



**SHOP FROM THE  
MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.**

GET BEST-IN-CLASS SHOPPING EXPERIENCE.

Shop • Borrow • Save • Invest



\*T&C apply

ICE360 SURVEY: K-SHAPED RECOVERY IN COVID YEAR

Income of poorest fifth plunged 53% in 5 yrs; those at top surged

SANDEEP SINGH  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

IN A trend unprecedented since economic liberalisation, the annual income of the poorest 20% of Indian households, constantly rising since 1995, plunged 53% in the pandemic year 2020-21 from their levels in 2015-16. In the same five-year period, the richest 20% saw their annual household income grow 39% reflecting the sharp contrast Covid's economic impact has had on the bottom of the pyramid and the top.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

HOW COVID DEEPENS DISTRESS, DIVIDE

	2015-16	2020-21	Change (%)
Q1 (Poorest 20%)	1.37	0.65	-52.6 ▼
Q2 (Lower middle 20%)	1.85	1.25	-32.4 ▼
Q3 (Middle 20%)	2.25	2.05	-8.9 ▼
Q4 (Upper middle 20%)	3.01	3.22	7.0 ▲
Q5 (Richest 20%)	5.26	7.31	39.0 ▲
All-India average	2.98	3.23	8.4 ▲
Total personal disposable income of households (₹ bn)	83,574	99,184	18.7 ▲

\*Q is quintile and is obtained by dividing population into five equal slabs of 20% each; Source: ICE 360 data

UNVEILS HOLOGRAM; INVOKES AMBEDKAR, PATEL

## Correcting mistakes of past: PM on Bose statue

'Efforts were made to erase contribution of several leaders'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi unveiled a hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate on Sunday and said the country is correcting "mistakes" made after independence when, according to him, efforts were made to erase the contribution of "several great personalities" along with the nation's heritage and culture.

The Prime Minister's remarks were echoed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah who also spoke at the event about "an attempt to push into oblivion" several personalities from the freedom struggle.

Modi said: "Yeh durbhagya raha ki azadi ke baad desh ki sanskriti aur sanskaron ke saath hi anek mahan vyaktiyon ki yojdan ko mitane ki kaam kiya gaya. Swadhinata sangram mein lakhs of lakhs of people but there was an attempt to limit their history. But today, after decades of independence, the country is correcting



The hologram of Subhash Chandra Bose at India Gate. ANI

galtiyon ko danke ki chot par sudhar raha hai, thik kar raha hai."

"It was unfortunate that after independence, efforts were made to erase the contribution of several great personalities, along with the culture and heritage of the country. The freedom struggle involved the penance of lakhs of people but there was an attempt to limit their history. But today, after decades of independence, the country is correcting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED  
**E** Test and trace now difficult

THE ANNOUNCEMENT is not hugely revelatory in the current situation in India, even though it is the first acknowledgement. It only means that the epidemic is so widespread that it is now difficult, if not impossible, to determine who is passing on the infection to whom.

OMICRON-DRIVEN SURGE

2 yrs into pandemic, top gene body says virus in community

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, PUNE, JANUARY 23

TWO YEARS into the coronavirus pandemic, India is now finally acknowledging that the disease is in community transmission stage. Recently released bulletins of INSACOG, the consortium of national laboratories that is tracking the different variants of the virus, have mentioned that Omicron is now spreading through community transmission.

"Omicron is now in community transmission in India and has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## German navy chief quits over remarks on Ukraine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23



Vice Admiral  
Kay-Achim  
Schönbach  
was speaking  
in Delhi

Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MPIDSA) on Friday, Vice Admiral Kay-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Speaking at the Manohar

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



GERMANY'S NAVY chief has stepped down over remarks he made about Russia and Crimea at an event in Delhi last week that have escalated into a diplomatic row between Germany and Ukraine.

Speaking at the Manohar

galtiyon ko danke ki chot par sudhar raha hai, thik kar raha hai."

"It was unfortunate that after independence, efforts were made to erase the contribution of several great personalities, along with the culture and heritage of the country. The freedom struggle involved the penance of lakhs of people but there was an attempt to limit their history. But today, after decades of independence, the country is correcting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Canada deaths: Concern, anxiety in Gujarat village

Dingucha village of Kalol tehsil in Gandhinagar district has become the centre of attraction in the region.

Police showed up at the village on Saturday, and reportedly called on a man whose family members travelled to Canada

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

5 IN TOP 10

50 IN TOP 100

**Rau's IAS Study Circle**

Since 1953

OUR UPSC RESULT 2020

300+ SELECTIONS IN CSE 2020



SHUBHAM KUMAR



JAGRATI AWASTHI



MAMTA YADAV



JIVANI KARTIK NAGJIBHAI



APALA MISHRA



MITHUN PREMRAJ

## GS INTEGRATED QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM for CSE 2022

### GOAL

Enable you to secure  
TOP RANK  
in CSE.

Enrich your  
Knowledge &  
test taking skills

Make your Self Study  
time Disciplined &  
Structured

### FEATURES

250+ HOURS OF  
KNOWLEDGE ENHANCEMENT  
& REVISION CLASSES

Current Affairs, Prelims  
& Mains Revision & Practice

INTEGRATED PRELIMS &  
MAINS TEST SERIES  
& DISCUSSIONS

Prelims (59 tests)  
Mains (30 tests)

EXAM CENTRIC NOTES  
BY TEACHERS

Monthly Focus  
Prelims Compass  
Mains Compass

Flexibility to attempt  
tests (Online / Offline)  
till Prelims & Mains.

Trusted High Quality  
UPSC centric teaching  
by experts

Scan here to  
download Rau's IAS  
eLearn App

GSI QIP is in session.  
**ADMISSIONS OPEN  
APPLY NOW**

for more  
information,  
Scan

Get it on  
Google Play

Rau's IAS Head Office

309, Kanchenjunga Building, 18 Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001

www.rauias.com | 011 - 40786050 | www.elearn.rauias.com

Attention, LIC policyholders:

**It's best in life  
to be prepared.**

www.licindia.in

Government of India has amended Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, permitting the Corporation to reserve shares in its proposed public issue on a competitive basis, in favour of policyholders.\*

To be able to participate, policyholders must take two steps:

- 1 Update your personal records with LIC
- 2 Open a DEMAT account (if you do not have one)



- Visit [www.licindia.in](http://www.licindia.in) and click on the icon to register your Permanent Account Number (PAN) online.
- Enter your date of birth, gender, email ID, PAN, full name, mobile number and LIC policy number.
- Follow the instructions to update your PAN records for all your LIC policies.
- Contact your LIC Agent for any assistance.

To open a DEMAT account, visit either of these websites for registered Depository Participants (DP):

NSDL:  
<https://sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmld=19>

CDSL:  
<https://sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmld=18>

You must provide the following to the DP to open your DEMAT account:

- Recent photograph
- PAN Card
- Address proof
- Cancelled cheque

The DP may also seek further information.

Contact your banker or broker for any assistance.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING

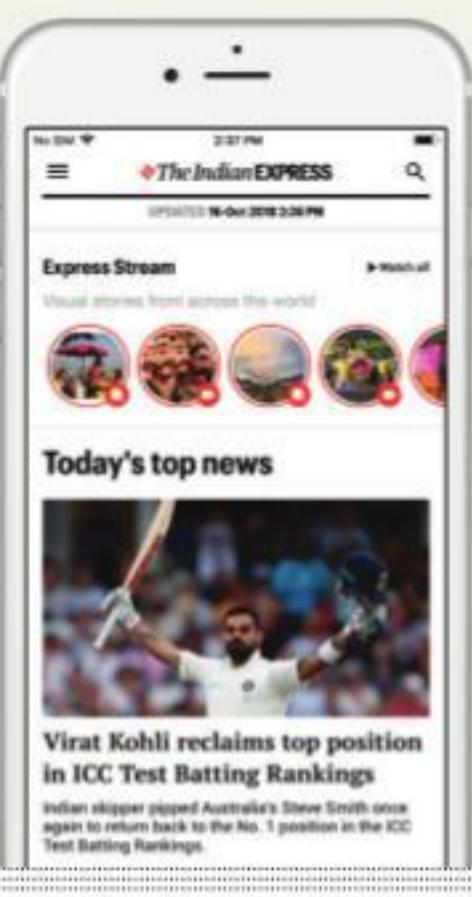
This notice or any information being shared with policyholders is not an offering of equity shares of the Corporation. | Policyholders would have to approach the Depository Participant and be solely responsible for the DEMAT account and its functioning. All related costs would have to be borne by the policyholder. | There is no assurance that policyholders will be allotted any or all of the equity shares they may apply for even in the event of a reservation of shares for policyholders in any proposed issuance. | The Corporation does not guarantee the performance of its equity shares and investors need to be aware of the risks associated with any investments in a public offering. For important information regarding proposed reservation of shares for policyholders, visit <https://licindia.in/ipo>. \*Details of proposed IPO will be intimated once finalised.



भारतीय जीवन बीमा नियम  
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

LIC/RS/2021-22/39/ENG

Har Pal Aapke Saath



DOWNLOAD APP  
■ VISUAL STORIES  
■ DAILY BRIEFING  
■ PODCASTS  
■ CUSTOMIZABLE NEWS EXPERIENCE  
Indian Express ★★★★ 4.6



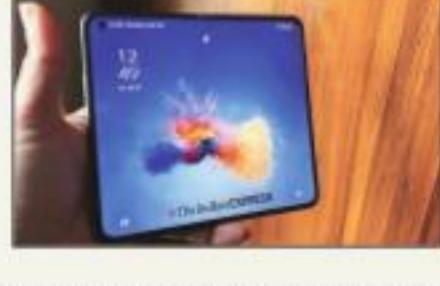
SCAN THIS QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP



### HOW SEX WORKERS OF SONAGACHI SURVIVED BRUTAL COVID PANDEMIC WAVES

Till early 2020, Chittaranjan Avenue was busier than any other street in Kolkata. Glances of interested customers, sex workers soliciting them. Narrow alleys. Dark staircases leading up to dimly-lit rooms. However, everything has changed since the pandemic.

### TECH



#### 3 REASONS TO BUY OPPO FIND N

**The Oppo Find N serves as a great foldable smartphone**



### ENTERTAINMENT

#### MUNICH THE EDGE OF WAR REVIEW

**Just one among many mediocre films about World War II**

## EXPRESS AUDIO

### Property damage in UP's anti-CAA protests

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Apurva Vishwanath and Asad Rahman talk to host Snigdha Sharma about their exclusive investigation on how UP did not follow due process in its efforts to recover damages caused during the 2019 protests

**Uddhav slams BJP: 'Unfortunate we nurtured them for 25 yrs'**

VISHWAS WAGHMODE  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

MAKING HIS first public appearance after a spine surgery in November last year, Maharashtra CM and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray launched a blistering attack on the BJP stating that the Sena had "wasted 25 years because of its political alliance" with the party.



He was addressing his party cadre on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray.

Taking on the BJP, which has been constantly attacking him due to his absence from office after his surgery, Thackeray said, "Soon, I will step out and tour Maharashtra. I will show the power of Saffron to the opponents who are worried about my health. Like there is a caretaker government, they are caretaker opposition, and they will self-destruct."

Reiterating an earlier statement that the Sena has wasted 25 years in alliance with BJP, Thackeray said, "I still maintain that. Why did we step aside from them? Today, the hollow Hindutva they display is nothing but a charade for power. It is unfortunate we nurtured them for 25 years."

