a paper published by researchers from Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala, and Curtin University in Perth, Australia, noted that calcifying bacteria could be used for remediation of stones and cultural heritage monuments, including the Taj Mahal.

The Archaeological Survey of India is learnt to be exploring the option of employing bio-restoration at the Taj.



Bio-cleaning on the front surface of the *Triumph of Death* fresco in Pisa; (right) after the treatment. G. Ranalli et al. *Journal of Applied Microbiology* (2018)

EXPLAINED THE PANDEMIC

Fight against virus, 2 yrs on

Progress has been made in vaccination, while therapeutics provide another tool. But the virus is still evolving, and although Omicron causes milder disease, it should be treated with utmost caution.

EXPERT EXPLAINS

VIRANDER S CHAUHAN

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight



Elderly citizens at a vaccination centre in Pune. Around the world, additional doses are being given wherever vaccines are easily available. Arul Horizon

THE PANDEMIC caused by SARS-CoV-2 has continued to haunt humanity over the last two years, and has created panic, anxiety, economic disruption, and a compromised ability to learn. It has also raised concerns about many long-term impacts of Long Covid and mental health, which may be hard to measure.

In a swift response, several safe and efficacious vaccines were developed within a year. But the almost simultaneous emergence of more infectious variants of concern – Alpha, Beta and Gamma – in locations across Europe, Africa and Latin America, underscored the complexities and threat from the virus worldwide. Soon after another 'fitter', highly infectious, fast replicating and lethal variant called Delta emerged, superseded all circulating ones and drove the waves of the pandemic throughout the planet. And just when things appeared to be settle down, another very highly mutated and fast-replicating variant, Omicron, first detected in South Africa, began to sweep through Europe and the US, and is currently spreading all over the world. The US and European countries, with their populations vaccinated, have recorded higher numbers of new cases since the pandemic began.

Two years on, and in yet another huge surge in the pandemic, where do we stand? What have we learnt about the virus? Are we better prepared to deal with the pandemic?

Vaccination

The development of vaccines against a new virus in less than a year will go down in history as one of the greatest achievements in science. With more than 20 vaccines approved worldwide, and about 9.3 billion doses having been rolled out, this is by far the largest vaccination drive ever in the world. But this huge achievement, sadly, has also laid bare one of the darkest facets of the modern world of haves and have-nots. While many rich countries have more than 80% of their population fully vaccinated, in some poor countries more than 80% of their populations have remained unvaccinated. With high rates of infection, low vaccine coverage and poor infrastructure for surveillance, the virus has a free hand to evolve into more infectious mutants and remain undetected in several poor countries.

With the recent waves of the highly infectious Delta and now even more infectious Omicron variants, health policy makers and governments in many countries are con-

fronted with questions including when children should be vaccinated, the need and necessity for booster shots, re-imposition of restrictions, and whether we are better prepared to deal with the pandemic now than last year.

DOSES FOR CHILDREN: Whether children should be vaccinated is no longer a matter of debate, with many vaccines proven to be safe in children and approved by regulators worldwide. In fact, back in mid-2021, vaccine companies had started safe dosing and efficacy trials in children of all groups including those below one year of age. Vaccination of children has become an integral part of immunisation programs not only in western and Latin American countries but also in many countries in Middle East and South-East Asia. Cuba has already vaccinated all children above the age of two years with their vaccines. China has vaccinated all children above three. India has begun to vaccinate its children of age 15 and above using the inactivated virus-based Covaxin. Vaccination of children is essential for controlling the pandemic and opening of schools, and is based on strong scientific evidence.

THE BOOSTER DEBATE: Another debate that has gathered momentum recently with the arrival of Omicron is whether booster doses are needed for already fully vaccinated individuals. But this is not a new debate either. In fact, vaccine-making companies had started mix-and-match booster trials back in April-May 2021, soon after vaccination programmes had started. Several vaccination follow-up studies have clearly shown that levels of protective antibodies, acquired through vaccination

or natural exposure, decline substantially within 6-9 months, more so in the elderly and immune-compromised individuals, making them susceptible to reinfection and severe disease. While other forms of acquired immunity including T-cell immunity may play a role, the only measurable correlate of protection against severe disease is the level of virus-neutralising antibodies. While virus variants such as Delta and Omicron can evade acquired immunity to infect vaccinated individuals, it is remarkable that all vaccines currently in use have remained effective against severe disease and death.

By end-August 2021, many rich countries had started giving booster doses even though it appeared morally incorrect due to global inequality in vaccine access, and was against the advice of the World Health Organization (WHO) at that time. Now with the huge surge in infections, booster doses are being given wherever vaccines are easily available. Israel,

a leader in Covid-19 vaccination, has already started testing a fourth dose in frontline health workers. The US has recently approved Pfizer's vaccine for boosters even in children above the age of 12. Booster doses are now mandatory in many countries. India too has started its booster vaccination programme.

The evolving virus

The data obtained from multiple locations so far suggest that symptoms and disease outcomes from Omicron infections may be from mild to moderate in most cases. But the sheer size of Omicron spread is likely to place health systems across the world under huge stress.

FINDINGS: In Ubuntu, 230 participants were initially screened in December, and 31% tested positive, all of whom were later confirmed to be Omicron.

"These data are in stark contrast to Covid-19 vaccine studies conducted pre-Omicron, where the SARS-CoV-2 PCR positivity rate at the first vaccination visit ranged from <1%-2.4%," said the study, 'High Rate of Asymptomatic Carriage Associated with Variant Strain Omicron', currently posted on a pre-print.

In the sub-study of Sisonke, the mean asymptomatic carriage rate among 577 partici-

pants was 16% during the Omicron period, compared to 2.6% during Beta and Delta outbreaks. The results suggest a high carriage rate even in those vaccinated, the South African Medical Research Council said in a release.

It quoted senior author Dr Lawrence Corey as saying: "Since so many people may be asymptomatic, we can't always know who is carrying the virus, but we do

know what we can do to protect ourselves and help prevent further spread: Wear a mask; wash your hands; avoid large, indoor gatherings; and get fully vaccinated..."

paper.indianexpress.com

NETWORK ISSUE

Government taking commanding stake in Vodafone Idea will have implications for consumers, and competition in sector

ON TUESDAY, VODAFONE Idea informed stock exchanges that the company was opting for the government's offer of converting its interest obligations into equity. With this conversion, the government will become the largest shareholder of the company with a stake of around 35.8 per cent. As a consequence, the shareholding of the Vodafone Group and the Aditya Birla group will be diluted, declining to around 28.5 per cent and 17.8 per cent respectively. That Vodafone Idea chose to exercise this option suggests that efforts of the promoters to rope in strategic investors or to raise funds have not borne fruit. With this move, the Indian government will own stakes in multiple telecom operators, placing it in a unique position in the world, with the exception of China. For a government that has repeatedly stated its intent to divest its stake in public sector entities — it recently announced the first major outright privatisation of a public sector company with the sale of Air India to Tata Sons — it is ironical that it should now end up with a stake in a private telecom operator.

The decline in the fortunes of telcos is a consequence of both policy action and inaction. Its beginnings can be traced to the tariff wars beginning in 2016, which were compounded by the verdict in the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) case. In order to address the consequent financial stress among telcos, last year, the government had announced a series of measures, amongst which was the decision to provide a four-year moratorium on the payment of spectrum and adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues. The government had also provided telcos the option of converting the interest on the deferred liability into equity. According to the notification to the exchanges on Monday, Vodafone Idea's board decided in favour of this option, approving the conversion of the interest (at a net present value of Rs 16,000 crore) into equity, while Airtel had earlier announced that it would not opt for the conversion of interest dues to equity.

While this move will ease Vodafone Idea's cash flow woes, the company is likely to face considerable challenges ahead. Foremost among them is the need to raise funds to acquire spectrum in the upcoming 5G auctions. The question is whether this move will facilitate or hinder capital raising. Further, at an operation level, if the government shareholding translates into the same limitations being imposed on Vodafone Idea as they are on public sector telcos, BSNL and MTNL, then the implications for competition, consumers, and for the telecom sector as a whole are not difficult to fathom. Reacting to this announcement, shares of Vodafone Idea fell 20.8 per cent, indicating investor concerns over the company's prospects.

THE THIRD PARTY

Chinese Foreign Minister's Sri Lanka visit highlighted Beijing's relentless drive in Indian Ocean region, and India's challenge

THE VISIT BY Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Sri Lanka as part of a five-nation swing-through, that also covered three African nations and the Maldives, has highlighted Beijing's relentless drive for influence over the Indian Ocean region. In Colombo, Wang spoke of creating a forum for Indian Ocean "island countries" that shared "similar experiences and common needs" and development goals to strengthen "mutually beneficial co-operation".

Such fora already exist. China is a dialogue partner of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, along with Russia, the US and several European countries. Since 2008, an Indian Ocean Navies Symposium brings together 24 countries in the region, in which, too, China, which is not an Indian Ocean country, is one among several observers. It is significant that Beijing, which has pumped in so much money into many of these countries, but by virtue of its geography, is not a full member in any of the region's groupings, now believes there should be another forum representing the region. Wang's proposal, which bears a curious resemblance to the Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) doctrine articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his first term, during a visit to Mauritius in 2015, is a sign that the India-China rivalry in the maritime sphere is set to intensify.

Wang left no one in any doubt about this when he described the China-Sri Lanka relationship as not targeting "a third party" and as one that "should not be interfered with by any third party". The term "third party" was first used by the Chinese embassy in Colombo to obliquely describe India, after Delhi objected to a Chinese solar farm project on Sri Lankan islands close to the Tamil Nadu coast. Wang described Beijing's relationship with Colombo as one that has "injected positive energy into regional peace and stability". For India, which has had to deal with two episodes of territorial creep by the People's Liberation Army in the last six years — one more round of talks on Ladakh is scheduled to take place today — and has put the Army on full alert all the way from Ladakh to Arunachal along the contested Line of Actual Control, it is impossible to share the same warm and fuzzy feelings about China's economic and political inroads in Sri Lanka, or the Maldives for that matter. India has long-established ties with Colombo and Male, and needs no lectures on how to conduct its diplomacy in the region — from a third party.

FIVE-LETTER WORD

The consolation of a word game in a world shrunk by virus and hate

SOMETHING STRANGE IS afoot on social media. Little grids of green, yellow and black squares have been mysteriously popping up on timelines, interrupting the regular programming of righteous rants, virtue signalling and hate speech. All clues lead to an unremarkable website, Wordle, which hosts a word game that is winning enthusiasts around the world faster than we have learnt to say Omicron. Like the best of things, Wordle began as an act of love. Software engineer Josh Wardle designed the game for his partner — she being a devotee of cryptic crosswords and the Spelling Bee — for their private pleasures. But they soon realised it was too good a thing to be left unshared. The world agrees. Since its release late last year, Wordle has been played by 3 lakh people.

The game's simple, even if it's got linguists writing Twitter threads on how to crack it. Wordle releases one puzzle a day. Every day, you get six attempts to guess a five-letter word. No clues are given, though for every word you submit, you get to know if you have got some letters right (they light up in yellow), if they are in the right place (green), or if your guess is entirely wrong (black), hopefully helping you find your way to the right word before your chances run out. You can even brag and post your performance on Twitter with the grid of squares, without letting the answer spill. There's something endearingly analogue about how little Wordle sucks up your time, or how it refuses to tempt you into rabbit holes of distraction with ads and notifications, unlike anything else on the internet.

Truth be told, the world is not the nicest of places today — shrunk by a virus, vexed by demagogues and despots, and on course to keep its date with the climate apocalypse. But doomscrollers, cheer up. When you are on the road to perdition, you can do far worse things than make a pit stop and play a word game or two. Hate, thankfully, is not a five-letter word.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

THE POWER TO TAX IS THE POWER TO DESTROY.

— JOHN MARSHALL

A letter from Melbourne



AMITABH MATTOO

How critical concerns in the Age of Covid have gathered around tennis star Novak Djokovic

IT IS IRONICAL that one of the world's richest and most recognisable sportsmen, the tennis champion, Novak Djokovic, has become a symbol for critical concerns about global issues that we are confronted with in the Age of Covid. These include the most subaltern of anxieties about borders and sovereignty; the multiple layers of global, federal and provincial bureaucratic control; and the malleable nature of national and global public health policies rooted in what seems to be, for at least lay people, the politics of continuously elusive science-based evidence.

Djokovic is, of course, an unlikely leader of these causes and not what his father would have us imagine: A modern-day Spartacus leading a revolt of the "slaves" against their oppressors and tyrants. As minutiae of Djokovic's biography are dissected in the media, we know that one of the most gifted tennis players in the history of the game is a fierce Serbian nationalist and that his views on science, spirituality and vaccinations are unconventional, if not plain dodgy. Djokovic's curious, complex and colourful worldview may make many of his fans squirm, but in his native Serbia and elsewhere as recent events have testified, his popularity is unchallenged even as he has publicly voiced his scepticism about vaccines.

While Australian commentators have been shocked by Djokovic's views, surely we in India should have greater tolerance given our own eclectic sensibilities. More to the point, Djokovic's "cocky" attitude, his eccentricities and his beliefs are an unnecessary diversion from the core concerns — to use Foucault's now rather tired and clichéd phrase — about governmentality at the national and trans-national level.