"(Union Home Minister) Amit Shah came to Pune and challenged us to contest alone. We have accepted that challenge... If you have the courage, contest on strength of workers. Merely challenging us and putting ED (Enforcement Directorate) and other agencies behind us is not courage," he added.

**Don't need court nod to terminate under 24-week pregnancy if law is followed: HC**

OMKAR GOKHALE  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

THE BOMBAY High Court recently held that the government and private hospitals must abide by recent amendment to Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, which stipulated that opinion of one registered medical practitioner was necessary for termination of pregnancy of less than 20 weeks, and that of two registered doctors for termination of pregnancy between 20 and 24 weeks.

The HC held that in case of termination of less than 24-week pregnancy, the hospitals or clinic need not ask for its permission if relevant conditions are fulfilled as per law. The court also held that "in all cases of pregnancy, the mental health, environment and living conditions of the woman are of paramount concern".

A division bench of Justice Gautam S Patel and Justice Madhav J Jamdar on January 13 passed an order while hearing a plea by a woman seeking to terminate her nearly 18-week pregnancy.

Advocate Shubham Misra for the petitioner submitted that despite the amended law covering termination of her pregnancy being less than 20-week, the hospital had sought an order from the court. The bench noted, "The Civil Hospital is not entitled to make any such demand. It is bound by the provisions of the Act".

## FROM PAGE ONE

### Gene body

become dominant in multiple metros, where new cases have been rising exponentially," the latest bulletin, dated January 10 but released only now, has said.

"Further spread of Omicron in India is now expected to be through internal transmission, not foreign travellers, and a revised sampling & sequencing strategy of INSACOG is being worked out to address genomic surveillance objectives in the wake of dynamic changing scenario of virus infection," an earlier bulletin, dated January 3 but also released now, said.

Community transmission simply means that the epidemic has become so widespread in a population group that it gets difficult, if not impossible, to determine who is passing on the infection to whom.

The source and chain of infections can no longer be established. Determining the chain of infections is key to testing and containment strategy to be followed. Contact tracing, identification, testing and isolation of suspect cases are all dependent on establishing this chain.

This knowledge is most relevant during the early phase of the outbreak or start of a fresh wave after a prolonged lull. At the current stage of the pandemic, the question of community transmission is largely an academic one, and with little implication for the response measures that are being taken.

India is already reporting over 3.25 lakh new cases everyday. The actual number of infections is several times more than that, considering that Omicron has been spreading at a much faster rate than the previous variants. Even during the earlier waves, India was detecting only about one in 30 infections. For Omicron, this ratio is expected to be even higher. There is no way that in a situation like this the chain of infections can be established.

However, for the first two years of the pandemic, India had insisted that the disease had not reached community transmission stage. It had maintained that it was instead dealing with several cluster outbreaks.

The INSACOG bulletin said the threat level in India was "high" and "remains unchanged". It also said that a new variant, B.1.640.2 that was first discovered in France, had not been detected in India so far. This variant, which, like Omicron, has a very large number of mutations, was flagged by some researchers a couple of weeks ago as a potential threat in future.

"The recently reported B.1.640.2 lineage is being monitored. There is no evidence of rapid spread and while it has features of immune escape, it is currently not a variant of concern. So far, no case has been detected in India," the bulletin said.

**German navy**

Achim Schönbach said that Russian President Vladimir Putin should be given the "respect he probably deserves" and that Crimea would never go back to Ukraine.

His comments that seemed to be sympathetic of Putin come amid fears of an imminent Russian invasion of Ukraine, as Russia has reportedly amassed over 100,000 troops on its western border with Ukraine. Russia had annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 amid global criticism.

The Crimean peninsula, Schönbach said at the event, "is gone. It's never coming back. This is a fact."

"Is Russia really interested in a small tiny strip of Ukraine soil to integrate into their country? No, this is nonsense. Putin is probably putting pressure because he can do it and he knows... he splits us, he splits the European Union. What he really wants is respect. And by

## PM Modi unveils hologram of Netaji



PM Modi unveils the hologram in New Delhi, Sunday. PTI

those mistakes with boldness.")

In this context, Modi said: "Today, the country is developing five pilgrimage sites (panch theerth) associated with Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. The Statue of Unity has become a pilgrimage in the glory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. We have named one island of Andaman after Netaji. A memorial has also been dedicated to his name there. It is a tribute not only to Netaji but also to the jawans of the Indian National Army (INA)."

He also referred to Janatiya Gaurav Divas in honour of tribal icon Birsa Munda, and the construction of tribal museums across the country to mark the contribution of the community.

He said it is the grand resolve of Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav—75th year of independence celebrations—that India will revive its identity and inspirations.

Hailing Netaji's role in the freedom struggle, Modi described him as the person who established the first independent government on Indian soil—a reference to the Azad Hind government formed in October 1943 in Singapore, and which subsequently held jurisdiction in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

"Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose gave India the confidence to achieve an independent and prosperous country. With great pride, self-confidence and courage, he told the British that I will not take independence as alms, I will achieve it. He was the person who established the first independent government on Indian soil.

Our Netaji's splendid statue, in a digital form, is being established near India Gate. Very soon, in place of this digital statue, there will be a huge granite statue," Modi said.

Hailing Netaji's "can do, will do" spirit, Modi said: "Netaji said 'never lose faith in the dream of

independent India, there is no power in the world that can shake India'. Today, we have a goal to fulfil the dreams of independent India. We have the goal of building a new India before the 100th year of independence, which falls in 2047."

Sunday's event marked the culmination of year-long celebrations of the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji, also as the official start of the 75th Republic Day celebrations. At 6.35 pm, the Prime Minister pressed a remote button and Netaji's hologram statue came alive over the next few seconds, along with the signature tune associated with his INA, "kadam kadam badhaye ja".

Elaborating on the Government's efforts to honour Netaji, Modi said: "I had the great fortune of visiting Netaji's paternal house in Kolkata last year. And the experience I had cannot be expressed in words."

The Prime Minister said he also cannot forget the day of October 21, 2018, which marked 75 years since the Azad Hind government was formed. "In 2018, I wore an INA cap and unfurled the national flag at Red Fort. We are also working on an INA memorial at Red Fort. It is also the good fortune of our Government that we got the opportunity to make public the files related to Netaji," he said.

Several steps have been taken by the Government to ho-

nour Netaji's legacy, including celebrating his birth anniversary as Parakram Diwas every year, and starting the Republic Day celebrations a day early from this year—from January 23.

Speaking at Sunday's event, Home Minister Shah said: "This will not be just a granite statue but an expression of the feelings that the nation has for Netaji.

There has been an attempt to push into oblivion many such personalities who struggled for India's freedom. But today, with the decision to install the Netaji statue here, the nation is feeling satisfied and enthusiastic."

The PM, meanwhile, gave away this year's disaster management awards to Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management, and Professor Vinod Sharma, vice chairman of Sikkim Disaster Management Authority. He also gave away the awards for previous years, going back upto 2019. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution, and Rs 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.

The event was attended by Union ministers, including Hardeep Puri and Meenakshi Lekhi, trustees of the INA, and officials from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Coast Guard.

Modi said during his speech that the size of the hologram statue is 28x6 feet, same as the actual granite statue, and it will continue to be beamed from sunset to sunrise everyday till the actual statue comes in," an official said. The graphic model of the statue has been designed by a team from the National Gallery of Modern Art, under its Director-General Adwaita Gadananayak, while the sculptor is being shortlisted.

Several steps have been taken by the Government to ho-

God, giving someone respect is low-cost, even no-cost... it is easy to give him the respect he really demands—and probably also deserves," he had said.

Referring to Russia, Schönbach went on to say, "I think having this big country, even if it is not a democracy, on our side" is important as it will probably keep "Russia away from China". He, however, criticised Russia for its actions in Chechnya.

As Ukraine objected to the comments, Schönbach tendered his resignation late Saturday. According to a Reuters report, he said in a statement, "I have asked Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht to relieve me from my duties with immediate effect... The minister has accepted my request."

Schönbach's comments come amid growing unease in Kyiv over Berlin's position vis-à-vis Russia, with Ukraine criticising Germany for blocking the supply of weapons to the country through Nato. Ukraine has also been critical of Germany's support for the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which will bring Russian gas directly to the country, bypassing Ukraine.

On Saturday, Ukraine said Germany's actions and words will "undermine" the unity against Russia and "encourage" Putin, and summoned German ambassador Anka Feldhusen to stress "the categorical unacceptability" of Schönbach's comments.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeted on Saturday, "Recent statements by Germany about the impossibility of transferring defence weapons to Ukraine, in particular due to permission to third parties, the inability of returning Crimea, hesitations to disconnect Russia from SWIFT, do not correspond to the level of our relations and the current security situation." The SWIFT system is a global network used for international payments, and the West has been considering cutting off Russia from it.

Kuleba, however, thanked Germany for its support, saying, "Ukraine is grateful to Germany for its support since 2014, as well as for its diplomatic efforts to resolve the Russian-Ukrainian armed conflict. But Germany's current statements are disappointing and run counter to this support and effort."

At the event, Schönbach also spoke about India's "vital role in regional security and stability" and China as being "not that nice a country".

Calling Beijing an "important partner" in certain aspects and a "strategic competitor" for India, he added that its behaviour, however, "has put pressure upon the international order".

"All Indo-Pacific concepts refer to the rules-based international order. However, from my humble perspective, they seem to differ from their objectives, differ in the importance they attach to various policy fields, differ in the relevance they see for multilateral approaches, and above all, they differ on the question of whether and how to incorporate the white elephant, which is China—a regional power and an emerging world power that, in some cases, challenges the rules of the international order... tries to design the future global order according to its own views," Schönbach said.

"The data shows that casual labour, petty traders and household workers in urban areas. This resulted in job losses and loss of income for the casual labour, petty traders household workers.

Data shows that there has been a rise in the share of poor in cities. While 90 percent of the poorest 20 per cent in 2016, lived in rural India, that number had dropped to 70 per cent in 2021. On the other hand the share of poorest 20 per cent in urban areas has gone up from around 10 per cent to 30 per cent now.

"The data shows that casual labour, petty traders and household workers in Tier 1 and 2 cities have hit the most by the pandemic. During the survey we noticed that while in rural India more households had improved from lower income (Q1) to lower middle (Q2) and lower middle to middle income (Q3), in urban areas the opposite was noticed—more Q3 and Q2 households have reported downward income shifts. Also the rise in poverty level has been led by the urban poor," said Shukla. He further added that the rise in aggregate urban income compared to rural income is on account of the disproportionate gain by the urban rich.

"The elephant in the room is investment," said Bijapurkar. "Inspiring confidence through long-term policy stability and improving ease of doing business should make the tide rise again and sweep small business and individuals along with it. Most big companies are doing well and don't need more help but we need to work the economy for the bottom half."

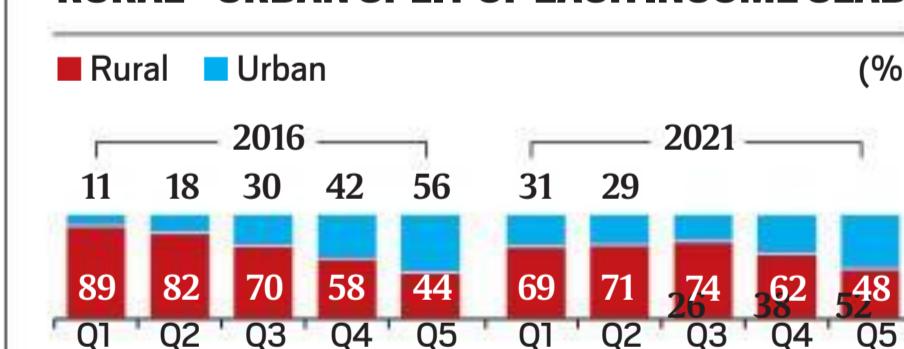
"The people of Dingucha are basically into business, farming, and private jobs. Families have moved out of here to Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, and purchased homes there as well. The NRIs usually return to the village every year for a week during Diwali," said Kirit Prajapati, a clerk at Gandhinagar secretariat building who lives in Dingucha.

Vakil said residents of the village have been calling relatives overseas ever since news of the deaths in Canada became known.

"A number of friends from Dingucha who now live in the US and Canada contacted me asking if I was aware of the identity of the deceased family. Families in communities such as Patidar, Darbar, and Thakor are close-knit and part of the same clan, which means everyone is distantly related to each other here," Vakil said.

## Income of poorest fifth fell 53% in 5 yrs

### RURAL - URBAN SPLIT OF EACH INCOME SLAB



to a tale of two Indias, a narrative we thought we were rapidly getting rid of. The good news is that we have built a far more efficient welfare state for the dispersal of benefit be it DBT or vaccination for all."

The survey showed that while the richest 20% accounted for 50.2% of the total household income in 1995, their share has jumped to 56.3% in 2021. On the other hand the share of poorest 20% dropped from 5.9% to 3.3% in the same period.

Coming in the run-up to the Budget, the task for the Government is cut out.

"As the Finance Minister is finalising her budget proposals for 2022-23 to give shape to the roadmap for economic revival of the country," said Rajesh Shukla, MD and CEO, PRICE, "we need a K-shaped policy too that addresses the two ends of the spectrum and a lot more thinking on how to build the bridge between the two."

# Rainfall in Jan so far is capital's highest in 122 yrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE RAINFALL that Delhi received recently shattered previous records to become the highest amount of rainfall received so far in January from 1901 onwards.

The Safdarjung weather observatory, which provides representative data for the city, recorded 88.2 mm of rainfall this month, till January 23. This is the highest amount of rainfall the weather station has recorded for the same time frame in the past 122 years, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). This year's rainfall has surpassed the record that was previously held – 79.7 mm of rainfall in January 1989.

Between 8.30 am on Saturday and 8.30 am on Sunday, the Safdarjung station recorded 19.7 mm of rainfall. A western disturbance, which is a storm that originates in the Mediterranean region, brought winter rainfall to Delhi over the weekend.

The Palam weather station has recorded a total of 110 mm of rainfall this month, far in excess of the normal amount of 10.2 mm.

The maximum temperature recorded Sunday was 14.9 degrees Celsius, six degrees below normal for this time of the year. The minimum temperature was 10.5 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal.

'Cold day' conditions are on the IMD forecast for Monday. A 'cold day' is recorded when the maximum temperature dips 4.5 to 6.4 degrees below normal, and the minimum temperature is less than or equal to 10 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature on Monday is likely to be 7 degrees Celsius, while the maximum is likely to be 16 degrees Celsius.

An update on Sunday evening, the IMD predicted a fall in minimum temperature by 3 to 4 degrees over most parts of northwest India over the next 24 hours.

For January 25, the IMD has predicted cold wave conditions at isolated parts of Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat. A similar cold wave forecast persists for January 26 and 27. A cold wave is recorded when the minimum temperature is less than or equal to 4 degrees, or when it is 4.5 to 6.4 degrees below normal.

Meanwhile, the AQI on Sunday was 202, in the 'poor' category, having improved from a 'very poor' AQI of 316 on Saturday, going by the Central Pollution Control Board bulletins.

## 26-yr-old woman molested in bus, 1 held

**Gurgaon:** A 31-year-old man was arrested for allegedly molesting a 26-year-old woman on a bus. Police said he had allegedly misbehaved with her and threatened her, and fled after allegedly biting her thumb. Police said the accused was arrested from Bilaspur. During questioning, he denied having molested her. ENS



## JAMNALAL BAJAJ FOUNDATION

### Nominations Invited

#### 44th JAMNALAL BAJAJ NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL AWARDS - 2022 FOR GANDHIAN 'WARRIOR'S

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

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

#### EACH AWARD COMPRISES

Cash Prize ₹ 10 Lakhs | Trophy | Citation

#### National Award for Constructive Work

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



**National Award for Application of Science & Technology for Rural Development**

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



**National Award for Development & Welfare of Women & Children**

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

**International Award for Promoting Gandhian Values Outside India**

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

Last Date for Nominations

National & International Awards: 31st January, 2022

Online Submission: [www.jamnalalbajajawards.org/nomination-forms](http://www.jamnalalbajajawards.org/nomination-forms)  
Know more: [www.jamnalalbajajfoundation.org](http://www.jamnalalbajajfoundation.org); [www.jamnalalbajajawards.org](http://www.jamnalalbajajawards.org)  
Email: [nominations@jamnalalbajajfoundation.org](mailto:nominations@jamnalalbajajfoundation.org)

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



Election Commission of India

## KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE

General Elections to State Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, 2022

### Electors can view following informations on Mobile App:

- \* Details along with photo of candidates
- \* Criminal antecedents of candidates, if any
- \* Candidate's affidavit disclosing educational qualifications, assets and liabilities

AVAILABLE NOW



Download KYC App now from  
Google Play store or Apple App Store

Available on the  
App Store

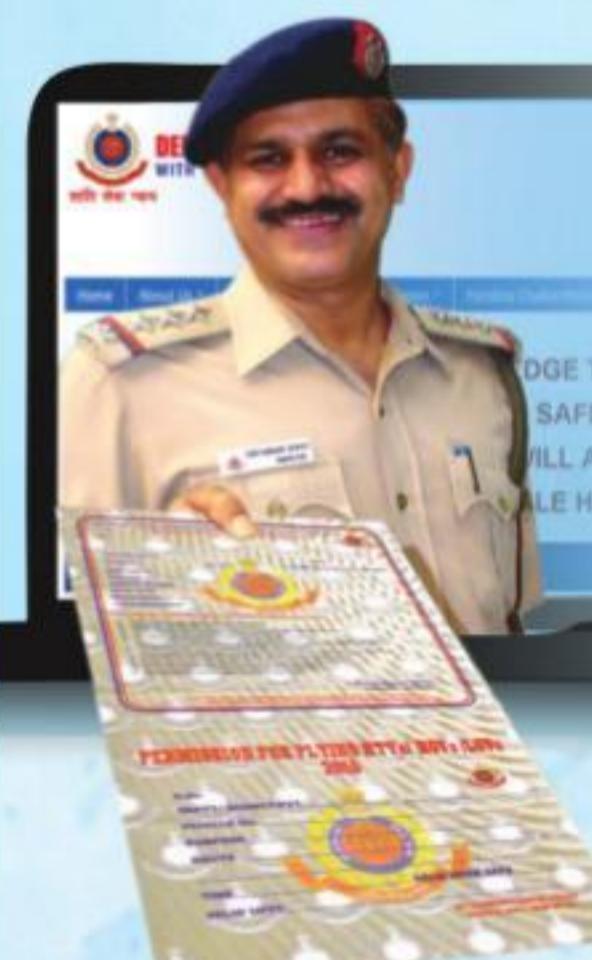
Get it on  
Google play

day210115/0025/2022



### Now get Permission to enter

## 'NO ENTRY' Zone



### For Commercial Goods Vehicles

# ONLINE

Visit  
<https://www.delhitrafficpolice.nic.in>  
for online application

Application for the year 2022 can be submitted online from  
25 January to 24 February 2022

Once the permission is granted, the applicant will receive an SMS/e-mail on his registered mobile/e-mail for depositing the requisite sticker Free online. The permission will be sent to be applicant online from where he can download the No Entry Sticker



All the documents required to be uploaded in original with validity (upto the required) shall be entered online at the time of application

Follow us on:  
<https://twitter.com/dtptraffic>  
<http://www.facebook.com/dtptraffic>

24 Hrs.  
Traffic Helpline:  
011-25844444/1095

BE A TRAFFIC SENTINEL  
Download App From

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090



The 3 boys allegedly killed a man named Shibu (left) inside a park on Jan 19, said police

In Delhi, a murder inspired by crime shows, with eye on social media fame

## JIGNASA SINHA

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

WHEN THE Telugu crime drama *Pushpa - The Rise* released last month, a group of teenagers living in a Northwest Delhi neighbourhood were hooked. They were so taken in by the movie that they copied the look and mannerisms of the titular character played by actor Allu Arjun, and even started a gang called Badnaam along with 10-15 boys. Their fascination, however, took a dark turn when three boys from the group allegedly killed a 24-year-old man inside a park on January 19.

Said the father of the 16-year-old boy: "We thought he likes to act as he always talked about movies. We got him a phone because he said he wanted to work. He dropped out of school years ago. We regret everything now. Police said he beat up a man and then used a dagger. How can I believe that? We don't have the money to get him out or get a lawyer."

Police said the victim, Shibu Hussain, had objected to the boys playing *gilli danda* there. The three allegedly beat him up before stabbing him to death. The act was filmed by one of the boys, and police said they were planning to upload it on Instagram to become "popular".

DCP (Northwest) Usha Rangnani said her team received a call from the hospital about the victim. "CCTVs near the spot were scanned and our team managed to apprehend the three boys within 12 hours. We feel we reached in time; the boys were about to post the video online. I saw it and it was brutal. We found that they were inspired by movies and wanted more followers on social media. They also wished to 'inspire' their friends by this act..." said the DCP.

ACP Tilak Chandra Bisht's team caught the boys, who were changing their hideouts, and recovered a sharp weapon from their possession.

Police said the boys are active on Instagram and often posted reels/videos where they lip-synced or danced to Bollywood songs. In many posts, they can be seen hurling abuses and talking about guns, violence, and smoking. They have also posted videos of themselves standing outside police stations.

They called themselves 'Badnaam', 'sher', 'gangster'. The bio of one of the boys reads - "address - mukadma no. 302/307" - ostensibly referring to IPC section 302 and 307 for murder and attempt to murder.

Police said they are checking their social media accounts and are trying to counsel the teenagers, who have been sent to a juvenile home.

## Man who 'molested' PhD student on JNU campus arrested

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

DAYS AFTER A PhD student of Jawaharlal Nehru University was allegedly molested by a motorist on campus, police said they have arrested a 27-year-old man in connection with the case. The accused was identified and caught after more than a hundred CCTVs were scanned in and around the vicinity.

The woman was taking a stroll on the campus around 11.45 pm Monday when the accused, who was on a scooter, allegedly molested her. After the woman raised an alarm, he managed to escape. A case of outraging the modesty of a woman was registered.

On Sunday, police arrested a man named Akshay Solai. He runs a mobile repair and SIM shop at Bhikaji Cama Place and lives with his wife and two children in Munirka.

According to police, Akshay was drunk at the time of the incident. On Monday night, he was on his scooter outside the JNU campus when he saw three women walking inside. He followed them and wasn't stopped at the entry gates. The women reached their hostel, but he kept driving inside the campus, police said.