The story does not end there. The Rydges on Swanston Street in Melbourne, reborn a few months ago as the Park Hotel, is an unlikely venue for the Djokovic saga. Situated at the cusp of Melbourne's thriving CBD (central business district) and Melbourne University's robust Parkville campus, you would be inclined to turn your head away at this 1970s' architectural abomination as you rode past in the No 16 tram.

For the most part, we used it to host aca-

demic visitors who spent much of their time on the campus rather than in the grim hotel. During the pandemic, it was used as a quarantine facility, and almost single-handedly contributed to the second wave in Melbourne. Initially, the media had reported that "inappropriate" contact in the hotel between a security guard and a woman traveller had led to the spread of the virus in the western suburbs. A later inquiry ruled this out, but Rydges acquired the sobriquet as the "outbreak hotel", until asylum-seekers and stateless refugees were interned in its precincts, including those waiting for years for their cases to be decided.

Two of the refugees held in the hotel, for instance, from the persecuted Ahwazi Arab Iranian minority arrived in Australia as children and are still waiting to be rehabilitated. By demonstrating its natural inclination to be fair and egalitarian, and by holding Djokovic at the Park Hotel, the authorities unwittingly gave the refugees more media attention than they may have had in years.

Borders always have been instruments of territorial sovereignty as well as the ways to define and exclude Others. Within sections of Australian public opinion, controlling borders has been seen as a way of preserving a way of life. During the years of the pandemic, this acquired a bizarre dimension. For the first two years of the pandemic, it became almost impossible for citizens and permanent residents to return to Australia as the policy was designed to seal Australia to suppress the virus.

However, even with the most stringent quarantine policies in place, there were celebrities who managed to evade isolating in designated facilities and were seen reveling in mansions.

But today, Australia is just a symbol for a global refugee crisis caused by multiple conflicts and international travel crises accentuated by the rules regarding visa, entry, testing and quarantine to control Covid and consequently undermining the real promise of globalisation and a less Westphalian world. Ironically, many refugees may have been kept out, but the virus has overwhelmed much of the country.

The Djokovic saga also revealed, at the very

least, the manner in which at least three authorities botched up the case: Tennis Australia, the Victorian government and the federal government in Canberra, in a year in which the popularity of the federal government will be tested at the general election.

The transcript of the interviews, presented in court, between border control officials and the sportsman revealed a Kafkaesque bureaucracy unwilling to be reasonable or respond sensitively to reasonable requests. We witness an apparently transparent, straightforward, honest but somewhat confused Djokovic being confronted by rules and subjected to questions, almost to the point of harassment. As the federal judge pointed out: "The point I'm somewhat agitated about: What more could this man have done?"

For most residents of Melbourne, who have experienced the harshest and longest lockdown over the last two years, a visa for Djokovic, however, is an insult to the months of confinement. In the last two years, in addition, we have seen the full play of federal politics even while there have been regular meetings of the national cabinet (with the prime minister and state premiers as members). Within the broad framework of a national policy, each state has devised its own rules sometimes with bizarre consequences. Till a few weeks ago, it was easier to travel from New York to Perth than from Victoria to Western Australia.

Tragically, the Djokovic story reveals the manner in which the science of the virus, the scientific evidence and the potency of vaccinations has tested the patience of a global audience mostly willing to accept the verdict without scepticism. But the danger is that since the advent of Omicron, as norms regarding social distancing, close contacts, RAT versus PCR tests and quarantining have been discarded — even as the virus has spread like wildfire — politics may be driving the science and the public policies being formulated.

The writer is honorary professor at the University of Melbourne and professor at JNU. He is currently based in Melbourne



BINDU DALMIA

AS WE begin the new year, to what extent is there an economic feel-good factor? I am inclined to see the glass as half full two years after the economic armageddon of 2020.

The economic optimism is fuelled by the "balance of risk being tilted towards the lower side", despite the Omicron surge denting the fourth-quarter expectations, as also due to a confluence of five tailwind factors that are expected to augment a sustained investment-led recovery: The improved asset quality of banks due to speedier recovery and adequate bank capitalisation; increased profitability due to domestic demand and deleveraging of corporate balance sheets; the government's sustained focus on reforms and public investments; robust foreign investor interest in India; and the 37 per cent surge in export growth in the third quarter.

The onset of virtuous economic cycles is always presaged by predictable demand in domestic consumption and the increase in global merchandise trade that holds the maximum weight in GDP. This is expected to push average capacity utilisation from 60 per cent in June 2021 to 75 per cent by FY 2023. Higher demand means optimal capacity utilisation by industry, increased profitability and better employment rates.

India's total investments equal 30 per cent of GDP, of which the corporate sector including non-finance companies, account for 13 per cent, while the government accounts for another 17 per cent. With improved profitability and debt-to-equity ratios of the 2,800 listed companies, corporates are expected to channelise improved cash flows towards investments; robust foreign investor interest in India; and the 37 per cent surge in export growth in the third quarter.

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THE IDEAS PAGE

Out of work

Unemployment has reached a critical stage and raises serious questions on the quality of economic recovery



TRISHALI CHAUHAN AND CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELLOT

OVER THE LAST few months, the Government of India and the mainstream media have highlighted the return of economic growth. However, very little attention has been paid to the job market. India's unemployment rate has been soaring. It went up to 7.91 per cent in December 2021 from 6.3 per cent in 2018-2019 and 4.7 per cent in 2017-18, when the trend started to change — a sign that this phenomenon is not just due to Covid. In urban areas, this has gone up to 9.30 per cent in December 2021 from 8.09 per cent in January 2021. In rural areas, it has gone up to 7.28 per cent against 5.81 per cent.

Clearly, unemployment is more in the urban areas as compared to the rural areas. Between 2019-20 and December 2021, the manufacturing sector has lost 9.8 million jobs; by contrast, agricultural jobs jumped by 7.4 million. One probably needs to get back to the Raj years to see such a movement towards ruralisation: Workers are back in their villages even though urban jobs provide better wages.

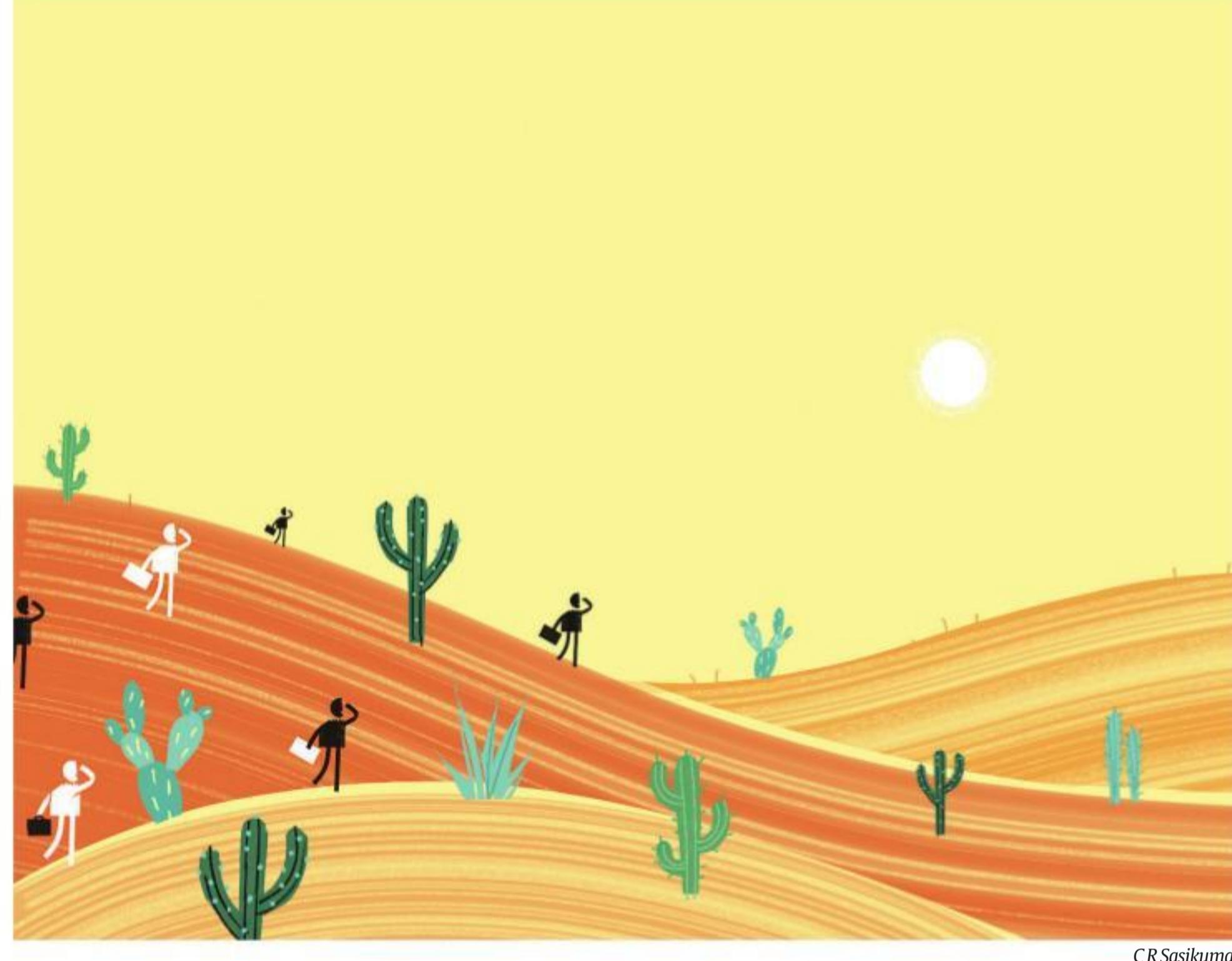
The quality of jobs is also at stake. The percentage of salaried people has dropped from 21.2 per cent in 2019-2020 to 19 per cent in 2021, which means that 9.5 million people have left the salariat and become jobless or part of the informal sector. But the informal sector itself has shrunk, so much so that — to return to aggregate figures — the employed population, over the same period, has decreased from 408.9 million people to 406 million, at a time about 10 million young Indians were entering the job market. The age pyramid does not help, despite the belief in the so-called demographic dividend.

India's Labour Force Participation (LFP) does not compare favourably with other emerging countries — a category that is vanishing quickly. According to the World Bank, it stood at 46 per cent in 2020 (it has not improved since then), while that of Brazil stood at 59 per cent, Chile's at 57 per cent, China's at 67 per cent, Ethiopia's at 76, Ghana's at 66 per cent, Indonesia's at 66 per cent and Malaysia's at 64 per cent.

Certainly, there are variations among Indian states. As per CMIE data, the unemployment rate in December 2021 was the highest in Haryana (34.1 per cent), followed by Rajasthan (27.1 per cent), Jharkhand (17.3 per cent) and Bihar (16 per cent).

There are also variations age-wise. Based on the data from CEDA-CMIE (between January 2019 and July 2021), the year 2020-21 saw 42.4 per cent fewer 15-19-year-olds employed in comparison to 2019-20. The age group of 20-29-year-olds saw the average monthly employment numbers go down by 15.6 per cent.

In fact, according to the NSSO, in 2019, when India had the highest unemployment rate in the last 45 years, this rate was particularly high among India's youth: 34 per cent



C R Sasikumar

for those between 20 and 24 years. For urban dwellers in this age group, this rate was 37.5 per cent. This figure is coherent with the CMIE figures: For the age group of 20-29 years old, the rate was around 28 per cent, meaning that nearly 30.8 million young people in this age group were jobless, compared to 17.8 million in 2017. An astonishing fact is that the more educated the people, the more unemployed they were — 63.4 per cent of graduates falling in the age bracket of 20-24 years were unemployed. This number has increased with time.

Variations according to gender are also important. Unemployment among women is higher than men, both in urban as well as rural areas. For women, the average unemployment was 14.28 per cent and for men, it was 7.88 per cent. Further, of the women willing to seek work in urban areas, 92.1 per cent don't get any work. This count for rural women stands at 54.8 per cent.

To start with, the proportion of women who get employed and get paid is low and continues to decline over the years. This is happening even though more and more women are attending school and college in the country.

The absorption of women in the workforce, as compared to men, is much less for two main reasons. One, most women were involved in agricultural jobs in rural areas; the mechanisation of these jobs has had a huge impact on female labour force participation in the country. Two, India's manufacturing sector is not labour-intensive. This has made it difficult to compensate women who got displaced from agricultural jobs.

There has been a lot of discussion about how women's role as primary caregivers

The employment scene will improve only if private investment picks up. At the moment, the situation is grim on that front. The investment rate is declining — almost in a linear manner — since 2011. It has dropped from 34.3 per cent then to 27 per cent in 2020. One of the reasons why companies do not invest is weak demand — which is partly due to joblessness — that dissuades enterprises from hiring more. This vicious circle is also fostered by growing inequalities, resulting in the shrinking of the middle class.

Unfortunately, investors will also be at an unfair disadvantage of more delicate access to credit in the coming weeks and months: Not only are Indian banks still badly affected by NPAs, but interest rates are bound to increase because of inflation — the rate has almost touched 5 per cent. In December, the State Bank of India raised its base rate for the first time in two years.