He then found the PhD student jogging towards the East Gate. He followed her and allegedly stopped her at an iso-

lated spot. The student thought the man wanted to ask her for directions but he allegedly molested her.

Police said the woman took out her phone to call PCR. The accused got scared, snatched her phone, and escaped from the West gate.

DCP (Southwest) Gaurav Sharma said, "We received information at night and went to the campus. We checked the registers at the entry gates but found no entry related to the accused or his vehicle. It was difficult; the woman was also traumatised. The CCTVs at JNU didn't have clear video quality and we had to check other footage; we scanned over 1,000 CCTVs in the area."

The investigating team used the footage and mapped the route taken by Akshay and found he went back to Munirka.

"After he left the campus, he went to Nelson Mandela Marg but saw police pickets there and drove to Ring Road. We identified him and then arrested him from his house," said DCP Sharma.

Police said that during questioning, Akshay confessed to his crime. He told police that six years ago, he used to work at the railway reservation counter inside the campus.

Police said they had recovered the student's phone, clothes worn by Akshay at the time of the incident, and the scooter seen in the CCTV footage.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed Sunday that Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials were set to arrest Health Minister Satyendar Jain ahead of the Assembly polls in Punjab.

"We have learnt through our sources that the ED is about to arrest Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain just ahead of the polls in Punjab. They are welcome. The Centre has raided Satyendar Jain twice earlier and has come up empty handed. If

they want to come again, they are most welcome," Kejriwal said.

ED officials said that while Jain had been called for questioning last month, no new summons had been issued to him recently.

Kejriwal alleged that the ED's actions were politically motivated: "Whenever the BJP is on the verge of losing polls, they unleash their agencies. It is obvious that there will be raids and arrests. We are not scared because when you are walking the path of truth, these hurdles always come up. The BJP government at the Centre is welcome to send other agencies



Delhi Health Minister  
Satyendar Jain

such as the CBI, Income Tax, Delhi Police, and any others along with the ED. If they want

to arrest someone alongside Satyendar Jain, they can do that too. We have never done anything wrong. I have been raided, so has Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain. Twenty-one of our MLAs have been arrested. All these matters have been discharged by the court. In this case too, he will be arrested, will get bail in 5-10 days."

Pointing to ED raids against Punjab CM Charanjit Channi's nephew, Kejriwal said the two cases were different.

"We are neither scared of going to jail nor of your raid. We will not whine like Channiji. We

will not panic... Why is he panicking? Because he has indulged in wrong-doing and he has been caught. When ED officers conducted the raid there, they were counting thick wads of notes. The people of Punjab were shocked. We are not scared. We want to say to BJP and agencies, send all your people. We are not scared. Why just Satyendar Jain, send them to the house of Bhagwant Maan (AAP's Punjab CM face) as well. When the agencies come, we will welcome them with a big smile. We aren't scared," Kejriwal said.

The CM did not say what case the ED would arrest Jain under.

The ED had, in 2017, registered a case against Jain under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on the basis of an FIR filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The CBI complaint had said that Jain could not explain the source of funds received by four companies in which he was a shareholder. It had registered a case against him, his wife and four others on charges of alleged money laundering. The CBI had also questioned him in the case earlier.

## BRIEFLY

### 18-year-old beaten up after row over video

Gurgaon: An 18-year-old man was allegedly beaten up by 15-20 men at Sakatpur village after an argument over sharing a video clip on social media. Police said he suffered multiple injuries and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital. No arrests have been made yet, police said. Police said the incident took place around 2 pm Thursday when the victim, Mohit Khan, was out with two friends. Dinkar, SHO of Badshahpur police station, said the victim had uploaded a video clip featuring the accused on Instagram and they had objected to it: "...They beat him up over this. Two accused have been named in the FIR and the rest are unknown. Raids are on to arrest them." An FIR was registered against the accused under IPC sections 148, 149, 323 and 506, said police. Alleging laxity in the probe, Mohit's father Mustafa Khan said police only added bailable sections in the FIR: "My son had no enmity with the accused." Gurgaon Police spokesperson Subhash Boken said they are seeking legal opinion on additional sections that can be added.

### Man attacks wife, hangs himself

New Delhi: A 32-year-old man committed suicide in Ghaziabad after allegedly attacking his wife with a blade at her mother's house in West Delhi. Police said the man assumed his wife died and fled. He went back to his home and hanged himself, said police. Urviya Goel, DCP (West), said, "The couple got married recently but often fought over petty issues. The woman moved in with her mother last week. The man stayed at their house for a day. On Thursday evening, when his mother-in-law went to the market, he attacked his wife." The woman was taken to DDU hospital where doctors said she lost a lot of blood. A constable donated blood. ENS

### Harmeet Singh Kalka is new DSGMC president

New Delhi: Harmeet Singh Kalka of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) was elected president of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee Saturday amid heated arguments among members. Voting had to be stopped after a member revealed his vote publicly. PTI

## The pandemic has thrown the schooling system out of gear across the country. The situation is pronounced in Delhi, which has seen extended closures owing to intense Covid waves as well as air pollution. Officials and experts weigh in on the road ahead

## SUKRITA BARUAH

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23



Delhi itself has shuttled between opening and closing multiple times. Archive

**"100% vaccination of students will help us in shifting from online education to offline. Now that Covid cases are declining, and most students in higher classes have been inoculated, a proposal may be placed before the DDMA for reopening schools"**

MANISH SISODIA, DEPUTY CM

9 with the onset of the second wave. Schools then opened for these grades from September.

The capital had also ventured into reopening for pre-primary, primary and middle school students from November 1. But within two weeks, physical classes for all grades were suspended from November 15 over rising air pollution levels. Schools reopened for all grades on November 29 and were ordered to shut yet again within days, citing pollution, on December 2. The year 2021 saw Delhi's longest 'air pollution closure'.

While schools briefly opened for classes VI to XII for 10 days, they closed completely on December 29. The net result is that schools have been permitted to open for primary classes for 18 days since the start of the pandemic.

Amid the third wave, discussions around reopening centre around speeding up vaccination for 15-17-year-olds. Immunisation against Covid-19 opened up for this age group on January 3 and the government is aiming to vaccinate 100% eligible teenagers by January 30.

"100% vaccination of students will help us in shifting from online education to offline. Now that the Covid cases are declining, and most students in higher classes have been inoculated, a proposal may be placed before the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) for reopening

schools," said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

## Experts, parents speak

A Delhi education department official said they are keen on reopening schools. "We now have the example of Maharashtra, and there are global examples in favour of opening them. There is medical evidence that Covid affects young children less. But people who must make this decision have to do so based on logic and evidence and not perception," the official said, referring to the DDMA.

"There needs to be more clarity on how we will handle this moving forward, at what stage these steps need to be taken. Between the second and third wave, there was a substantial time when we could have opened," the official said.

Yamini Aiyar, president, Centre for Policy Research, said that by keeping schools closed to reduce the spread of Covid, the trade-off in terms of children's learning is huge.

"When the pandemic first set in here, we experimented with a harsh lockdown and realised that the economic consequences are huge. When the second wave took place with the Delta variant, which was deadlier, we entered a more measured lockdown because we had learnt from past experience. We never made that choice for schools... One thing that has made governments recalcitrant has been elite voices, where there is an assumption that online learning can be a substitute. We found different ways to work around our economic lives sensibly. It would only make sense that we could have found different ways of opening schools with proper SOPs, and over time we would have found ways to overcome hesitancy as well. But there was nobody to lobby for this while traders' associations and business owners' associations lobbied hard to open the

economy," she said.

In the first survey to indicate how learning levels among children have been impacted because of schools being shut during the

## ACROSS STATES

## DELHI

**MARCH 12, 2020:**

Schools closed

**JAN 18, 2021:** Opened for class X, XII**FEB 5:** Opened for class IX, XI**APRIL 9:** Schools closed again**SEPT 1:** Reopened again for class IX-XII**NOV 1:** Fully opened for all grades**NOV 15:** Fully closed**NOV 29:** Schools opened**DEC 3:** Fully closed**DEC 18:** Partially opened for class VI-XII**DEC 29:** Fully closed

## MUMBAI

**MARCH 20, 2020:**

Schools closed

**OCT 4, 2021:** Opened for class VIII-XII**DEC 15:** Opened for class I-VII**JAN 3, 2022:** Closed for all

## KOLKATA

**MARCH 14, 2020:**

Schools closed

**NOV 16, 2021:** Opened for class IX-XII**JAN 3, 2022:** Closed again

## AHMEDABAD

**MARCH 16, 2020:** All schools closed**JAN 11, 2021:** Class X and XII opened**FEB 1:** Classes IX and XI opened**FEB 18:** Class VI-VIII opened**MARCH 18:** Closed for all classes**JULY 15:** Class XII opened



# Business Schools Mumbai



ADVERTORIAL  
An initiative by  
**RED\***  
Read. Engage. Deliver.

## Restructuring education in real terms

Focussing on multi-disciplinary and skill-based learning, NEP 2020 is being implemented across the country on a mission mode to provide holistic education to students in today's competitive scenario. The Maharashtra task force has suggested a three-phase plan of execution

**W**ith an aim to restructure our education sector, the Ministry of Human Resource Development introduced the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 almost two years ago. The move was widely appreciated and welcomed by the society as NEP 2020 emphasises on providing holistic, multi-disciplinary education to students. With an orientation to promote entrepreneurship over jobs, the prime focus of NEP is on providing skill education right from pre-school to Class XII and empower each student in at least one vocational skill. The key recommendations of NEP 2020 for higher education are — multiple exit options, expansion of online learning, an academic bank of credit allowing students to move between courses and institutions and a central council for higher education. The policy also suggests "abolishing the current system of affiliated colleges by providing 'graduated autonomy' and replacing the federal structure with large multi-disciplinary university complexes." This was the first time after 34 years that the education policy of the country was revised to meet the changing needs of Indian and international education standards.

Since NEP 2020's introduction in July 2020, a lot has changed in the education sector today. Curricula have been tweaked in schools to include subjects such as financial literacy and artificial intelligence. When it comes to the medium of instruction in schools and colleges, the mother tongue or a regional language has been introduced on a pilot basis. This applies even to engineering courses and a few institutes chose to implement this initiative in the 2021-22 academic year.

At the school level, the first step will be to invest in teachers who can speak multiple languages. Currently, mostly teachers speak English, a regional language and/or Hindi. Under NEP 2020, schools and colleges must train teachers in additional languages or hire more staff.

The primary objective of NEP 2020 was to reduce undue focus on the Class 10 and Class 12 board exams. Consequently, board exams administered by the CBSE will have a higher number of multiple-choice and analytical ques-

tions from this year onwards.

In schools, subjects such as financial literacy, data science and artificial intelligence will be offered to students on an optional basis. As part of this initiative, CBSE tied up with Microsoft to help students of Class VI-VIII work on coding-related modules from the 2021-22 academic year onwards.

NEP 2020 also allows the top 100 universities in India to offer online degree courses to make them affordable and improve accessibility. Following this, online platforms are offering a range of courses in partnership with institutes.

In Maharashtra, a task force has been set up that has recommended implementing NEP 2020 in three phases. From proposing a transition from a three-year bachelor's programme to a three or four-year programme with a final year focus on research, to offering

university status to a large group of institutions with proven academic record, the state task force committee has made several recommendations in the short-term implementation plan, which will not require financial resources.

In the long-term plan, it has endorsed offering universal free digital rights to all learners in the State. The task force has identified 18 provisions in NEP that can be immediately implemented through simple directives. Offering a plan for a four-year degree programme, starting post-doctoral programmes in universities, enabling digital adjunct faculty for foreign universities on board and enabling provisions for rationalisation of fees and reforming fee regulatory policies are included. The need to define a dual-degree mode of operation and collaboration and creation of an academic bank of credits were included in the medium-term plan, which needs some funds.

Further, the report by the task force estimated an annual investment for state-wide digital transformation to be around Rs 3,000 crore for about 30 lakh student beneficiaries, starting from 10 lakh in 2022-23. This comes to around Rs 10,000 annually per child, which is just a 12-18% increase from current costs.

### MBA at KJ SIM : Come and avail the freedom of possibilities

**W**ith a strong legacy of 40 years, KJ Somaiya Institute of Management has been a pioneer in management education. KJ SIM offers a variety of MBA programs with an endeavour to constantly evolve with the changing times and develop future leaders for the upcoming industry disruptions. Located in a lush green beautiful campus in the heart of Mumbai, KJ SIM offers management programs to cater to the choice of students and demands of the industry. Besides the flagship MBA program, we also provide niche programs such as MBA Executive,



MBA Sports Management, MBA Healthcare Management; and MBA Part-Time programs for mid-career professionals. Through our MBA programs, we present a myriad of eclectic & wholesome opportunities to students to advance their aspirations of being management professionals and entrepreneurs. We cultivate management skills by focussing on a robust curriculum, leveraging our strong corporate connect and growing our strong alumni base. Students are encouraged to engage in extra-curricular activities, be part of various students committees and participate in B-school competitions. We strive for our students to achieve holistic development so that along with knowledge and skills, they also gain the ability to be agile, adaptable, and inclusive, culminating into well-rounded compassionate individuals.

**Dr. Megha Gupta**  
Assistant Professor OB & HR  
KJ SIM

## NITIE grooms business leaders

**L**ocated in the financial capital of India and established in 1963, National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE), is a leading B-School for management education in India. Heralded as the 'Mecca of Supply Chain', NITIE is a pioneer in operations and supply chain management.

Ranked 12th by NIRF (Ministry of Education, Govt of India) among management institutions in the country in 2020, the industry-oriented courses in domains like strategy & consulting, finance, marketing, IT/ITes, EHS and Sustainability, attract students from diverse backgrounds, open a plethora of diverse mindsets and inculcate managerial skills in students which keep them updated and industry ready for the ever-changing market scenario.

NITIE also houses a world-class library with over 55,000 books, 11,000 bound volumes of periodicals and 237 technical publications encompassing a wide variety of subjects. Under the visionary leadership of Shri Shashi Kiran Shetty, Chairman of the Board and Prof Manoj Kumar Tiwari, Director of the institute, NITIE has been delivering countless business leaders to the world.

The Flagship International Corporate Event - AVARTAN, Leadership Talks from top professionals - Drona, and various other events host some of the world's renowned business executives and corporates at NITIE. Through these events, students hone their leadership skills, administrative experience and develop the art of teambuilding and coordination.

The eight-week summer internship pro-

gramme at NITIE exposes students to the corporate world and gives them a chance to demonstrate their ability and skills by addressing real-world challenges for leading organisations across all sectors. More than 30% of the batch receive Pre-Placement Offers, and the rest are placed in prestigious organisations with high remuneration. Due to its remarkable pool of talent, NITIE students are sought after by top recruiters around the world from a variety of industries like BFSI, consulting, e-commerce, FMCG, and IT/ Analytics. The institute has also signed MOUs with many reputed international universities which help students to develop themselves by utilising various academic exchange programmes.



## OPEN ADMISSIONS

### PGDIE 2022-24 PGDSM 2022-24

Application closes on  
28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022

National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE), Mumbai has been Ranked-12<sup>th</sup> under India Rankings 2021: Management category by MHRD-NIRF

PGDIE is a Flagship and an unique course for developing techno-managers with cross-functional capabilities

PGDSM provides students with skills & knowledge in the new business context of sustainable value creation

#### Eligibility criteria :-

- Valid GATE score as of June 15, 2022
- Bachelor's degree or its equivalent in any Engineering / Technology branch with minimum 60% aggregate marks (relaxed by 5% in case of SC / ST / PWD candidates)
- Final year students can also apply, provided they qualify the above criteria for examination appeared at time of application & submit their result latest by September 30, 2022

**NITIE Admin Block | Vihar Lake Rd  
P.O: NITIE | Mumbai | Maharashtra - 400 087**

+91-22-2803 5251 | admission.ie@nitie.ac.in | admission.sm@nitie.ac.in

**SOMAIYA**  
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY  
K.J. Somaiya Institute of Management

**BE DISTINCT:**  
IT OPENS VISTAS OF OPPORTUNITIES



## K J Somaiya Institute of Management Programmes Offered

- MBA - 540+supernumerary seats**
- MBA - Healthcare Management (HCM) - 30 seats**
- MBA - Sports Management (SM) - 30 seats**
- MBA Executive - 30 seats**
- MBA - Part Time Management Programme - 240 seats**

### Eligibility Criteria (Two-Year Full-Time MBA)

- Graduates in any discipline with aggregate 50% marks from any UGC-approved college & recognized University. Fresh graduates may also apply.
- Appeared for CAT 2021 / XAT 2022/ CMAT 2022/ NMAT 2021 (only first attempt of the aspirant) or GMAT (Valid scores of last three years are accepted for GMAT i.e. from 01/01/2019 to 31/01/2022)

### ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR AY 2022-23!

#### Apply Now

Application Deadline  
31st January, 2022

K J Somaiya Institute of Management,  
Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Vidyavihar (East),  
Mumbai 400 077  
Maharashtra, India  
Admissions Office Email: [admission.simsr@somaiya.edu](mailto:admission.simsr@somaiya.edu)  
Phone: +91 22 6728 3292 / 93 / 77  
Website: [simsr.somaiya.edu](http://simsr.somaiya.edu)

SCAN HERE TO  
KNOW MORE!



## I HEREBY DECLARE

DHIRENDRA SINGH  
BJP candidate Jyewar  
(Gautam Buddha Nagar)TOTAL ASSETS  
₹10,32,71,114  
MOVABLE ASSETS  
₹3,00,42,744Self: ₹2,78,37,326  
Wife: ₹22,05,418IMMOVABLE ASSETS:  
Self: ₹7,32,28,370  
Wife: Nil

PROFESSION: Farmer

LOANS FROM BANKS,  
INDIVIDUALS  
₹1,02,99,585  
CRIMINAL CASES: Nil  
EDUCATION: MA History  
(1988)

With education having emerged as one of the core issues, Channi and Sisodia (right) have been visiting schools to take stock as their parties attempt to outdo each other ahead of the Assembly polls. Express

## HASHTAG POLITICS



## • Singing the same tune

The rap song 'Bambai mein ka ba', by Anurag Saikia and Manoj Bajpayee, continues to inspire poll jingles in Uttar Pradesh. After BJP leader and singer Ravi Kishan came out with 'UP mein sabha (UP has everything)', extolling the 'achievements' of the BJP government, Bhojpuri artiste Neha Singh Rathore hit back with 'UP mein ka ba (what does UP have)'. Now, the Twitter handle of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Uttar Pradesh has pinned another jingle set to the same tune on its profile, tilted 'UP mein ee baa (this is what UP has)'.

1.6K LIKES, 4.4K RETWEETS IN 37 HOURS

## • 'Migration' matter

With politicians in Goa switching sides rather frequently, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has tweeted a video mocking Congress leaders moving to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Titled 'The Great Migration', the video narrates in documentary style the story of Clafasio Dias, who was elected on a Congress ticket in the last polls but moved to BJP in 2019. While the TMC, by attacking both Congress and the saffron party, is aiming to kill two birds with one stone through the video, the party itself has welcomed turncoats ahead of the state polls.

100 LIKES, 46 RETWEETS IN 11 HOURS

## Punjab school scorecard: AAP, Cong fight over 'best' model

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL  
LUDHIANA, JANUARY 23

IN A recent interview, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal claimed that a Dalit voter in Punjab had come to him and said he would vote for AAP. "I asked him, why not [Punjab CM] Charanjit Singh Channi who is claiming to be the messiah of Dalits. He said AAP has transformed government schools in Delhi and it is only education that can change the lives of people," he said, making an appeal to vote for AAP if voters "want state-of-art government schools in Punjab like in Delhi."

In a state where panth and religion have long dictated electoral politics, education has emerged as one of the core issues with the AAP and Congress, the two main contenders in the fray, indulging in politicking, discussions and debates. There has even been a Twitter war between the education ministers of Punjab and Delhi — led by Congress and AAP governments, respectively — eventually forcing other parties

to specify their roadmap for school and higher education.

The political one-upmanship began early last year when, in the run-up to the elections, the state was declared the top performer in the Performance Grading Index 2019-20, released by the Union Ministry of Education.

While the Punjab government then led by Captain Amarinder Singh went all out to take credit for the ranking, Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia suggested that it was rigged, saying Punjab's top rank was the result of "the blessings

Modiji has showered on Captain Amarinder Singh". He added, "Strangely enough, this report has been released at a time when people have been raising questions regarding the performance and inadequacies of the Punjab government in education."

Amarinder had hit back, calling the accusations "atrocious".

Then in November last year, a Twitter war erupted between Punjab Education Minister Pargat Singh and Delhi Education

VOTING ON  
FEBRUARY 20

Minister Manish Sisodia, with each daring the other to visit schools in their states.

The Twitter war soon shifted to the ground. On December 1 last year, Sisodia reached Chamkaur Sahib, CM Channi's constituency, and claimed to have "exposed" the real condition of the schools. He alleged that the schools did not have enough teachers and drinking water facilities, and that the classrooms were filled with cobwebs and garbage.

Almost 20 days later, Channi visited those schools again to "expose the lies being spread by AAP". He did a Facebook Live, claiming that the schools Sisodia visited were among the 'best'.

On November 27 last year, Kejriwal joined protesting contractual teachers in Mohali and promised them regularisation if AAP is voted to power. State Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, in turn, joined a protest of contractual teachers in Delhi near Kejriwal's residence on December 5.

groups on the grounds of religion under Section 153A of the IPC.

Mustafa had made the alleged provocative speech three days ago in Baghwan Mohalla after AAP supporters, angry as police halted their event barely 25 feet away, shouted slogans against him.

In a video which has gone viral on social media, Mustafa can be heard saying, "I swear by my mother, I will not let them organise any political event... I swear by God that I will enter their

houses and beat them."

"I want to tell the district police and the district administration, if such permission is given along with my *jalsa*... I will create a situation that will be difficult to control." State BJP leaders had accused Mustafa of attacking a particular religion in his speech.

Mustafa, however, denied targeting any religion and even stated that the event in question was not held by the Congress.



## Why Bhandari community is significant in Goa elections

MAYURA JANWALKAR  
PANAJI, JANUARY 23

THE AAM Aadmi Party (AAP) has named a 45-year-old political debutant Amit Palekar as its Chief Ministerial candidate in the 14 February Goa Assembly elections. A lawyer-turned-politician, Palekar belongs to the Bhandari community, which is Goa's largest caste group constituting a significant percentage of its Hindu population. His selection is in keeping with the AAP's earlier announcement that its CM nominee for the Goa polls will be from the Bhandari community.