Unemployment in India has undeniably reached a critical stage and perhaps, raises serious questions on the quality of the economic recovery, which the third wave of the pandemic may affect anyway, making joblessness an even more acute problem.

Chauhan is an independent research scholar from Kings College, London. Jaffrelot is senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris

and ownership of domestic chores is a reason for the low participation of women in the workforce. The cultural norms and deep roots of patriarchy apparently limit women's labour participation in India. In fact, young women tend to abstain from looking for a job when their own brothers cannot find one.

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The US doesn't have much capital to squander on great-power relations; its 'position from strength' cannot support its hegemonic ambitions. And the times will not give it such an opportunity either."

— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

No one wins if justice fails

Lynchings in Punjab are affront to constitution and Sikh ethic of mercy. State must uphold rule of law, not pander to mob



ASHWANI KUMAR

THE SENSITIVE BORDER state of Punjab was rocked by disruptive violence following the attempted sacrifice within the *sanctum sanctorum* of Sri Harmandir Sahib. The outrage led to lynching of the offender by the enraged. Another lynching of a person wrongly accused of sacrifice followed thereafter in Kapurthala, raising several questions concerning the quality of our democratic arrangement and political structures.

That the reprehensible desecration of holy books deserves to be unreservedly condemned in the strongest terms is unquestionable, but unlawful retribution even for an unpardonable sin is an affront both to the cherished idea of constitutional justice and the Sikh ethic of *dai* (mercy/compassion), inspired by the teachings of revered gurus. While the state government has done well by apprehending those responsible for the murder in Kapurthala, thereby asserting the inviolability of the principles of due process, those guilty of lynching in Amritsar are yet to be arraigned. Need we remind ourselves that democratic accountability is about taming passions of the populace to the discipline of the Constitution without which democracy regresses into anarchy. Hopefully, the insouciance of political parties and their leaders, captive to the lure of fleeting electoral victories, will not be seen as legitimisation of individual retribution. Barack Obama had reminded us that "most of the sins of politics are derivative of the larger sin — the need to win, but also the need not to lose".

Events in Punjab and elsewhere raise larger issues about the functioning of our constitutional democracy. That a crowd consumed by religious or political passions can be the prosecutor, judge, jury, and hangman at the same time offends the first principles of government by and under the law. Mob violence and vigilante justice pose grave danger to democracy, political stability and national security. Frenzied mobs endanger lives, undercut security, infract human dignity and challenge the state's lawful authority in the ordering of society.

Can the state look away when confronted with situations that challenge its very existence? Surely, the alternative to inaction or tardy action by the state cannot be a surrender to uncontrolled passions that thrive on vengeance.

Leadership is tested in trying circumstances. Abnegation of duty to protest injustice and a reluctance to take principled decisions in testing situations annuls leadership and robs the democratic state of a willing allegiance of free people. Leaders must assert moral authority, calm passions, restore sanity and ensure social harmony.

Leadership is about doing what is right. It is about shaping the popular mood and not being led by it because the one merely following the crowd cannot travel beyond it. It is an inescapable lesson of history that leaders willing to sacrifice principle for power forfeit their claim to democratic leadership. Diminished leaders, we know, erode democracy while the taller ones define it. Winning elections is important but who wins if justice fails, is the question we must repeatedly ask ourselves. Indeed, democratic politics must defer to demands of justice as an index of responsive democracy and the government's badge of moral authority over its constituents.

The quality of democracy is also reflected in how the ruling dispensations treat their political opponents. In recent years, the nation has witnessed the silencing of political adversaries through coercive processes of the criminal justice system, thereby obliterating the substantive distinction between lawful prosecution and political persecution. The Opposition in Punjab alleges likewise, albeit without evidence thus far. A reminder from history and experience in Punjab tells us that political high-handedness, however camouflaged, invariably rebounds. We must learn from history to dispel the sordid conclusion of Alexis De Tocqueville that man is wandering in obscurity "as the past has ceased to throw light upon the future". Abuse of power is a ground for questioning the right to it. And we know that waters close with astonishing speed over the political careers of those drunk on power. Narrow political impulses and transient passions cannot trench upon the sacrosanct constitutional principles that provide an enduring edifice of the nation, the foremost being the citizens' right to justice according to procedures established by law.

Recent events in Punjab and elsewhere seen in their historical context impel us to revisit our politics and priorities so that social accord and communal harmony are not sacrificed at the altar of individual ambitions and vanities. Lest we forget, the arrogance of power does not sit well with the idea of justice. Also, little minds and leadership go ill together. Marrying power to justice remains a perennial challenge of aspiring and evolving democracies. To recall the celebrated American judge, Justice Benjamin Cardozo, "the process of justice is never finished but reproduces itself generation after generation".

A progressive vision of our collective future anchored in the harmonious coexistence of all our people and untarnished by narrow partisan politics should define the distinction of our democracy. In an era of democratic decline, we must strive for robust "institutional predicates of democracy" — the integrity of constitutional institutions, that allow democratic engagement without fear, as a practised reality. And it must be our burden to ensure that power is not wielded as a "partisan tool" in a distortion of its role as guarantor of social and political stability.

The writer is a former Union law minister. Views expressed are personal

Rail project in question

Wider discussion on feasibility and impact of Kerala's SilverLine system is needed



KP KANNAN

SILVERLINE, THE INDEPENDENT railway system for Kerala, proposed to be constructed and operated by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation Ltd (K-Rail), is the single biggest development project in the state's history. Its construction will cut across 11 of Kerala's 14 districts, covering a distance of about 600 km, from north to south.

Given its massive size, geographical coverage and the likely social and environmental impacts, the publication of its techno-economic feasibility reports should have preceded the state government's decision to proceed with the project. Even at this stage, it is not too late. I would, therefore, urge the chief minister to immediately release the techno-economic feasibility reports to enable wider discussion.

Subjecting this project proposal to a discussion in the Kerala legislative assembly as well as in the public sphere is not only in keeping with the spirit of democratic governance but would also set a precedent. On the basis of such discussions, the government of Kerala will be in a position to take an appropriate decision. Once a project is found to be techno-economically feasible, it is important to follow up with social as well as environmental impact studies.

Public discussions have so far raised several questions and pointed to fears and anxieties that must be removed. Protests have also taken place across the state. It is, therefore, highly desirable to freeze the government of Kerala's decision and wait till the

feasibility reports are published and public opinions and expert comments are heard.

Some questions that we need to ask collectively are: Is this project the top priority in the attempt to build a New Kerala? Given the devastating floods of 2018 and 2019, as well as the continuing climate-related adverse events and the Covid-19 pandemic, shouldn't our efforts, energy and resources be primarily directed to environmental restoration and strengthening the natural capital (land, water and other bioresources) and the creation of a strong public healthcare system? Given the perilous nature of Kerala's public finance system, shouldn't the government's top priority be to enhance tax collection efficiency, instead of increasing the public debt burden that will, in all likelihood, constrain future developmental and non-developmental expenditure?

There are also some issues in planning for the development of the transport system.

We have five modes of transportation now: Road, rail, air, inland waterways and sea-based coastal transport. There is, however, a disproportionate dependence on the road system. Despite having the highest road density among all the states, the poor condition of Kerala's roads calls for urgent attention. The state's water transport system is still underdeveloped and the once-active inland waterway transport system has steadily deteriorated (although efforts are underway to repair and rebuild parts of the inland waterways). It is, therefore, in the

fitness of things, especially from a development planning perspective, to take stock of the existing state of Kerala's transportation system, point out its shortcomings, find ways to address them and seek a balance among the five modes. I would, therefore, appeal to the chief minister to come out with a white paper on the state of the transportation system for wider discussion. The preparation and discussion on such a document could be completed within the next six months or so.

Many experts, as well as laypersons, have raised important questions about the K-Rail project. India's technological and managerial strength lies in its vast broad-gauge-based railway network that has a 160-year-old history. By opting for a different technological system — the standard gauge — are we not importing and planting an alien technology whose installation, operation and management will be entirely controlled by foreign corporate entities?

India has already demonstrated the feasibility of manufacturing and operating a new high-speed railway train system called Train 18 (Vande Bharat Express) that is being expanded to cover several routes. Shouldn't Kerala demand its due share of this new railway train system?

Given the projected ticket prices of SilverLine, the only competition will be with airfares or first-class train fares. However, going by Kerala's experience in implementing public projects in irrigation, electricity

generation and roads and bridges, I fear the cost of the project will go up several times. Some of the irrigation projects are still in the construction mode even after spending several times the initial cost estimate for 30 to 40 years.

Is the estimate of 80,000 people travelling per day a realistic one? It is important to know such crucial details from the feasibility reports.

I have not raised issues relating to social and environmental impacts. However, I feel they deserve to be studied in detail by independent experts. For example, how serious will the impact be on the natural flow of water courses and land masses that come in the way of the project? Given the massive nature of the construction, the demand for natural resources (such as granite, sand and soil) and manufactured high-carbon footprint materials (such as steel and cement) will be so enormous that they might trigger environmental adversities with long-term social and economic consequences. The project might also trigger a price rise for these resources that could, in all likelihood, upset the initial cost calculations besides adversely affecting the construction industry.

The writer is a development economist and an Honorary Fellow and former director of the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum. He was a member of the erstwhile National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHASM DEEPENS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Insecure state' (IE, January 12). The new counterinsurgency measures in Kashmir will have the effect of targeting thousands of people suspected of having aided terrorism in any non-violent manner, and will only deepen the chasm between the administration and the people. These measures, not being in the nature of armed action, will not be headline-grabbing, and will divert attention away from the problems of the erstwhile state, which will continue to fester.

Attempts to force a solution to the Kashmir problem are not likely to work, as recent evidence shows. Its complexity requires discussions with all parties concerned and a willingness to make compromises if required.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

HARSH SYSTEM

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'After the assault' (IE, January 11). A number of special provisions have been incorporated in the POCSO Act, 2021 such as Section 39 and 43, which empower the state government to take assistance from the experts in the field and impart training on the matters relating to the implementation of the provisions of the Act. Despite such provisions, if cases like the one described by the author of a doctor casually remarking that an assault survivor is "too weak for abortion", there is not

just a lack but a complete failure of the machinery put in place and of proper usage of the enabling provisions to the benefit of the victim. There can be no better example of the pursuit of justice as a burden, when the victim is harmed by both lawbreakers and lawmakers.

Arrika Singh, Chandigarh

BURNING QUESTION
THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Stalling PM's cavalcade' (IE, January 10). The real issue is why the SPG let the PM be a stationary target for more than 15 minutes, instead of immediately turning his cavalcade around and retreating (as was done later). Wasn't there a contingency plan? Surely, that is the elephant in the room.

V A Iyengar, Delhi

HOPE IN TRAGEDY
THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A small hope' (IE, January 11). The baby, Sohail Ahmadi, was just two months old when he went missing on August 19 as thousands of people rushed to leave Afghanistan as it fell to the Taliban. After more than seven weeks of negotiations and pleas, the child was back to his jubilant grandfather and other relatives in Kabul. The case highlights the plight of many parents separated from their children during the hasty evacuation effort and withdrawal of US forces.

SS Paul, Nadia



David Sassoli. Reuters

EUROPE

European Parliament chief Sassoli dies

Brussels: European Parliament president David Sassoli, an Italian socialist and former journalist, died early on Tuesday in hospital in Italy, his spokesperson said. He was 65. He had been president of the 705-seat parliament since July 2019 and his term in the predominantly ceremonial role had been due to end this month. Maltese lawmaker Roberta Metsola, from the conservative European People's Party (EPP), is widely expected to succeed him. "Sassoli was a symbol of balance, humanity and generosity. These qualities have always been recognised by all his colleagues, from every political quarter and every European country," said Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi. REUTERS

NEPAL

People defy curbs to pay homage to late King

Kathmandu: Hundreds of people turned up to pay homage to late King Priyadarshini Shah on his 300th birth anniversary on Tuesday. Led by Gyanendra Shah, the last monarch and 10th descendant of the dynasty, people defied restrictions imposed by the administration to assemble and garland the life-size statue of the "National Hero", who unified small kingdoms and fiefs to build a united Nepal during his tenure. Even President Bidhya Devi Bhandari chose to honour the late King. Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba or any of his predecessors however, chose not to attend the function. ENS

TALIBAN

Govt frees popular Afghan professor

Kabul: The Taliban has released a popular university professor and outspoken critic of successive Afghan governments who was arrested over the weekend, a family member said on Tuesday. Hasing Jalal, Faizullah Jalal's daughter, said her father was freed from Taliban custody. The group had accused him of "nonsense remarks on social media, which were provoking people against the government and playing with people's dignity". Jalal had been detained Sunday by the Taliban's intelligence arm. AP

IT MARKS A STEP IN THE DECADES-LONG QUEST TO USE ANIMAL ORGANS FOR LIFE-SAVING TRANSPLANTS

In a first, US surgeons transplant pig heart into 57-year-old patient

CARLA K JOHNSON

JANUARY 11

In a medical first, doctors transplanted a pig heart into a patient in a last-ditch effort to save his life and a Maryland hospital said Monday that he's doing well three days after the highly experimental surgery.

While it's too soon to know if the operation really will work, it marks a step in the decades-long quest to one day use animal organs for life-saving transplants. Doctors at the University of Maryland Medical Center say the transplant showed that a heart from a ge-

netically modified animal can function in the human body without immediate rejection.