"There has never been a proper survey of the population of Bhandaris. The government says it is about 2 lakh which is not correct. Estimates suggest that at present the number should be about 5.29 lakh which would make up for at least 30 per cent of the state's population," said Naik.

## Their political representation

Goa's political parties have always tried to woo the numerically strong Bhandaris, with some seeking to champion reservation for them. The GBS chief had earlier said that the Bhandari Samaj would back the party that gives maximum election tickets to candidates from the community.

While the community has had representation in the state Assembly, there has so far been only one CM in Goa from the community, Ravi Naik, who was formerly with the BJP. The outgoing 40-member state Assembly has four MLAs from the Bhandari community.

## Who are the Bhandaris?

## Its CM face a Bhandari, does AAP have edge?

The Bhandari community's traditional occupation was toddy-tapping and distilling, farm tilling and working in orchards. It is placed in the OBC category in Goa. The community is spread across Goa and Maharashtra's Konkan belt including parts of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg.

## Their share in Goa's population

Gomantak Bhandari Samaj (GBS) president Ashok Naik said there has been no survey of the actual population of the Bhandari community in Goa. But he contests the figures recorded by the state Social Welfare Department.

In written reply to a question raised in the Assembly in October 2021, Social Welfare Minister Milind Naik had said a survey of OBCs was conducted in 2014 by the Goa State Commission for Backward Classes. "As per the survey report, the population of OBC was 3,58,517 which was 27% of total population. As per this survey, total number of Bhandari community is 2,19,052 which constitute 61.10% among OBC."

Political observers say even if the GBS throws its weight behind Palekar, the community at large has been closely associated with the BJP. However, traditionally votes sought on basis of religion or caste have not gone down well with the Goan electorate. Senior journalist and author Sandesh Prabhudesai, whose book Ajeeb Goa's Gajab Politics was recently released, said the first instance of wooing Goa voters on basis of caste was in 1972 but it backfired. FULL STORY

www.indianexpress.com

## BJP ally fields Haider Ali to take on Azam Khan's son in Suar



Was earlier Congress candidate from the seat

ologies of our party. He joined the party in Delhi about a week earlier. The party has made him a candidate in the current (UP) elections," Apna Dal (S) spokesperson Rajesh Patel said on Sunday.

In 2017, the Suar seat was won by Abdullah Azam Khan, son of veteran SP leader and Rampur MP Azam Khan. In 2019, however, the Allahabad High Court cancelled his victory on the grounds that he was aged below 25 when he had filed his nomination papers.

Fighting his first election, Haider, 31, is a graduate from the University of Essex, UK. He handled his father's campaign in Rampur during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, and the 2012 and 2017 state polls as well. He has said his decision to quit the Congress for Apna Dal (S) was to work "in interest of the public."

"Haider agreed with the idea

of the party, but Haider did not change his decision," said Dharmendra Dev Gupta, Congress's Rampur district president. He added the Congress will announce a new candidate from Suar soon.

Fighting his first election,

Haider, 31, is a graduate from the

University of Essex, UK. He han-

ded his father's campaign in

Rampur during the 2014 Lok

Sabha elections, and the 2012

and 2017 state polls as well. He

has said his decision to quit the

Congress for Apna Dal (S) was

to work "in interest of the public."

"Haider agreed with the idea

of the party, but Haider did not

change his decision," said Dharmen-

dra Dev Gupta, Congress's Rampur

district president. He added the Con-

gress will announce a new candi-

date from Suar soon.

Fighting his first election,

Haider, 31, is a graduate from the

University of Essex, UK. He han-

ded his father's campaign in

Rampur during the 2014 Lok

Sabha elections, and the 2012

and 2017 state polls as well. He

has said his decision to quit the

Congress for Apna Dal (S) was

to work "in interest of the public."

"Haider agreed with the idea

of the party, but Haider did not

change his decision," said Dharmen-

dra Dev Gupta, Congress's Rampur

district president. He added the Con-

gress will announce a new candi-

date from Suar soon.

Fighting his first election,

Haider, 31, is a graduate from the

University of Essex, UK. He han-

ded his father's campaign in

Rampur during the 2014 Lok

Sabha elections, and the 2012

and 2017 state polls as well. He

has said his decision to quit the

Congress for Apna Dal (S) was

to work "in interest of the public."

"Haider agreed with the idea

of the party, but Haider did not

change his decision," said Dharmen-

dra Dev Gupta, Congress's Rampur

district president. He added the Con-

gress will announce a new candi-

date from Suar soon.

Fighting his first election,

Haider, 31, is a graduate from the

University of Essex, UK. He han-

ded his father's campaign in

Rampur during the 2014 Lok

Sabha elections, and the 2012

and 2017 state polls as well. He

has said his decision to quit the

Congress for Apna Dal (S) was

to work "in interest of the public."

"Haider agreed with the idea

of the party, but Haider did not

change his decision," said Dharmen-

dra Dev Gupta, Congress's Rampur

district president. He added the Con-

gress will announce a new candi-

date from Suar soon.

Fighting his first election,

Haider, 31, is a graduate from the



## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## SEAT ISSUES

WHILE IT is almost certain that Harish Rawat would contest the upcoming Assembly polls from Ramnagar seat in Nainital district, his name was not in the first list of candidates announced by the Congress on Saturday. This has evoked some surprise in party circles. Sources said the former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand himself had asked the party not to announce his name in the first list. He perhaps wanted more time to sort out some issues in the constituency, for which his friend-turned-foe Ranjeet Rawat had staked claim. Ranjeet could now be shifted to the Salt seat.

## NICK OF TIME

A LAST-MINUTE intervention in correcting a mistake in its Republic Day tableau has helped the Navy save the blushes. An artwork depicting the 1946 Naval uprising was supposed to adorn the tableau. However, there was an oversight in picking the poster, which later turned out to be associated with Russia's Potemkin mutiny of 1905. The error was noticed only when the model was unveiled last week. The artwork was removed from the final tableau at the nick of time. But by that time its images had made it to a Ministry of Defence press release. Now the tableau only mentions Naval Uprising 1946 where the artwork was placed earlier.

## LETTERS FROM NETAJI

THE INDIAN Embassy in Berlin celebrated Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary with an exhibition of his rare and personal letters to his wife, Emilie Schenkl, in 1930s and 40s. Indian envoy P Harish and Bose's daughter Anita Bose Pfaff were present at the event. Among the letters included one informing her of Jawaharlal Nehru's wife Kamla Nehru's death and Bose's meetings with leaders in Europe.

## Venkaiah tests Covid positive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

A WEEK to go for the Budget session of Parliament to begin, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu tested Covid positive on Sunday.

Sources said at least one-third of the Parliament staff have so far tested positive since the first week of January. They said more than 850 personnel have tested positive till January 20. The majority of them have already recovered.

As many as 2,847 tests have been conducted in Parliament complex since the start of the third wave out of which 875 personnel have been found to be positive.

Having tested positive, Naidu is unlikely to attend the Republic Day celebrations on January 26.

The Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu, who is in Hyderabad, tested Covid positive today. He has decided to remain in self-isolation for a week. He has advised all those who came in contact with him to isolate themselves and get tested," the Vice President Secretariat tweeted.

## Cong in dire straits in UP, don't waste votes on them: Mayawati

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 23



BSP president Mayawati

party ki taraf se? To phir...Dikh tho raha hai na sab jagah mera chehra." (Are you seeing any other Congress leader's face...it is only my face that is being seen everywhere in UP.) However, the next day she said she is not the only face of the Congress in UP.

In the UP Vidhan Sabha elections, the condition of the Congress is so bad that their CM candidate changed her stand within a few hours. In such a situation, it would be better if people don't waste their votes on Congress and instead vote for BSP," Mayawati tweeted on Sunday morning.

Mayawati had earlier declared that she was the face of the party in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh but remained evasive on whether she would contest the upcoming Assembly polls. Asked who the Congress's face would be in UP, Vadra said, "Aapko kisi aur ka chehra dikh raha hai Congress people is excellent."

## MANIPUR

AFSPA removal in manifesto of BJP ally NPP

JIMMY LEIVON  
IMPHAL, JANUARY 23

THE NATIONAL People's Party (NPP), one of the allies of the BJP-led government in Manipur, on Sunday released its manifesto for the upcoming Assembly election.

The manifesto, titled 'People's Action Document 2022', was released by NPP chief Conrad Sangma online along with Manipur Deputy Chief Minister Y Joykumar Singh, NPP state working president Jayentakumar Singh and Arunachal NPP president Mutchu Mithi.

Conrad Sangma said the NPP manifesto includes clear-cut stands in all aspects unlike the manifestos of other political parties.

The first agenda in the manifesto, the NPP highlighted, is to work towards repealing AFSPA from Manipur, protection of indigenous rights of all communities, focusing on sustained peace by engaging in dialogue with insurgent groups and addressing human rights violations.

## Cong: TMC suggested Goa alliance, but kept poaching party leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PANAJI, JANUARY 23



Congress leader P Chidambaram

who is also the party's senior election observer, said in Panaji.

The coming legislative assembly election in Goa has transformed into a multi-corner contest - with the TMC and the Aam Aadmi Party running aggressive campaigns as the traditional Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) versus Congress intensifies.

Of the five MLAs that the Congress had after ten of its legislators defected to the BJP, Congress lost two MLAs to the TMC and one to the Bharatiya Janata Party in recent months. The TMC also took several block-level and local leaders into its fold after it arrived in Goa in September 2021.

Former Chief Minister Luizinho Faleiro, now a TMC Rajya Sabha MP, was the first Goan MLA to resign from the Congress and join the TMC.

house of the freedom fighter.

From this year, the Central government has begun Republic Day celebrations from January 23 instead of January 24 in order to include Netaji's birth anniversary. Until the granite statue is ready, a hologram statue of Netaji, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be at India Gate.

Another grand-nephew of Netaji, BJP leader Chandra Bose, urged that communal politics practiced by all parties must stop as a mark of tribute to Netaji. "We welcome the decision to install his statue at the India Gate...Today, communal politics has taken the centre stage in the country, which is being done by all parties. To pay real tribute to Netaji, this kind of politics needs to stop..." Chandra Bose said.

## ASSAM

## Ex-student leader shot at by police; probe announced



Kirti Kamal Bora

**EXPLAINED** **E** Under fire for police action

THE LATEST shooting incident comes at a time when the Himanta Biswa Sarma government has been under fire for increased police action on alleged criminals. Since Sarma became Chief Minister in May last year and adopted a "zero tolerance" policy against crime, at least 60 alleged criminals have been injured and 30 killed in firing incidents, while either purportedly trying to escape police custody or attacking the police. Sarma remains unfazed by criticism that the police have turned "trigger-happy". He maintains that he had given the police "full operational freedom" to take the "toughest of actions" within the ambit of law to deal with criminals.

run away, so one policeman began to chase them. In the meanwhile, the other policeman who was left behind was being beaten up by two others present. As per his version, he was compelled to fire to save himself, otherwise he would have been killed." The SP added that they recovered eight vials of drugs from the spot, including one from Bora's person.

Bora's family rubbished the police version and said he has been "wrongly framed".