The patient, David Bennett, a 57-year-old Maryland handyman, knew there was no guarantee the experiment would work but he was dying, ineligible for a human heart transplant and had no other option, his son told *The Associated Press*.

"It was either die or do this transplant. I want to live. I know it's a shot in the dark, but it's my last choice," Bennett said a day before the surgery, according to a statement provided by the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

On Monday, Bennett was breathing on his own while still

connected to a heart-lung machine to help his new heart. The next few weeks will be critical as Bennett recovers from the surgery and doctors carefully monitor how his heart is faring.

There's a huge shortage of human organs donated for transplant, driving scientists to try to figure out how to use animal organs instead. Last year, there were just over 3,800 heart transplants in the US, a record number, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, which oversees the nation's transplant system.

"If this works, there will be an endless supply of these organs for patients who are suffering," said Dr Muhammad Mohiuddin,

Russia says not optimistic on US talks, won't let them drag on

REUTERS
MOSCOW, JANUARY 11

RUSSIA STAGED live-fire exercises with troops and tanks near the Ukrainian border on Tuesday while sounding a downbeat note over the prospects for talks with the United States that Washington hopes will remove the possible threat of an invasion of Ukraine.

A day after the US side urged Russia at talks in Geneva to pull back an estimated 100,000 troops from near the border, the defence ministry said about 3,000 servicemen had started combat training including mock battles in four regions of southwestern Russia.

The drills suggested that the Kremlin has no intention of easing the military pressure that has brought the US to the negotiating table, where Moscow has presented demands for sweeping security guarantees from the West.

Washington has said it cannot accept these demands, although it is willing to engage on other aspects of Russia's proposals by discussing missile deployments or limits on the size of military exercises.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Tuesday said Ukraine is ready to take the necessary decisions to end the war in its eastern Donbas region at a new summit of the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany, Ukrainian. "It is time to agree on an end to the conflict, and we are ready for the necessary decisions during a new summit of the leaders of the four countries," Zelenskiy said. Zelenskiy's chief of staff Andriy Yermak said Ukraine wanted to agree on measures such as implementing a ceasefire and more prisoner swaps.

Tokayev also appointed a new prime minister, Alikhan Smailov, on Tuesday. Kazakhstan's Interior Ministry on Tuesday reported that a total of 9,900 people were detained in the country over the unrest. In Almaty, Kazakhstan's former capital and largest city, protesters set government buildings on fire and briefly seized the airport. By the weekend, the unrest has been largely quelled.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has blamed the unrest on foreign-backed "terrorists" and insisted that his request for help to the CSTO was justified.

"When this decision was being made, we could have completely lost control over Almaty, which was being torn apart by terrorists. Had we lost Almaty, we would have lost the capital and the entire country," Tokayev told Kazakhstan's parliament Tuesday.

The president said that the CSTO has largely completed its mission in the country and will start withdrawing its troops in two days — a process that will take no longer than 10 days.

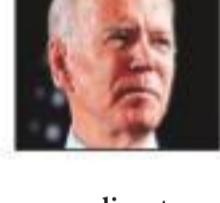
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Biden will endorse changing Senate rules to pass voting rights legislation

KATIE ROGERS

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 11



US President Joe Biden

PRESIDENT JOE Biden will endorse changing Senate rules to pass new voting rights protections during a speech in Atlanta on Tuesday, the most significant step he will have taken to pressure lawmakers to act on an issue he has called the biggest test of America's democracy since the Civil War.

Biden will not go so far as to call for full-scale elimination of the filibuster, a Senate tradition that allows the minority party to kill legislation that fails to garner 60 votes,

according to a administration official who previewed the speech. But Biden will say he supports a filibuster "carve-out" in the case of voting rights, the official said.

Citing "repeated obstruction" by Republicans, Biden will endorse changing the Senate rules, the official said. The President will contend that the filibuster has protected "extreme attacks on the most basic constitutional right."

"This is one of those defining moments," Biden told reporters on Tuesday, before departing for Georgia. "People are going to be judged, where were they before and where were they after the vote. History is going to judge this. And so the risk is making sure people understand just how important this is."

Biden's visit to Georgia is intended to invigorate a Democratic-led effort to pass new voting rights protections in the 50-50 Senate in the coming days, although chances are slim that he will be able to rally the necessary votes. NYT

young than 60. Among people older than 60, daily admissions are still lower than last winter.

The hospitalisation totals also include people who test positive for the virus incidentally after being admitted for conditions unrelated to Covid-19.

The Omicron wave has overwhelmed hospitals and depleted staffs that were already worn out by the Delta variant. It has been driven in large part by people



MEANWHILE,

PARTHENON MARBLE FRAGMENT RETURNS TO GREECE

A marble fragment of the Parthenon temple has been returned to Athens from a museum in Sicily, a move officials hope will advance efforts to have the British Museum send back ancient sculptures from Greece's most renowned ancient landmark. Athens' Acropolis Museum presented the "Fagan fragment" marble fragment showing the foot of the seated ancient Greek goddess Artemis brought home from the Antonio Salinas Archaeological Museum in Palermo.

Over half of Europe could be infected in next 2 months: WHO



People look at the city hall building in the central square blocked by Kazakhstani troops and police in Almaty. AP

Russian-led troops to start leaving in 2 days, says Kazakh President

DASHA LITVINNOVA

MOSCOW, JANUARY 11

THE PRESIDENT of Kazakhstan announced Tuesday that a Russia-led security alliance will start pulling out its troops from the country in two days after completing its mission.

The mostly Russian troops were deployed to Kazakhstan last week by the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a military alliance of six former Soviet states, at the president's request amid the worst public unrest the former Soviet nation has faced since gaining independence 30 years ago.

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E-Tender Notice No. - 04 For 2021-22
Government Of Maharashtra
Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation, Thane
South Konkan Irrigation Circle, Oros
Minor Irrigation Division, Oros-Sindhudurgnagar

Main Portal : <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

ONLINE electronic bids in B-1 Form for belowmentioned work is invited by the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Oros-Sindhudurgnagar from eligible and capable Tender Documents will be available on the web site <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. Main Tender Documents are available for online bid preparation & submission on web site from Dt. 12.01.2022 To Dt. 28.01.2022 & Opening bid from Dt. 31.01.2022. Right to reject any or all tenders is reserved by the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Oros-Sindhudurgnagar. Any conditional tender will be summarily rejected.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost Rs.	Earnest Money Rs.	Time Limit for Completion	Cost of blank tender form Rs.	Class of Contractor
1	Repairing And Renovation of Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Oros And Office of the Superintending Engineer, S.K.I.P.C., Oros.	154,30,598/-	1,50,000/-	12 Months	2,360/-	N.A.

The information regarding Online electronic bids are below :

1. <https://www.mahatenders.gov.in> (If any change in tender notice will be intimated on above web site).
2. Copy to notice board in the office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Oros-Sindhudurgnagar.
3. GR dated 30.11.2018 of WRD and its correction dated 12.12.2018, Dt. 13.09.2019, Dt. 23.06.2020 will be follow fully.
4. Contact Details : Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Oros-Sindhudurgnagar Main Administrative Building, "C" Wing, 2nd Floor, Block No. 312, Tal.- Kudal, Dist.- Sindhudurg, PIN Code-416 812. E-mail Address : eemido@gmail.com eemid.sndhdrg@wrd.maharashtra.gov.in Telephone No.: 02362-228717
5. The department is not liable for any expenditure incurred by the bidder to participate in the tender process. Right to reject any or all the bids/ tender is reserved by tender accepting authority.

Geo-Tagging :

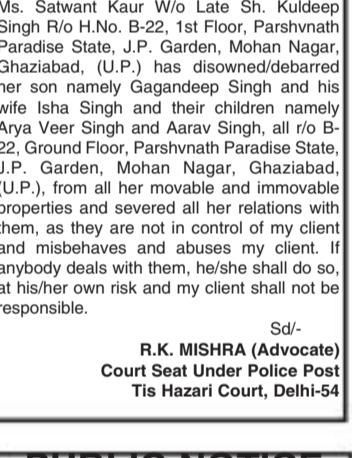
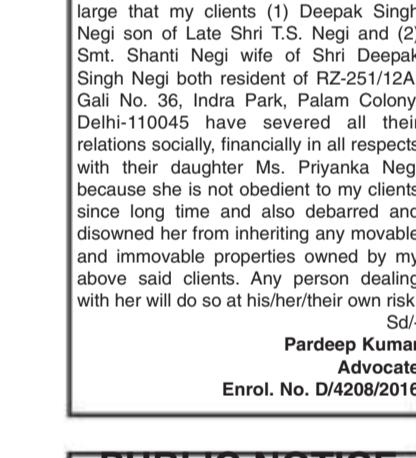
- A) As per Govt. of Maharashtra Water Resources Department G.R. dt. 08.04.2021

1. As per the G.R. it is Mandatory for the bidder to Visit the work Site, in order to know the Condition of the site, before bidding for the tender.
2. 5 (Five) working days will be specified for the Site visit Dt. 19.01.2022 to Dt. 25.01.2022 (Excluding Holidays). Refer to Tender Notice for the same.
3. Geo Tagging is to be done by contractor or his authorised representative only. An "Authority Letter" (Form I) regarding this should be submitted at the time of site visit.
4. Duly filled Authority letter should be dropped in the "Drop Box" set up for this purpose.
5. A photo copy of I.D. Card of Contractor or his authorised representative should be submitted to officer receiving the tender or his representative.

Above Geo Tagging must be submitted in envelope No. 1 otherwise Tender will be rejected. Geo Tagging Location Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Oros Sindhudurgnagar.

No. MIDO/AB-1/45/2022
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, (M.S. Kadam)
Oros-Sindhudurgnagar.
Date : 06.01.2022

Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation Division, Oros-Sindhudurgnagar.
DGPR/2021-2022/3625

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice is given to the general Public at large that my client Shri. Deepak Singh Negi son of Late Shri. P. N. Negi (22) Smt. Shanti Negi wife of Shri. Deepak Singh Negi both resident of R-251/12A, Galli No. 36, Indra Park, Palam Colony, Delhi-110049 have severed all their relations with me and have withdrawn all their respects with their daughter Ms. Priyanka Negi because she is not obedient to my clients since long time and always defrauded and mislead them into inflicting any loss to their properties and immovable properties owned by my above said clients. Any person dealing with her will do so at his/her own risk and my client shall not be responsible.

Sd/-
Pardeep Singh
Advocate
Enrol. No. D/4209/2016

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS my clients Sh. Rambabu Sharma son of Sh. Kanchibhai Sharma & Smt. Rajeshwari Devi wife of Sh. Rambabu Sharma both residing at Ctr. No.406, H Block, Type-II, Sector-2, Kalibari Marg, D-2 Area, New Delhi-110032, have severed all their relations with their son name ALI MIJAZ S/o GHAZANFAR ABABAS and his wife NAME JAZIM SAYYADA W/o ALI MIJAZ. They have withdrawn all respect from their movable and immovable properties and my clients shall not be held responsible for any act of them.

Sd/- M. N. Khan (Advocate)
Chamber No. 618 Western Wing
Tis Hazari Court Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is large informed that my client Babu Meena D/o Sh. Tejpal Singh Negi son of Late Sh. Tejpal Singh Negi House No. 102, Gali No. 17, Opposite Ambekar park, Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110022 has died and hence his wife Meena Negi has withdrawn all respect from his movable and immovable properties. Since, his son Bharat Meena and his wife Smt. Manisha Meena D/o Sh. Tejpal are dis-obedient and causing domestic violence upon him and wife, so my client has severed all social relations with them. Anybody dealing with them will do so at his/her own risk and consequences, my client as well as his other family members shall not be responsible in any manner.

Sd/-
TEJPAL SHOKEN
Advocate
Enr. No. D-169-91/1999
Ch. No. 323, Lawyers Chambers,
Rohini District Court, Delhi-110085

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, बलौदाबाजार (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोक्योरमेट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

आँनलाईन निविदा ए प्रपत्र-ए में एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंगरूत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से जल जीवन मिशन के एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजनातंत्रमें निर्माण कार्य की आँनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

निविदा सूचना क्र./दिनांक संख्या क्र.

सिस्टम विकासखण्ड क्र.

ग्राम का नाम

अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)

216/30.12.2021 89899 बलौदाबाजार बग्गुडा 154.06

217/30.12.2021 89904 बलौदाबाजार बहन्हुरी 75.24

218/30.12.2021 89907 बलौदाबाजार अमलकुण्डा 90.77

219/30.12.2021 89908 बलौदाबाजार भरसला 95.78

220/30.12.2021 89913 बलौदाबाजार अचाकपुर 67.57

221/30.12.2021 89914 बलौदाबाजार खेरी 57.75

222/31.12.2021 89934 भाटापारा अलेसर 110.18

232/31.12.2021 89938 भाटापारा विजाभाट 55.90

224/31.12.2021 89942 भाटापारा चरांगी 56.55

225/31.12.2021 89946 भाटापारा देवरानी 83.17

226/31.12.2021 89951 भाटापारा गावांडीह 79.58

227/31.12.2021 89952 भाटापारा जेटानी 74.02

228/31.12.2021 89959 भाटापारा खपड़ीह 70.39

229/31.12.2021 89961 भाटापारा छिपांगर 68.34

230/31.12.2021 89962 भाटापारा मंजोराव 83.46

231/31.12.2021 89963 भाटापारा मुंहांपा 68.54

232/31.12.2021 89964 भाटापारा पसांडीह 58.89

233/31.12.2021 89965 भाटापारा सेविया (ब) 87.17

234/31.12.2021 89966 भाटापारा तुमा 116.57

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धर्मांशुर गाँव, विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना विज्ञप्ति, निविदा, दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेट वेबपोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में दिनांक 10.01.2022 से देखी जा सकती है एवं निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 22.01.2022 तक है।

हस्तात-

कार्यपालन अभियंता,

लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड

बलौदाबाजार-भाटापारा (छ.ग.)