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Netaji's kin welcome move to install statue

'Best monument to Netaji is to spread his legacy of equality and unity'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JANUARY 23

FAMILY MEMBERS of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on Sunday welcomed the Central government's move to install a statue of the freedom fighter at the India Gate in Delhi, and said his ideology goes far beyond the statue.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, grand nephew of Netaji and former TMC Lok Sabha MP Sugata Bose said, "I have welcomed the installation of the statue at the India Gate. I have also said the best monument to Netaji is to spread his legacy of equality and unity. Importance to Netaji's work must be given as well." Sugata is also the director of the Netaji Research Bureau in Kolkata, set up at the

PM CONFRS SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE AWARDS FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT FOR 2019-22

## Gujarat institute, Sikkim official among disaster management awardees

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE GUJARAT Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) and Professor Vinod Sharma, vice chairman of the Sikkim Disaster Management Authority, were conferred this year's Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for their work in the field of disaster management.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday distributed the awards for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. The awards for the previous years had been announced earlier, but were given out by the PM on Sunday.

The 2022 awards were presented to the winners chosen from 243 nominations. GIDM was the winner in the institutions category and Sharma in the individual category.

Professor Sharma, a senior professor at the Indian Institute of Public Administration and the vice chairman of the Sikkim



PM Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with the winners of Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for 2019-22 at India Gate. ANI

State Disaster Management Authority, was the founder coordinator of the National Centre of Disaster Management, now known as the National Institute of Disaster Management. "He has worked tirelessly towards bringing disaster risk reduction (DRR) to the forefront of the national agenda. His pioneering work in DRR in India gave him international recognition..." the MHA statement said.

According to the MHA, Sharma has made Sikkim a model state in implementing DRR, while initiating panchayat-level preparedness plans, linking climate change and DRR.

The awards were instituted to recognise and honour the contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in India in the field of disaster management. They are announced every year on January 23, the birth anniversary

of Subhas Chandra Bose.

In 2021, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) (institution category) and Dr Rajendra Kumar Bhandari (individual category) were conferred the award.

According to Home Ministry, SEEDS has done work in building community resilience to disasters. "In the aftermath of earthquakes in India (2001, 2005, 2015), SEEDS had mobilised a group of building masons who are adept in carrying out disaster-resistant construction. These masons have become ambassadors in local communities across several emergencies in multiple states," it said.

On Dr Bhandari, the ministry said he is among the pioneers in India in laying down the foundation of scientific studies on geo hazards in general and landslides in particular.

For 2020, Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre, Uttarakhand (in the institution category) and Kumar Munna Singh (individual category) were given the award.

According to MHA, since its establishment in 2006, DMMC has coordinated various post-disaster activities relating to coordination, requisition, information exchange and media briefing.

Singh was appointed as a founder Member of the National Disaster Management Authority in 2005 following his work during 2004 Tsunami. He was also instrumental in establishing the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

The 2019 award was given to 8th Battalion of the NDRF. The Home Ministry said the award was for a decade of work. NDRF participated in 314 major operations in this period and rescued over 50,000 people.



# THE EDITORIAL PAGE

**The Indian EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## SIDE BY SIDE

Amar Jawan Jyoti, National War Memorial showcase a rich history. Both flames should endure

**T**HE DECISION TO put out the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate, and honour the supreme sacrifice of India's war heroes with an eternal flame at the National War Memorial (NWM), has been described as a logical decision for several reasons. For one, the NWM houses the names of all the soldiers who died in wars that took place after independence in 1947. The Amar Jawan Jyoti, which was set up in 1972 under the initiative of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi under the arch of India Gate, seeks to commemorate those who laid down their lives in the 1971 war, but their names are not inscribed on the monument itself. The case has been made that the NWM is where all the official functions are now held to honour the country's soldiers, and having a flame there would be more apt. These are all good arguments in favour of an eternal flame at the NWM, but still not a convincing enough explanation for why the government will no longer honour Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in wars prior to 1947. This is why the decision has proved divisive, and rankled the sentiments of many. The government's virtue signalling on the issue, that the "merging of the flames", as the project is now being described, is a "decolonising" move, has only made the issue more problematic.

It is one thing for a nation to be aware of its colonial past. But quite another for a government to use its ideological predilections to smear everything that went before as "tainted". In defence of the move, some claim that the Amar Jawan Jyoti memorial was inappropriate in its location at India Gate, a Lutyens' monument and as such a colonial relic. This insults the sacrifice of 15,000 men who laid down their lives as part of the British Army in the two world wars, and whose names are inscribed on the arch, but not at the NWM. These men were no mercenaries as they are now being cast. Moreover, the present day Indian Army is a legatee of the British Indian Army, organised much along the same lines as it was 75 years ago, and cannot turn its back on its own heroes.

The best way out of the present controversy would be to leave the Amar Jawan Jyoti burning at India Gate, along with the one at the NWM. Delhi has space for two flames. Located in a much loved public space, there is no match for India Gate's openness, which gets the monument more visitors than the gated and more select NWM can. Keeping the flame alive there will ensure that none of India's war heroes is forgotten

## FISCAL ARITHMETIC

Tax collections are buoyant, but meeting fiscal deficit target set in Union budget will be difficult

**E**ARLY NEXT WEEK, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union budget. The last budget had presented a roadmap for fiscal consolidation, projecting to bring down the fiscal deficit from 9.5 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 to 6.8 per cent in 2021-22, and thereafter, to below 4.5 per cent by 2025-26. This trajectory broadly mirrors the path laid out by the 15th Finance Commission. But, even though the Centre's tax collections have grown at a fairly robust pace and nominal GDP growth this year is expected to surpass what was factored in the budget numbers, meeting the 6.8 per cent target for this year might be challenging with proceeds from disinvestment likely to fall way short of expectations, and considering the government's additional expenditure outlays.

At the aggregate level, the Centre's gross tax collections in the first eight months of the year (April to November) have already touched Rs 15.4 lakh crore. The disaggregated data shows that both direct and indirect tax collections have been fairly buoyant. The trends so far suggest that tax collections are likely to exceed the budgeted target by a significant margin. However, it is difficult to arrive at firm estimates due to the economic uncertainty stemming from the third wave of the pandemic. A major area of concern is the disinvestment target. As against a target of Rs 1.75 lakh crore, collections have so far only touched Rs 9,330 crore. But this shortfall is not a one-off. Last year too, the government was able to mop up only Rs 32,000 crore against a budget target of Rs 2.1 lakh crore. This trend of proceeds falling well short of ambitious targets is because disinvestment continues to be treated only as a means to shore up revenues to meet the fiscal deficit target, and not as part of a concerted effort to get the government out of business, and improve the efficiency of companies.

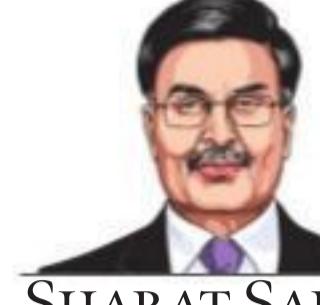
On the other hand, government spending does not appear to have maintained a steady pace. Spending has so far remained subdued in the third quarter, with total expenditure clocking only a 5 per cent growth, down from 21 per cent in the previous quarter. Spending though may pick up in the months ahead on the food and fertiliser subsidy, export incentives, and other items as detailed in the supplementary demand for grants. However, despite the criticality of public sector investments at this juncture, in eight months so far the government has spent just under half its full year budgeted capex. Considering that the economy is being driven by the engines of exports and government spending – private consumption and investments continue to remain muted – if government spending itself remains subdued, it will impact the economy's growth prospects.

## FREEZE FRAME

EP UNNY



# The India shadow



SHARAT SABHARWAL

Pakistan's new security policy has trade in focus, but falls short of reimagining ties with Delhi

PAKISTAN HAS RELEASED the public version of what is billed as its first-ever National Security Policy (NSP). It stipulates, inter alia, economic security as the core of national security, an expansion of the economic pie, supplementing geostrategy with geopolitics, making Pakistan a trade and connectivity hub, curbing extremism and terrorism, and inculcating a culture of introspection and pragmatism in defining national security interests. An impressive wish list indeed for a national security state. However, the devil will lie in its implementation.

The elephant in the room is Pakistan's adversarial posture towards its much bigger and better-endowed neighbour – India. This, together with the primacy of its army, the growing and unaccountable defence expenditure, low resource mobilisation, a crushing debt burden, entrenched economic interests, extremist violence, and ethnic fissures accentuated by Punjabi dominance, largely accounts for Pakistan's woes. The country, while counting increasingly on its nuclear arsenal for its defence, retains its obsession to keep up with India's conventional military capability. The NSP mentions the "growing conventional force differential in the region," but is silent on how the increasing defence outlays are to be tamed. One cannot see the Pakistani army giving up its India bogey – the mainstay of its primary – and its business empire anytime soon.

Expanding the economic pie is an uphill task on account of vested interests draining the national treasury without contributing their due share to it and dampening economic activity by violence and terrorism. Pakistan's growth rate remains very low, decent growth having been registered mainly during phases of large external aid inflows.

The NSP expresses the wish to improve relations with India, but places "a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute" at the core of the bilateral relationship. This has been in essence the publicly articulated Pakistani position over the years. Given the ground realities, the only feasible peaceful solution to Kashmir will have to be non-territorial. The backchannel (2004-07) deliberations on the issue represented an important

step in that direction. However, Pakistan did not show the courage and sagacity to take them to their logical conclusion. This begs the question: Does Pakistan want a mutually acceptable solution to Kashmir or use it as a perennial hostility plank against India? Things have since moved on with the withdrawal of the special status of J&K, China's deeper involvement in the illegally occupied territory of "Gilgit-Baltistan" and its aggressive moves in eastern Ladakh.

Pakistan has pruned down its initial demand of reversing India's August 5, 2019 move

to the restoration of statehood to J&K and no change in the area's demography. The restoration of statehood may come in due course, but no government in India would like it to be seen as a response to a Pakistani demand. There has been no mass influx into J&K to change its demography in a significant manner – something that Pakistan has done to the parts of J&K under its illegal occupation. Unless Pakistan takes a pragmatic approach to Kashmir and relations with India to promote the larger goals mentioned in the NSP, the conclusion that it sees Kashmir as a perpetual stick to beat India with will be inescapable.

Pakistan's emphasis on geopolitics

without trade and transit links with India is an empty slogan. The access provided to China to the Makran coast is the only important economic linkage Pakistan provides. Pakistan can become a meaningful transit hub only by providing linkage, together with India, between Central/West Asia and beyond on one side and Southeast Asia and beyond on the other. However, it has continued to deny transit to India and blocked intra-regional connectivity in SAARC. Instead of addressing these issues, the NSP describes Pakistan's eastward connectivity as being "held hostage to India's regressive approach".

The withdrawal of the MFN status by India

in February 2019 was justifiable only as a retaliatory move. It did not have the potential to influence the calculus of Pakistan's security establishment (Pakistan's exports to India are less than 2 per cent of its global exports) and raised the cost of imports from the next-door market for the Indian consumer. Pakistan took

Because of stiff resistance of vested interests, any positive transformation will inevitably be a gradual process. However, we need to take note of the NSP for two reasons: First, it is a sign of Pakistan's growing challenges, particularly economic, in continuing with its old policies; and second, because it reflects, albeit partially, the thinking of the sizeable constituency in Pakistan that realises the importance of a stable relationship with India in its own interest.

an even more short-sighted step by suspending trade with India in August 2019 which would hurt its economy more than India's. A move last year to permit the import of Indian cotton, cotton yarn and sugar was scuttled quickly by the Pakistan government. The Pal daily *Express Tribune*, quoting an official source, mentioned recently that trade could be normalised if there was progress in dialogue. The term progress is undefined, though I would expect Pakistan to revise its stand on trade at some stage under pressure from its business and industry.