66690

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (PuVVNL) (A subsidiary of UP Power Corporation limited) Purvanchal Vidyut Bhavan, Vidyut Nagar, P.O.- D.L.W., Varanasi - 221004, Website: <http://www.etender.up.nic.in> Ref: No. 99/PuVVNL(V) /MM-I Date: 11.01.2022 Tender Date Extension The date of submission & opening of e-tender no. EAV-31/2021-22 is here by extended up to 27.01.2022 (15.00 PM) & 28.01.2022 (15.00 PM) respectively. Further details can be seen at website www.etender.up.nic.in. Other terms and conditions shall remain same. Sd/- (Rajesh Kumar) Superintending Engineer (MM-I) "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" पंचक 99 पु.वि.वि.नि.लि.वि.वा.सा.प्र.-1/अश्विनीपात्र दिनांक 11.01.2022



The Tata Power Company Limited
Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Horni Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001, Tel: 91 22 6665 8282 Fax: 91 22 6665 8801 CIN: L2929M1919PLC000567 Email: tatapower@tatapower.com Website: www.tatapower.com

NOTICE OF RECORD DATE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 that:

- 9% Series I Unsecured Non-Convertible Redeemable Taxable Listed Rated Securities in the form of Non-Convertible Debentures (ISIN: INE245AA08141);
- 8.84% Series III Unsecured Non-Convertible Redeemable Taxable Listed Rated Securities in the form of Non-Convertible Debentures (ISIN: INE245AA08166), both due on 21st February 2022.

B. Tuesday, 8th February 2022 has been fixed as the Record Date for the purpose of payment of annual interest to the holders of:

- i. 6.18% Series I Unsecured Redeemable Rated Listed Taxable Non-Convertible Securities in the form of Non-Convertible Debentures (ISIN: INE245AA08208);
- ii. 7.05% Series II Unsecured Redeemable Rated Listed Taxable Non-Convertible Securities in the form of Non-Convertible Debentures (ISIN: INE245AA08216), both due on 23rd February 2022.

For The Tata Power Company Limited

H. M. Mistry
Company Secretary
(FCS: 3606)

Place : Mumbai
Dated : 11th January 2022

"IMPORTANT"

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NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tender Notice No. TMC/CPOH/PRYJ/21/22 Date: 07.01.2022

E-Tender Notice

CWM/CPOH/North Central Railway/Prayagraj for and on behalf of the President of India, invites "Open" E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work up to 15:00 Hrs. on 10.02.2022. The details of the Tender are as under:-

Tender No. TMC-CPOH-PRYJ- 11-21-22

Name of work Repairing of General Mechanical items (Pneumatic Hose & Fittings, Gear Boxes etc.) for POH of Machines as per schedules of Works

Approx. Cost (Rs) ₹7673793.15

Completion Period 24 Month

Date of Opening of tender 10.02.2022

EMD ₹ 153500.00

Tender Document cost ₹ 5000.00

Similar Nature of Work Any type of Pneumatic repair works or mechanical repair work on Track Machines.

Note:-1.The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date to date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digital shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form / letter had if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. The tenderers shall submit a notarized affidavit on an non judicial stamp paper of Rs.100/- as given in tender document in standard format, without which their tender will not be considered and may be rejected. 5. The supplier/contractor of goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, hitherto known as Pintoo, S/o Sh. Richpal, R/o House No.145, Y-Block, Mangal Puri, North Delhi, Delhi-110083, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aditya. 0040598978-4

I, hitherto known as Amit Gupta, S/o Jugal Kishore Gupta, R/o D-142, Mansarovar Garden, Ramesh-Nagar, New-Delhi-110015, have changed my name and hereafter shall be known as Amit Gupta. 0040598978-6

I, Vishal Thakur S/o Lt. Sh. Rakesh Thakur R/o A-6, Street-no.22, Mahindra Park, Delhi-110033, inform that Rakesh Thakur and Rajesh Thakur, are the names of same and one person i.e. father. 0040598983-11

I, Varsha Rani D/o Hari Chand Gulati W/o, Nirmal Parkash Kukreja R/o-40-A, DG-2, Vikaspuri, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Varsha Rani Kukreja. 0040598995-10

I, Vipin Vagish S/o Suresh Chandra Vagish R/H.O. No.C-39-40 Third-Floor, Block-C, Gali-No.62, Arya Samaj Road Uttram-Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Vipin Kumar Vagish. 0040598983-6

I, VINOD SETHI/VINOD KUMAR S/O HEMRAJ R/O GH-13, FLATNO.178, FIRST FLOOR, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110087. CHANGED MY NAME TO VINOD KUMAR SETHI. 0040598983-1

I, Surayya Amir, W/o-Abdul Amir Amiro, R/o-1711, Gal Takhat Wali Suiwanal, Daryaganj, Delhi-110002, have changed my name to Suraya Amir, for all purposes. 0040598999-3

I, Sahada Begum, W/o-Zahid Ahmed, R/o-F 37/A, Abul-Fazal-Enclave-2, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Nagar, ND-25, have changed my name from Sahada Begum to Shaheeda Begum. 0040598999-2

I, SUNITA AGGAWAL W/o MUKESH AGGARWAL, R/o A-5 SWASTHYA VIHAR DELHI-110092, HAVE CHANGE MY SUNITA AGARWAL TO SUNITA AGGARWAL. 0040598978-1

I, SHEIKH IMRAN UZ ZAMAN, S/O MOHAMMAD SHARIF, H.NO. 2344, TOP-FLLOOR, GUL-MIR MADARI, ROD GRAN, FARASH-KHANA, CENTRAL-DELHI-110006. Changed my name to SHEIKH IMRAN UZ ZAMAN, Permanently. 0040598995-4

I, SEEMA DHAWAN, W/O SANJEEV DHAWAN, R/O KH.NO.14/21, GALI NO.19, CHANDAN-VIHAR, SANT NAGAR, DELHI-110081, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SEEMA DHAWAN, W/O-DALIT SINGH, FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040598978-10

My name Yogata and Date-of-birth 1990, have been entered in my bank account as per my voter card, whereas my correct name-as per my Aadhar, & Pan Card is Yogita and date-of-birth is 10.6.1988. In the future for all purposes I shall be known as Yogita/o/Suresh Chandra Dixit resident of Sharifabad, Kannauj, Chhibrampur, UP. 70768383-1

It is for general information that I, Hafri Taj Mohammad, S/o Suleman, R/o C-21/4-A, Okhla-Vihar, Jamia-Nagar, New Delhi-110025, declare that name of my father was been wrongly-written as Mohd Suleman in my Gan-Licence The actual-name of my father is Suleman, which may be amended accordingly. 0040598999-1

I, RAHIS S/o Ahmad sayeed, R/o 1/334 shri Ram-Nagar near-kamar masjid Shahdara Delhi-32, inform that name of my has been wrongly-written as Mohd Rahis in my Bank account-number 601510510001765 the correct my name is Rahis. Both are the same person, for all, future purposes. 40598990-7

I, Meenu Rajak, aged about 35 years, W/o Sri Ajay Kumar Shrivastav R/o Nanakpura, Katra Station Road, Mauraipur Jhansi, U.P, hereby declared that I have changed my name from Meenu Rajak to Meenu Rajak Mansi and henceforth I shall be known and recognized as Meenu Rajak Mansi for all purposes. 0060087429-1

I, Mr. Sunny Kumar, Son of Shri Jai Prakash R/o House No.A-39, Gali No.3, Sharma Market, pul Pehladpur, New Delhi-110044. Inform that in my all documents my father name is wrongly written as Jai Prakash instead of Jayprakash Narayan Pandey. Both names are of one & same person. 0040598963-1

I, Kuldeep Singh, S/o Jung Singh, R/o K-1st-35/18, VTC, Sangam-Vihar, South, Delhi-62 have been wrongly-written my father's name Jang Singh instead of Jung Singh & mother's name Paramjeet Kaur instead of Param Jeet Kaur in my School-Leaving Certificate. 0040598999-8

I, Dharmendra Mishra S/o Sh. Ram Ujjair Mishra, current resident of 4227 Clybourne Lane, Jacksonville, Florida-32126, USA & permanent Indian address of G-231, Sector-23, Rajnagar, Ghaziabad, UP-201002 is also known as Daniel Dharmendra Mishra belong only to Hindu religion. Both names are of one and the same person. 0040598999-8

I, Raju V.K. S/o Gopal Bahadur Vishwakarma R/o-160-E-2, Ist-Floor, Munirka-Village, Munirka, Delhi-110067, have changed my name to Raju Vishwakarma for-all-purposes. 0040598995-9

I, TANGIRI W/O RAM KUMAR R/O-JANDHERA SAMASPUR, DEOBAND, SAHARANPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-247451. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANGURI DEVI. 0040598983-3

I, Rajiv Kumar Narang, S/o Pushkar-Enclave, Paschim-Vihar Delhi-63, have changed my name to Rajiv Narang. 0040598978-6

I, Raj Kumar S/o Madan Lal Batra R/o Flat No.107, Kumudi Apartment, Sector-1A, Dwarka, Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Raj Kumar Batra. 0040598995-2

I, Rahisan W/O-Aas Mohd R/O-Village-Sonkh PO-Tapka, Tehsil-Nuh, Distt-Mewat, Haryana-122107. Have Changed My Name To Rahisan, For All, Future Purposes. 40598995-5

I, Mahmood Hanif Khan, S/O Kalana Khan, R/O EK Minara-Masjid Ashok-vihar Loni Dehaat, Ghaziabad, up-201102, have changed my name to Mohd Hanif Khan, permanently. 0040598983-10

I, Mohammad Faizan S/o Mohammad Raiz R/o 579-O, Block, Sunand-Nagri, Delhi-110093, have changed my name to Mohammad Faizan. 0040598960-1

I, Rakesh Kumar Das, R/O-Flat-19/429, Shivam Khand, Sector-19, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, UP-201012, have changed my son's name from Kshitij Kumar Das to Kshitiz Kumar Das for all purposes. 0040598967-1

I, Priyanka, W/o Mr. Mudit Sharma R/o 15-C, Jia Sarai, IIT Gate, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016, have changed my name to Priyanka Sharma. 0040598969-1

I, MAHADEV DASS S/O-SH. RAM NARAYAN DASS, R/O-R/2-2/30, J-BLOCK, WEST SAGAR, PUR, NANGAL RAYA, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110046, have changed my name to MAHABIR KUMAR DASS for all, future purpose. 0040598983-8

I, MUDHUDASHINI, SPOUSE OF THANARAJA MURALIDHARAN R/O-D-245, MANGALPURI VILLAGE, PALAM, NEW DELHI-110045, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, FROM SUDHASHINI TO TSUDHASHINI, VIDE-AFFIDAVIT, DATED-11-JAN-2022. 0040598990-6

I, LALITA PRASAD, S/o Sh. Chandra Pal, R/o H.No.-H-208, Nanakpura, Moti-Bagh-2, New-Delhi-110021, have changed the name of my minor son, from SIDDHARTH KUMAR MEENA to SIDDHARTH KUMAR MEENA, for all, future purposes. 0040598978-7

I, INDU CHAUDHARY, W/O ASHWANI CHAUDHARY, R/o H.No.409, BRJI-VIHAR COLONY, MURADNAGAR, GHAZIABAD, U.P-201001, changed my name to SONALI GUPTA. 0040598978-10

I, Faiz Mahmood Khan Mohmood, S/o Mohd.Hanif Khan, R/o-C-354 Dakshin puri Dr.Ambedkar-Nagar,sec-5 New-Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Faiz Mohd Khan, permanently. 0040598983-9

I, DEEPAK DHAWAN, S/O-SANJEEV DHAWAN, R/O-KH.NO. 14/21, GALI NO.19, CHANDAN-VIHAR, SANT NAGAR, DELHI-110081, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DEEPAK DHAWAN, S/O-DALIT SINGH, FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040598983-5

I, Chehak D/o Raj Kumar Batra R/o Flat No.107, Kumudi Apartment, Sector-1A, Dwarka, Delhi-110045 have changed my name to Chehak Batra. 0040598995-1

I, Ass Mohammad S/o-Samand Khan R/O-Village-Sonkh PO-Tapka, Tehsil-Nuh, Distt-Mewat, Haryana-122107, Have Changed My Name To Aas Mohd, For All, Future Purposes. 004059895-6

I, Anupriya D/o Hem Kumar Sharma, R/o A31/2C-Gali No.2, Maupuri, Delhi-53, have changed my name to Anupriya Sharma, permanently 0040598978-5

I, Amarjeet Singh Nagi, S/o Surat Singh Nagi, R/o M-134, Uday-Vihar Nithi-Extn- Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Amarjeet Singh. 0040598978-9

I, Aman Bamotra S/o Satnam Singh R/o-4/223 Gali No.2, Bihari Colony, Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Aman Singh, for all purposes 0040598983-7

I, Alexander KL, S/o Late Shri G. Lukose, R/o Charuvala Puthen Veedu, Valakom PO- Kottarakkara-691532, Kerala, have changed my name to Baba Alexander, for all purposes. 0040598982-1

I, Yogesh Arya & Yogeesh Kumar Arya, S/O Hari Narain Arya are same & one person, R/O 1039, Sector-29, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar 201301, would now be known as Yogesh Arya. 0040598994-1

I, Kuldeep Singh, S/o Jung Singh, R/o K-1st-35/18, VTC, Sangam-Vihar, South, Delhi-62 have been wrongly-written my father's name Jang Singh instead of Jung Singh & mother's name Paramjeet Kaur instead of Param Jeet Kaur in my School-Leaving Certificate. 0040598999-8

I, Dharmendra Mishra S/o Sh. Ram Ujjair Mishra, current resident of 4227 Clybourne Lane, Jacksonville, Florida-32126, USA & permanent Indian address of G-231, Sector-23, Rajnagar, Ghaziabad, UP-201002 is also known as Daniel Dharmendra Mishra belong only to Hindu religion. Both names are of one and the same person. 0040598999-8

I, Poonam Datta, D/o R.L.Datta W/o Narendra Sharan R/o H-4/1 Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Poonam Lao, for all purposes 0040598978-8

I, Subhash Chandra Malik, S/o Sukbir Singh, R/o CG/2301, Cleo County, Sector 121, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, have changed my name to Subhash Malik. 007068318-1

I, Siddhi Rathaur D/o Sri Kushal Pal Singh Rathaur R/o 424, Sec-14, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, (U.P)-201012 born on 10/09/2002 have changed my name to Aayushi Rathaur. 0040598981-1

I, Shikha, W/o Harsh Gupta, R/o D-103, Gaurni City, Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, have changed my name from Shikha to Shikha Bansal for all purpose. 007068313-1

I, Sandeep Dabla S/o Om Parkash R/o H859-L-behind Ravindra Hospital, Model Town, Panipat-132103, have declared that Sandeep Kumar and Sandeep Dabla both names are mine 0040598968-1

I, Revati Nandan, Son of, Late. Tara Dutt, resident of A-138, Street, No.8, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110092, have lost my original previous property-documents executed at delhi on 20/06/1974 in respect of Property, No.A-138, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110092, executed by Ram ji Dass in favour of my father Shri.Tara Dutt, finder may contact Mo.9891942272. 0040598990-11

I, WE, Reena Narayan, W/o Sh. Dipendra Narayan & Dipendra Narayan, S/o Sh. M Narayan, both R/o of D-89 Sector-20, Noida, UP-201304, have lost M.I.G. housing map, HPTA dt-08/Jan/1982, Reservation of house dt. 16/Mar/1981 Doc. No. 2296/DAO/MIG/455, Deposit of Allotment Money dt. 01/Jan/1982 Doc. No. 130/ADM/MIG/20-D-89/80 and Allotment Letter dt- 11/Feb/1982 Doc. No. 302/ADM(H)/MIG/20-D-89/82 documents. Finder pls contact- 9810613055/8800562222. 007068380-1

I, Dilwar Khan S/o Riyajuddin R/o R-535, JJ Colony, Raghbir Nagar, Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Dilawar Khan. 0040598960-1

I, Rakesh Kumar Das, R/O-Flat-19/429, Shivam Khand, Sector-19, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, UP-201012, have changed my son's name from Kshitij Kumar Das to Kshitiz Kumar Das for all purposes. 0040598967-1

I, Popat Uttam Salunke R/O Flat No-10, 70A, Ber Sarai, South West Delhi-110016 have changed my name to Popat Uttamrao Salunke. 007068316-1

I, Poonam Sharma, W/O Mayank Kumar Sharma R/o 254 Dabki Gujjar, Dabki Gujjar, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh-247001 .have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Poonam Devi. 007068350-1

I, Nitin Baloni S/o Sh. Shantilal Prasad Baloni, R/o Plot No-D-206/A, Street No-5, Road No-6, Shyam Vihar Phase-I, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Nitten S Baloni. 007068380-1

I, Monu S/O Hanuman, R/o Hansi Road, Tosham (Rural) (33), Bhiwani, Haryana-127040, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Amrit Chaudhary. 007068353-1

I, Km Vinamarta Wadhawa alias Vinamarta Wadhwa Km, W/O Amit Suri R/o C-2C, P-2, Flat N-158 Janakpuri B-1 S.O Janakpuri B-1 Delhi-110058, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Km Vinamrata Wadhwa. 007068355-1

I, CHAND, S/O-NARESH PAL, R/O-KH NO-17/14 GALI NO-15, SWAROOP NAGAR, DELHI-110042, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KARAN SINGH SOOD FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 007068342-1

I, BHARTI BAHLI, W/o-SHAJAH SHARMA R/o- H.NO-29-30, BLOCK-C-1, RAMA PARK, UTTAM NAGAR DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BHARTI BAHLI SHARMA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE. 007068341-1

I have changed my Name from Samadrita ghosh to Samadrita Pal for all future purposes. Samadrita Pal D/O Saumitra Kumar Pal R/O 159, Gal No 15, pratap Nagar, Mayur Vihar phase-1, Delhi-110091 0040598978-5

I, Priyanka Singh D/o Sh. Gopal Ram Singh W/o Sh. Abhishek Singh R/o G-84, First Floor, Vikas Puri, Tilak Nagar S.O., West Delhi, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Priyanka Singh for all purposes. 0040598978-9

I, Aman Bamotra S/o Satnam Singh R/o-4/223 Gali No.2, Bihari Colony, Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Aman Singh, for all purposes 0040598983-7

I, Virender Sehgal S/o-Sh. Ram Nath R/o-16/140, Street No.5, Jitish Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 do hereby declares that in my daughter Sumedha my name is mentioned as V K Sehgal. The V K Sehgal and Virender Sehgal are one and the same person. 0040598983-2

I, Anita W/o Sh. Vinod Singh R/o House No.A-596/97, Durga Chowk, Bhalswa Dairy, North West Delhi-110042 is also known as Nithu. Both the names i.e. Anita and Nithu are of one and the same person. 0040598978-10

I, RAVINDER KUMAR, S/O GOKAL DEV KOTHARI, ADD-D2A/87D JANAKPUR, WEST DELHI-110

Calm New Zealand beat Bangladesh to tie series

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JANUARY 11

A COURAGEOUS century by wicketkeeper Liton Das made Bangladesh a hard nut to crack but New Zealand finally broke through on Tuesday to win the second Test by an innings and 117 runs to tie the series.

Das batted almost one-handed for much of his innings after being struck on the glove. He weathered a barrage of short-pitched bowling from New Zealand to post his second Test century from only 106 balls. Bangladesh rallied around his resilient example to force a match which many thought would be over quickly on Tuesday into the final session of the third day before the last wicket fell 20 minutes from scheduled stumps.

Das finally was out for 102 and the end came swiftly afterwards with Bangladesh losing its last wickets in dimming light at Hagley Oval. When the ninth wicket fell the crowd began baying for the veteran batsman Ross Taylor who will retire from Test cricket after his 112th Test to be given a chance to bowl. When the light became too poor for the quicks to continue, captain Tom Latham bowed to the crowd's demand and Taylor's third ball of gentle off breaks brought a false shot from Ebadot Hossain who skied the ball to Latham. That brought the curtain down on Taylor's 15-year Test career in the most unusual fashion and to the reverberating cheers of the crowd.

Taylor had bowled only 16 overs in all of his previous Tests for two wickets, the last time eight years ago. But fate conspired to bring his career to an extraordinary end. First mobbed by his teammates and presented the match ball, he walked from the field through a honour guard formed by

Bangladesh, providing one last rich memory of an outstanding career. "We needed to win this game to stay in the series and I thought we played fantastically well," Taylor said. "Bangladesh put us under pressure at various times and that was probably a fair reflection of where the series was at. "I wanted to finish with a win and the guys obviously gave that to me."

It was significant that the final catch was taken by Latham as the New Zealand captain had an outsized influence on this match. He scored 252, his second Test double century, in New Zealand's first innings of 521-6 declared, then took six catches as New Zealand bowled out Bangladesh for 126 and 278 after enforcing the follow-on. In doing so, Latham became the first player in Test history to score 250 and take six catches in the same match.

"We came here 1-0 down after losing the first test and putting a performance like this on the board was very pleasing," Latham said.

"We talked about it in the days before the match that we had to improve on a number of areas and I thought we did that well. I guess getting put in on day one on a wicket we know does a little bit on day one, to get through that first session, to build partnerships throughout the innings was ideal. I guess we know first innings scores here are very important."

The tourists struggled to recover in the second Test after New Zealand's mammoth first-innings total. "I'm really happy with the first Test but the first innings of the second Test was disappointing," Bangladesh captain Monimul Haque said.

BRIEF SCORES: New Zealand 521 for 6 dec (Latham 252, Conway 109, Blundell 57*, Shoriful 2-79) bt Bangladesh 126 (Yasir 55, Boult 5-43, Southee 3-28, Jamieson 2-32) and 278 (Litton 102, Monimul 37, Jamieson 4-82, Wagner 3-77) by an innings and 117 runs.



Talismanic batter Ross Taylor played his last Test after a fulfilling 15-year-career. AP

Finding ignition spark after false starts

Ashmita Chaliha's 24-22, 21-16 win over 5th seed Kosetskaya at India Open could kick her career into next gear

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, JANUARY 11

ASHMITA CHALIHA has an ambitious full-fledged jump smash. As a southpaw, it's her decisive weapon. But her live-by-the-sword-die-by-the-sword approach has also made her terribly prone to injuries. Two years since that shot created a buzz around the Assamese World No. 84, Chaliha showed she can retrace her precarious steps - like rewinding a tape two clicks back, frame by patient frame - and be more than a one-trick pony.

In beating World No. 28 Evgeniya Kosetskaya 24-22, 21-16 in 31 minutes in Round 1 of the India Open, Chaliha displayed maturity that has eluded her these last few years. She led the tall Russian 11-5 in the opener, and then 19-16, before freezing to gift her opponent two game points. Then in an alchemical mix of what Chaliha calls "safe and attacking" trailing 21-22, she would get the job done with three of her most important points of the last two years.

A 21-16 scoreline in Game 2 was a dressing of the same confidence in her game - something that she could carry further into this season.

Chaliha's early coach Surjan recalls his reticent ward crying copiously once after losing from a 20-19 situation. "She could go blank earlier at the crunch. And play negative. But today, she seemed to have crossed that hurdle," he said from Guwahati, adding that Indonesian coach Erwin had worked on keeping the shuttle in the middle of the court and not hitting out wildly at crucial junctures.

In juniors typically, where shuttlers played 2-3 matches a day, Chaliha was prone to playing rash shots in evening matches - pointing to a mental brittleness that comes from sub-par fitness. On Tuesday at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, Chaliha refused to self-destruct.

"In 20-20 situations, my only strategy was to play safe and continue with the rally until my opponent gives up. And I'm happy that I could pull it off," she would say later, adding that her attacking game had helped when tempered with mindful discretion.

Kosetskaya had won their earlier face-off in Russia, in straight games, back in July 2019. The 23-year-old Indian, playing sharper on home turf, burst out of the blocks, to upset the fifth seed, in the first big event after pandemic-mangled two years.

Lockdown Blues

Once tipped to be the natural successor to PV Sindhu owing to her unique southpaw game and blazing bouts of attack, Chaliha had lost out on two seasons, starved of competition, and nervous in the few times she travelled out to play smaller international events. "It was a tough time and torturous,"



Ashmita Chaliha was playing her first big tournament after a long absence due to Covid, injuries and tournament cancellations. BAI

she would explain her state of mind as her transition from juniors to seniors overlapped with the savagery of the virus bringing life to a standstill in Guwahati. "It's been tough, more so because there were lockdowns and curfews imposed and as such practice a lot of times became irregular," she says.

Her father, Dhruba Jyoti Chaliha dubs it a 24-month wipe-out. "It was really tough because two years just got wasted. But nevertheless, we told her that just keep practising and don't lose hope. Work more on your weak points," he recalls. She would work on her dribbles and attacks. "I did a lot of specific standing strokes at the net," Chaliha added. "I also did different kinds of agility, mostly for speed and movements."

Yet, the forced time away might've chiselled the sharpest muscle needing sharpening: the heart. For long considered a little laidback in her hunger to win - or in working up the fitness for it at any rate - Chaliha might well find the spark plug in this win. "Yes, she's ambitious. Also stubborn," her father attests, adding that she frequently goes to Bengaluru for sparring with top players.

Start in Guwahati

Dipankar Bhattacharyya was the local shuttle legend in Guwahati. But it was Krishna Dekaraja two decades ago who was considered India's most promising shuttler, right before Saina Nehwal emerged. That career would fade out, but Surjan, a Railways shuttler and her contemporary, would firm

KEY RESULTS ROUND 1

WS: 1-PV Sindhu bt Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli 21-5, 21-16; **MS:** 1-K Srikanth bt Siril Verma 21-17, 21-10; 5-Loh Kean Yew bt Xiaodong Sheng 16-21, 21-4, 21-13. **WD:** 7-Treesa Jolly/Gayatri Copichand bt Anastasiya Prozorova/Valeria Rudakova 21-12, 21-10; Simran Singh/Ritika Thaker bt Maria Stoliarenko/Yelyzaveta Zharka 14-21, 22-20, 21-19. **XD:** 7-Dhruv Kapila/N Sikki Reddy bt Chirag Arora/Nishu Rapria 21-11, 21-11.

up his mind to take up coaching.

Chaliha Sr, a tennis player, remembers, "There was no provision for any tennis courts near where we were situated. Whatever tennis one could play, had to travel a really long distance. Since we wanted Ashmita to play some sport and be active, badminton was the only racquet sport available."

A massive fan of Lee Chong Wei, Chaliha would start jump-smashing well before she got to 5ft-6. "Her grip and strokes were natural. Even the jump smash was her own. She realised it could make her 'extraordinary' in her group and learnt it with the boys I guess," Surjan recalls.

Still with little knowledge of a fitness base, injuries continued to stall progress. "We

had no social life when we were players, and barely met families, such was the obsession. Injuries due to bad courts would invariably end careers. With Ashmita, we are trying to improve," the coach says.

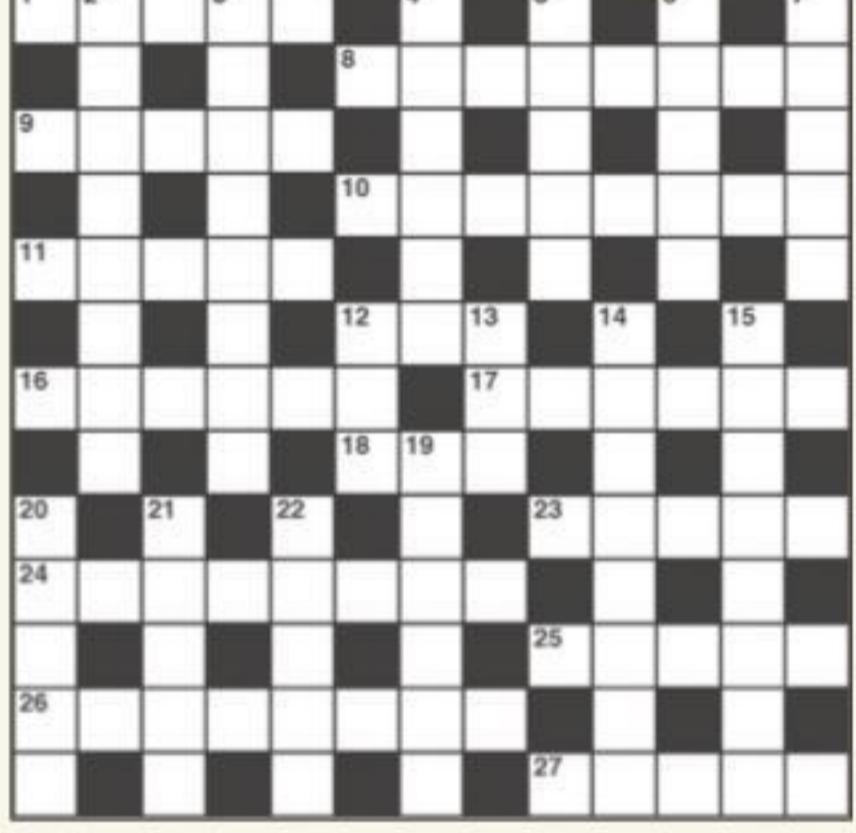
Yet, it was a nasty bout of Covid plus a bunch of injuries that muddled her return to action in 2021. Chaliha has decent deception on her forehand cross-courts and her backhand pickups at the net have the blitz as she intercepts the shuttle high. But staying fit remains a concern.

Her body language needs bolstering at the clutch, especially. "She's not much of a rebel. Listens to everything she's told. But yes, maybe the aggression can come with being assertive," he says. The one thing that Chaliha could learn from Carolina Marin, though the two southpaws have distinct games.

Mostly introverted, Chaliha has her close-knit friends, and enjoys photography. "She and her friends click really candid ugly pictures of us coaches and make memes out of them. And even if we're the butt of the joke, we can't help laughing. She's very funny that way," Surjan says.

There's a fine balance Chaliha needs to strike between the fun-n-jokes and getting serious about badminton. "We don't want her to take pressure. Best she enjoys when she plays because competition is intense. If she plays Sindhu (they might in quarters), I want her to create a happy memory irrespective of the result and play freely," the coach ends.

CROSSWORD 4635



ACROSS

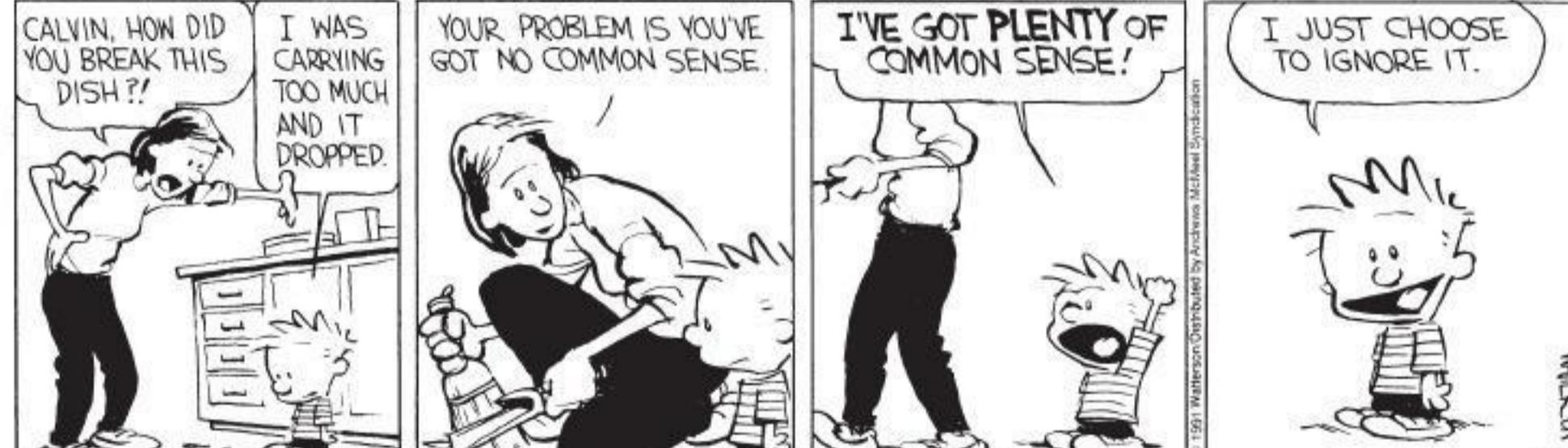
- 1 Sort of mistake that could make one late (5)
- 8 Noted French-speaking union (8)
- 9 Hazards of drivers and divers (5)
- 10 Tees should be made with sand - agreed? (8)
- 11 Refuse to wither away (5)
- 12 Twelve inches behind (3)
- 16 Anything but happy with my new logo (6)
- 17 More ideal state (6)
- 18 Fall in the sea (3)
- 23 What a thief may do is a hit (5)
- 24 Worker I surpass as a matter of course (8)
- 25 National condition? (5)
- 26 See 4 Down
- 27 Youthful love of being in a crowd (5)

Solutions Crossword 4634: Across: 1 Bottom gear, 6 Chop, 10 Temp, 11 Parachute, 12 Languish, 13 Oasis, 15 Coyotes, 17 Platoon, 19 Innards, 21 Creator, 22 Endue, 24 Carolina, 27 Topiarist, 28 Ivory, 29 List, 30 Aggregates. Down: 1 Bits, 2 Tom Sawyer, 3 Owning, 4 Gypsies, 5 Airship, 7 Hours, 8 Pleasantly, 9 Acclade, 14 Accidental, 16 Trade gap, 18 Out-and-out, 20 Sacking, 21 Curator, 23 Dunes, 25 Lying, 26 Eyes.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You're definitely on to a winner. The odds are stacked in your favour, so if you can possibly ease yourself into a strong position, please do. Domestic affairs seem to be dominant, and even at work you will need to feel part of one large, happy family.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

A financial loss or crisis should now be in the past and, while you may not have a chance to make up for it until next year, at least you'll be able to put yourself in a better footing by the end of the week. Your best move will be to line up some useful allies.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You're probably now coming under the shadow of the next major lunar alignment, and day-to-day ups and downs will only make sense when you look back with hindsight. This is a moment for casual companionship rather than raw passion, so don't expect what's not on offer.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Busy stars will certainly keep you on your toes, but a measure of uncertainty is clouding the issues. You may have to accept that one particular course of action is a dead end in the short run, but could have welcome spin-offs next year. But what these will be, nobody can say.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You're in charge. This means that not only could you be the cause of a minor dispute, but also that you have the means to restore peace. Overseas and long-distance contacts should be cultivated, partly because it's people from backgrounds very different from yours who offer the greatest stimulation.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You should continue to believe that you are in the right. Spending plans should proceed as normal, but if you can possibly veer towards the imaginative and romantic end of the spectrum, so much the better. It's just that a day-dream could open your eyes to practical solutions and advantage.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

All things must pass, as the song says. That's one of the laws of astrology. The final round in a long, drawn-out battle is on the way, but as we're talking in years rather than weeks, you must maintain your grasp on the future. Important discussions should soon be completed.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

You must now learn to be more discriminating in your choice of friends. At work, you may distinguish between people who are genuinely helpful and those who can put over a flashy presentation but totally lack the sort of meaning and substance which you bring.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

The fact is that you have the best ideas, and you are in control. You need not fear people who harbour angry resentments or have sharp tongues and bitter words. You can also avoid contributing to tense situations, and count to ten before delivering any home truths.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

It's your right not to be lied down, but colleagues and close associates are tearing their hair out at the moment. In about four or five days, you'll be ready to explain yourself and offer a few answers. But by the time that partners have caught up with where you are now, you'll have moved on.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You may finalise a number of social arrangements, or put a new friendship on firm ground, before the next phase in your personal affairs commences. The answer to any difficulties with children or younger relations may lie in the past. It's all a matter of knowing where to draw the line.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The past few weeks seem to have coincided with tense situations at work, but the origin of any strain probably lies deep within your private affairs. Decisive action may not be enough. Patience is essential, but that has been one of your major qualities.

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.

Men willingly ____ what they ____ - Julius Caesar (7, 4)

LMEEE

EITBHL

FNIIS

EELTVVW

SUDOKU 4712

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

5		2	8					
9		3	7					

BRIEFLY

Sundar tests positive, doubtful for SA ODIs

Chennai: India all-rounder Washington Sundar has tested positive for COVID-19 and is doubtful for the three-match ODI series against South Africa starting January 19. The 22-year-old Tamil Nadu player tested positive for the virus in Bengaluru and has not yet joined the other white-ball cricketers in Mumbai, who are scheduled to leave for South Africa in a day or two. "Washington has tested positive for COVID-19 and is yet to join the other white ball specialists in Mumbai. He was in Bengaluru (at the National Cricket Academy) when he tested positive," BCCI sources said. It is learnt that Washington will not be able to travel in the chartered flight along with the other selected players.

Tata replaces Vivo as IPL title sponsor

New Delhi: One of India's largest business conglomerates, the Tata Group, will replace Chinese mobile manufacturer Vivo as the Indian Premier League's title sponsor for the next two years. As per reliable sources, the Tatas will be paying around Rs 670 crore for two years of title sponsorship while Vivo will pay a total of Rs 454 crore for termination of contract which makes it a win-win situation for the BCCI as it is set to earn a whopping Rs 1124 crore for seasons 2022 and 2023 respectively. "Yes, Tata group is coming in as IPL title sponsor," IPL chairman Brijesh Patel confirmed the development to PTI. BCCI secretary Jay Shah welcomed the company in the new role.

Mary, Panghal in national camps

New Delhi: Six-time world champion MC Mary Kom and Asian Games gold-medalist Amit Panghal were among six Indian boxers who were on Tuesday included in the ongoing national camps for women and men in Delhi and Patiala respectively. Panghal was joined by a fit-again Vikas Krishan, who underwent a shoulder surgery last year after the Olympics. Manish Kaushik, Satish Kumar, and Ashish Kumar in the men's camp in Patiala. Mary Kom will report to the women's camp at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here after the inclusion of their names was recommended by the Boxing Federation of India.

Bopanna, Sania exit Adelaide-2 event

Adelaide: Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna, who enjoyed good runs on the Pro circuit last week, bowed out of the second Adelaide ATP and WTA events after first round defeats with their respective partners. Sania and Ukrainian Nadiia Kichenok, the second seeds, lost the opening round of the WTA250 event 3-6, 6-3 to Czech pair of Tereza Martincova and Marketa Vondrousova in 61 minutes. They had reached the semifinals last week. At the men's event, Bopanna and his French partner Edouard Roger-Vasselin lost their first round 4-6, 6-3, 10-6 in 69 minutes to Americans Steve Johnson and Austin Krajicek, who served extremely well and handled returns smartly.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SANDIP G

JANUARY 11

THE FIRE, finally, was back in Kagiso Rabada's eyes. A fire so raging, and unstoppable that not even India's finest batsman of this generation, the strong-willed Virat Kohli, could extinguish.

The titanic battle between Rabada and Kohli would eclipse other memories of the series, and would be retold and re-told multiple times in future. Like Sachin Tendulkar and Dale Steyn; Allan Donald and Mike Atherton; Ricky Ponting and Andrew Flintoff; Wasim Akram and Steve Waugh. Times when cricket was not just cricket, cricket was both chess and boxing too, a destruction-versus-survival battle.

Rabada likes using the word "battle". One of his favourite books is Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*. He took the battle to Kohli, himself no less a warrior. It began with a short-of-length ball that squared up Kohli. The ball moved away as well as bounced more than the Indian skipper had expected. But he was not stabbing at the ball or throwing his hands at

Melbourne:

A new potential stumbling block emerged for Novak Djokovic on Tuesday as the tennis star is alleged to have made a false declaration about his movements before entering Australia — an offence carrying a maximum penalty of 12 months' imprisonment.

According to documents released by the Federal Circuit Court, Djokovic told authorities he had not travelled in the 14 days before his flight to Australia. Djokovic touched down in Melbourne just before midnight Wednesday, answering "no" to the question about previous travel on his Australian Travel Declaration form.

But he was filmed playing tennis in the streets of the Serbian capital, Belgrade, on Dec. 25, and training in Spain on Dec. 31 — both dates within the 14-day window. According to The Times, Djokovic appeared

in Marbella, Spain, on January 2, prompting the fresh investigation.

A statement on the Travel Declaration Form reads: "Note: Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. You may also be liable to a civil penalty for giving false or misleading information."

According to the Home Affairs Department website, giving false or misleading information to the government is "a serious offence" and one "may also be liable to a civil penalty for giving false or misleading information". If convicted, the maximum penalty is imprisonment for 12 months.

The Serb had told border officers that Tennis Australia completed the declaration

for him, but the officer who cancelled his visa said that the body would have done that based on information from Djokovic himself.

The Associated Press noted that it was not clear if the document came up during Monday's hearing.

The 34-year-old held a practice session on Tuesday, a day after he left immigration detention, focusing on defending his Australian Open title even while he still faces the prospect of deportation because he's not vaccinated against COVID-19.

The top-ranked tennis star hit the show courts of Melbourne Park, where the tournament is held, within hours of winning a legal battle that allowed him to stay in the

AT 54, MIURA READY FOR 37TH SEASON

Kazuyoshi Miura will continue his professional career into his 55th year this season after the former Japan international striker joined fourth tier Suzuka Point Getters on loan from Yokohama FC on Tuesday. Miura, who turns 55 next month, has joined the Japan Football League club following Yokohama's relegation to the second division at the end of last season.

REUTERS

Djokovic risks imprisonment over misinformation in entry form

Tuesday afternoon at Rod Laver Arena. Soon after, tournament organizers made him the top-seeded player in the men's singles draw. The athlete was seen hitting shots from behind the baseline, taking feedback from his coach, and stretching beside the court with a trainer. He spent four nights confined to an immigration hotel and now is getting back into the swing less than a week before the Grand Slam tournament starts.

But he still faces the prospect of deportation before the first match. A federal judge reinstated Djokovic's visa Monday on procedural grounds, saying he hadn't been allowed enough time to speak to his lawyers to contest the decision. But Immigration Minister Alex Hawke is still considering using his power to deport the 34-year-old Serbian under separate legislation.

ENS/AP

Statement by restraint

Kohli plays one of his most patient knocks but India dismissed for modest 223 on Day 1 of series decider vs South Africa

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
JANUARY 11

MARCO JANSEN had been the last man to dismiss Virat Kohli in Test cricket; the tall young South African pacer had got the Indian captain edging an attempted cover drive in the second innings at Centurion. It was also the 10th successive time Kohli had gone nicking to either wicketkeeper or first slip in overseas Tests.

Heading into the series decider in Cape Town, there was understandably speculation on whether Kohli should completely shun the drive, or at least stay away from it until he had worked himself back among runs (remember there was no pandemic the last time he made an international century in November 2019).

Kohli was on exactly zero at Newlands on Tuesday when he leaned into his favoured stroke and sent the ball all the way to the cover rope. The bowler: Marco Jansen. Having seen over the years how Kohli operates, there should be no surprise if he did this on purpose. Same shot, same bowler, vastly different result to Centurion. Even if he didn't do it deliberately, the 'I'll do it my way' message is hard to miss.

Kohli wouldn't stop at this, of course. The first four of his 12 fours, in fact, would be either cover or off-drives, and both the cover drives would come off the left-arm Jansen. The skipper would be ninth man out for 79 -- his highest Test score since his last international century -- in an eventually overwhelming Indian total of 223. The hosts ended the day at 17/1 with skipper Dean Elgar already dismissed.

It was classic Kohli cover-driving -- you miss your length by inches, that's all I need; front foot leading into the shot, top hand guiding the bat, no desperation, all stability. It has worked for him for so long because he has largely been able to convert it into a percentage shot that turns the risk-reward trade-off decisively in his favour. It is somewhat counter-intuitive for a batsman of his stature, but when Kohli is at the top of his game, the cover drive is the filling main course rather than the indulgent starter or dessert for him.

Monkish self-denial

But moving on from the standout stroke, it was what Kohli did before his first scoring shot that defined his innings. He got off the mark on his 16th delivery, and had refused to play at 13 of the previous 15.

According to ESPNcricinfo, during the first 100 balls he faced, Kohli left nearly two-thirds of the deliveries South Africa bowled to him outside off-stump. Among 1,100 such innings in the last five years, only four have seen more balls being left alone.

Not only was Kohli a superb judge of



Captain Virat Kohli's 79 off 201 balls has kept India's hopes alive.

COACH RATHOUR HAILS KOHLI'S BATTING DISPLAY

Virat Kohli played his first cover drive after facing 16 deliveries. He had 89 ball balls in his innings. The Indian Test captain came into this game with the murmurs over his form growing louder -- 652 runs in 14 Tests at an average of 26 in the last two years and no century. On Tuesday at Newlands, he revelled in his batting discipline. The Indian team batting coach Vikram Rathour spoke about it at the end of the day's play. "One good change today was that he (Kohli) was more disciplined. I agree with that. He looked really good, really solid. With more luck, he could have converted this into a big one," Rathour told reporters. Kohli was playing a lone ranger and eventually perished, trying to farm the strike. The conditions were tough and Kagiso Rabada was bowling brilliantly. "They (South Africa) bowled really, really well. And he had to bat like that. That's how he responded. It was a disciplined innings and he was looking very good till the point he got out," said the batting coach. Shutting out the outside noise, the team saw Kohli's form from a different perspective. "There was never any concern the way he was batting. He was looking very good in the nets. He was looking very good in the games also. He was getting starts," Rathour observed. Kohli had a conversation with the coaching staff following his dismissal at Centurion, chasing a wide delivery. "When he played that wide delivery, I thought that was just a lapse in concentration. He still played some cover drives today and looked really, really solid. But he picked the right balls," Rathour said. "That's what the conversations were about; that he needs to be a little bit selective for that shot." SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY

that flew past the lone slip, but it was Rabada who would ultimately terminate Kohli's knock on 79, just as it was threatening to

Bat does the talking

But this is Cape Town 2022. Reporters are asking even head coach Rahul Dravid

why Virat Kohli hasn't come instead for a press conference. Ever since he gave his version of how the ODI captaincy was taken away from him, Kohli behind a mike has generated way more interest than Kohli with a bat in hand. This 79 may be the start of restoring the balance; he may have ceded two-thirds of his leadership territory, but presumably none of the batting pedigree.

Balanced is what Kohli is when it's going right in the middle. He was determined not to go after widish balls, so the front foot was coming out a lot straighter when he did decide to play at ones closer to him. So certain was his shot selection that in his first 100 balls, he went for the drive only three times, and all three went for fours.

India batting coach Vikram Rathour would say that barring momentary slips in focus like those in Centurion, Kohli had been bat well all along, be it in the middle or in the nets.

"It was a lapse in concentration for a fraction of a second. The conversation was that he needs to be more selective with the shot," Rathour said. "As a batting coach, I was never concerned with the way he was batting. He was more disciplined today. He looked really solid. With a bit more luck, he could have converted this into a big one."

The way the rest of the Indian line-up -- barring Pujara -- went on the best batting strip of the series, it is likelier Kohli would have run out of partners before he could have made it a big one.

SCORECARD
India 1st Innings:

KL Rahul c Verreyne b Olivier	12
M Agarwal c Markram b Rabada	15
C Pujara c Verreyne b Jansen	43
V Kohli c Verreyne b Rabada	79
A Rahane c Verreyne b Rabada	9
R Pant c Petersen b Jansen	7
R Ashwin c Verreyne b Jansen	2
S Thakur c Petersen b Maharaj	12
J Bumrah c Elgar b Rabada	0
U Yadav not out	4
M Shami c Bavuma b Lungi Ngidi	7
Extras: (b-5, lb-1, nb-7) 13	
Total: 223 all out in 77.3 overs	
Fall of wickets: 31-1, 33-2, 95-3, 116-4, 167-5, 175-6, 205-7, 210-8, 211-9	

Bowling: Kagiso Rabada: 22-4-73-4, Duanne Olivier: 18-5-42-1, Marco Jansen: 18-6-55-3, Lungi Ngidi: 14.3-7-33-1, Keshav Maharaj: 5-2-14-1.

South Africa 1st Innings:

Dean Elgar c Pujara b Bumrah	3
A Markram batting	8
Keshav Maharaj batting	6
Total: 17/1 in 8 overs	
Fall of wickets: 10-1	
Bowling: J Bumrah 4-4-0-1, Umesh Yadav 2-0-10-0, M Shami 2-0-7-0.	

left. Rabada, in his follow-through, stared menacingly at him. Kohli evaded the glance altogether. Rabada had only begun to rev up aggression.

The next ball had Kohli in a split-second dilemma. It almost cost him the wicket. Rabada veered a fraction away from the usual point of delivery to manufacture the inward angle and suck Kohli into playing for the incoming ball. But Kohli was no novice to the designs of Rabada. Midway through his defensive push, he realised the ball would seam away a shade and withdrew the bat, loosening his bottom hand. Rabada's speed meant the ball did kiss the edge, but the edge died before it reached the slips cordon. Kohli shrugged his shoulders and looked away; Rabada winked at the cloudy skies.

At this juncture, both could have sensed a contest brewing; Kohli would not have easy runs. At other times, against different bowlers he had resorted to counter-punching. But he was wise not to engage such thoughts against Rabada. He chose safety. Equally, Rabada knew Kohli would not throw his wicket. He would fight, he would grit, he would resist. Two of his next three balls, he

left. One he carefully defended, riding the bounce. But looking to defend or leave all the time was not Kohli-like. An unplayable ball could still devour him. The first ball of the 14th over almost did -- the ball hemmed in with the angle, home in on the off-stump and held the line to beat him. Kohli winced; Rabada grimaced. Maybe, a counter-punch could dislodge Rabada, or so Kohli reasoned as Rabada pinged a bouncer on middle-stump. Kohli hooked. Had the Newlands pitch been as fast as the one in SuperSport Park, it would have perhaps crashed into his neck, but this one had just enough time to take Kohli's top-edge for a six. Rabada smiled sarcastically.

Cautious play

Kohli realised the folly of taking Rabada on. He left the next three balls. But the moment his bat came into play, the possibility of an edge lurked. The fourth ball he faced took a thick outside edge, but to the ground. But just when the battle was raising fever pitch, when the atmosphere crackled with a special kind of electricity, a blend of exhilaration and excitement, anticlimax kicked in.

For the next four overs of the match, Rabada ended up bowling to Rishabh Pant as Kohli faced just Marco Jansen. The interlude was like the irritating ads that pop up before the climax of a suspense thriller. Even Rabada seemed a little dulled at not bowling to Kohli. Or was he waiting for Kohli to return to strike to unleash his full fury?

It seemed he was. He was a different beast when their battle resumed. Two plain out-swingers pitched away from the stumps, before he landed the ball closer to the off-stump and made the ball hold its line. It beat Kohli's feeble thrust.

The next ball was better, the same trajectory, but with more pronounced outward movement. It beat the edge and was later adjudged a no-ball. The next ball did find the edge, but not the fielder. Rabada cursed his rotten luck, and then more as he beat his outside edge with extra bounce and away movement. Kohli, his face expressionless, seemed numb. A single next ball, and Kohli smiled awkwardly at his glorious fortune. One last over of the spell was routine stuff, as Kohli left three of the four balls he faced.

Throughout the spell, Kohli resisted the

temptation to drive and was ascetic in self-denial, but still Rabada had the tools to tease and torment him.

It was no coincidence he mostly looked to shape the ball away from Kohli. Not once he attempted the nip-backer. "That was the plan. It was obvious, really. He has had problems with the away ball. He played really well. Kept leaving them," Rab