Due to encouragement by politicians and the army for their selfish ends, including the perpetration of terrorism in the region, religious and sectarian extremism and the accompanying violence are deeply entrenched in Pakistan. Repeated attempts to regulate the madrasa education system and counter Pakistan's rogue terror groups have come a cropper.

The aforementioned factors rule out any dramatic results of the NSP by way of an enduring change in the internal and external orientation of the Pakistani state. Because of stiff resistance by vested interests, any positive transformation will inevitably be a gradual process. However, we need to take note of the NSP for two reasons: First, it is a sign of Pakistan's growing challenges, particularly economic, in continuing with its old policies; and second, because it reflects, albeit partially, the thinking of the sizeable constituency in Pakistan that realises the importance of a stable relationship with India in its own interest. Going forward, these factors should present us with opportunities to improve the relationship beyond the ceasefire restoration of February 2021 by way of resumption of trade and the upgradation of diplomatic representation, especially having senior interlocutors in each other's capital. Whatever Pakistan's problems, a calmer western front also suits us in focussing on the Chinese challenge.

The writer is former High Commissioner to Pakistan, and is the author of the forthcoming book, *India's Pakistan Conundrum – Managing a Complex Relationship*



SAYANDEB CHOWDHURY

THIS YEAR MARKS the 150 years of what can be called the first use of caricature in an Indian publication. It was in *Amrita Bazaar Patrika*, then a formidable English daily published from British Calcutta. It mocked the efforts at municipal reform by George Campbell, the then Lieutenant Governor. It could hence be more than serendipity that Bengal's most popular living comic-artiste was also to pass away on January 18 this year. To that end, Narayan Debnath's death marks the termination of a comic culture that began so many years ago, a culture whose multiple genealogies involved the British *Punch*, or as the art historian Partha Mitter proposes, that of the pioneers Thomas Rowlandson and James Gillray. For more than a century since, illustrated humour has been a key part of Bengal's public life – be it cartoons, strips, political caricature or graphic storytelling. Debnath himself could well have been a product of several influences – from local gag magazines to the antics of the Depression-era comic-duo Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, if not also Bert Wheeler and Robert Woolsey. The last is not an informed guess but a certainty because slapstick was Debnath's primary tool of comic mobilisation.

The arsenal of Bengali comics had Gaganendranath Tagore, whom the ever-hard-to-please pluralist Nirad Chaudhuri had compared to French caricaturist Honoré-Victorin Daumier, the "Michelangelo of caricature". Bengali comics also had the likes of Upendrakishore Ray Chaudhuri and his son Sukumar, the latter's bestiary and wondrous critiques of the archetypes of the Colonial re-

## NOT MERELY A LAUGHING MATTER

Narayan Debnath's comic world was rich but stuck in slapstick and stereotype

Trained at the Indian Art College, Debnath had a gift of clean lines and a conspicuous talent to draw figures in fast movement, displaying his ample grip on animated, hand-drawn kinesis that later helped his strips no end. But he did not imbibe the gifts of his predecessors, nor had he stories to tell. So, when he got a chance to do something of his own, he took to the genre of stilted, repetitive adolescent pranks in the capers of Handa and Bhoda, who appeared as double-page spreads in the variety magazine *Shuktara* in 1962. He repeated the same tricks and clichés when later that decade he created Nante and Fante, a pair of boarding school brats. Stereotypes and reiterations were galore. Every story had to end in dimwit denouement. Debnath may have been short of ideas, but he was versatile otherwise. He drew biographical comics like *Rabi Chobi* (on Tagore), detective comics involving super-sleuth Indrajit Roy; a John Prentice and Alex Raymond-inspired strip about a hardboiled secret agent called Kaushik, etc. He was also behind *Patalchand* – a strip about a young magician; *Bahadur Beral* – about a smart feline; *Danpita Khadua ar tar Chemical Dadu* (1983), a Rick and Morty-like pairing of a boy and his grandfa-

ther; and *Petuk Master Batukal* (1984) – about an insatiable teacher. Most of them banked on the same staple of bawdy slapstick.

His current fame largely rested on his strip

*Batul the Great*, perhaps the only example in Bengali of an indigenous superhero, who was unrepentantly brawny, casually bareknuckle and conspicuously against the tide of the insouciant intellectualism of Bengali life. Apparently, this 1965-born strip complemented the emerging aspirations that led to Bangladesh's *Muktijuddho* in 1971. But exactly how did this bullet-dodging squat man with a barrel chest, in pink vests and accompanying black shorts, allay the anxieties of Bengali hyper-nationalism is, to date, unfathomable.

And yet, Debnath remained synonymous with comic culture in Bengal, being its most popular face for generations that grew up in the 1960s, '70s and even the '80s. That generation has most noisily mourned his death in the last few days, grieving the passing of their childhood. But was Debnath's gags really constitutive of a childhood where fatuous frolic, vicious mischief and burlesque body-comedy were the primary forms of entertainment? If yes, then how did that same childhood and in that same period, accommodate the comodious, learned humour of Feluda? If it did not, then why mourn?

Chowdhury teaches at Ambedkar University Delhi and has recently put together, with Rituparno Basu, [www.humourinbengal.info](http://www.humourinbengal.info), an archive on the history of caricature in Bengal.

## JANUARY 24, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

### INDIA-EUROPE TRADE

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION will remove the obstacles coming in the way of efforts to improve trade between India and the European Economic Community (EEC). However, it was for businessmen of both sides to take advantage of the political decisions according to Wilhelm Haferkamp, vice president of the Commission of the EEC. He was speaking after signing a document with the Commerce Minister Shivraj Patil at the end of the meeting of the Indo-EEC commission. Haferkamp repeated his insistence on the removal of obstacles but sidestepped a specific question on whether he considered the quota system on the entry of Indian textiles into the

markets of 10 EEC countries as an obstacle or an irritant. He said textiles was a special issue and was the only such issue because of the unemployment in the textile industry in Europe.

### LOK DAL CRISIS ENDS

A SPLIT IN the Lok Dal in the midst of efforts for non-communist Opposition unity was averted following Charan Singh's withdrawal of his acceptance of the resignations of Biju Patnaik and Devi Lal from the Parliamentary board and the national executive of the party. A rapprochement was brought about due to the intervention of several party leaders including Karpuri Thakur and Rabi Ray.

### BIHAR ORDINANCES

THE GOVERNOR OF Bihar promulgated two ordinances amending the Patna University Act and the Bihar University Act, clipping the powers of the two universities. According to the ordinances, all appointments to these universities will be made through a centralised examination to be conducted by the state public services commission.

### NATO SANCTIONS

NATO COUNTRIES DENOUNCED military rule in Poland and announced an agreement to coordinate sanctions against the Soviet and Polish governments.

# THE IDEAS PAGE

## A prison diary from Tihar

In Tihar Jail during the second wave, we mourned the deaths of our co-inmates. Amid suffering brought on by pandemic, Indian judiciary, state must ensure right to life of prisoners



NATASHA NARWAL AND DEVANGANA KALITA

"AISA LAGTA HAI kabr mein aa gaye hain, na koi awaaz bahar ja sakti hai, na koi awaaz andar aa sakti hai" (It feels like we have entered a grave, no one can hear us and we cannot hear anyone) — a piercing observation made by one of our co-inmates last year, as we lived the deadly second wave of the pandemic inside Tihar's women's prison, Jail No.6. With the third wave currently unfolding, urgent attention must be paid to the terrible conditions under which one of the most neglected groups of this country is surviving — India's prison population. The latest NCARB data tells us that 76 per cent of prisoners are undertrials with a stark overrepresentation of Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims and other minority communities amongst both undertrials and convicts.

The days of incarceration when the second wave was devastating lives outside and inside, its pain and horror, continue to haunt us. Tihar's women's prison witnessed a massive spread of the virus. We watched helplessly as cases emerged from one overcrowded ward after another. We mourned the deaths of our co-inmates far away from their homes. We waited in restless dread for the next day's five-minute phone call for what news it may bear of our loved ones outside. We began to confront the fear of our own deaths inside that wretched place. On contracting the virus, a prisoner would be shifted to the "Corona ward", while the barrack where the case was detected would become a "quarantine" barrack for the next 14 days where the inmates inside were locked up 24/7. Since cases kept emerging from every barrack, most of us lived in a state of permanent quarantine. We spent many heart-breaking days and nights listening to the shattering cries of little children when their barrack came to be quarantined.

Our barrack mate and co-accused, Gulfisha, suffered high fever, severe head and body ache, sleeplessness and loss of appetite. Identified as "symptomatic", she was put in a tiny suffocating cell with two other inmates. Her Covid was never detected because no RTPCR tests were available — only a limited number of antigen tests were being conducted. Testing kits were in short supply, along with all other equipment such as sanitisers, masks, gloves, PPE suits. Barracks full of symptomatic patients were given a liberal supply of paracetamols, cetirizine, cough syrups and various other drugs through untrained inmates who had to work as paramedics in the absence of a requisite number of trained medical staff.

During the initial days of the outbreak, access to mulaqaats/phone calls/letters/newspapers was terminated. Imagine contracting the virus, being shoved into an overcrowded diseased barrack or a lonely cell all alone, provided negligible medical attention and allowed no contact with your family or friends at a time when you most desperately need it. It was only after the intervention of the Delhi High Court



C R Sasikumar

that some of these facilities were resumed inside prison and vaccination of inmates was undertaken. Family and legal mulaqaats in prison have remained suspended through most of the last two years. Even as the facility of e-mulaqaats came to be instituted in August 2020, families of most inmates do not possess smartphones or the digital literacy for accessing the same. Additionally, as a result of courts becoming online and visits by judges or government bodies being discontinued during the pandemic, the impunity that rests in the hands of the jail administration has come to be strengthened. The minimal mechanisms of redressal available to prisoners with regard to discrimination and abuse by prison staff have thus ceased to exist.

Indian prisons have always been overcrowded. In Delhi for example, against a sanctioned prison population of 10,024, the three jails — Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini — have around 19,000-20,000 prisoners. The infrastructure and facilities simply do not exist inside prisons to be able to handle and mitigate a pandemic of this scale. The Supreme Court of India took suo motu cognisance of this issue and on March 23, 2020, issued guidelines for state/UT-wise formation of High Powered Committees (HPC) for the decongestion of prisons. However, the criteria decided by the HPCs of different states for interim release of prisoners, instead of being based on the fundamental principle of equality of all human life, create an arbitrary categorisation of prisoners that deserve to live, based on nature/severity of offence, number of years of sentence but not factors like age, health, comorbidities and other vulnerabilities. So, despite being at "high risk" of mortality, because an undertrial/convict may be charged under certain laws like

We watched helplessly as cases emerged from one overcrowded ward after another. We mourned the deaths of our co-inmates far away from their homes. We waited in restless dread for the next day's five-minute phone call for what news it may bear of our loved ones outside. We began to confront the fear of our own deaths inside that wretched place. On contracting the virus, a prisoner would be shifted to the 'corona ward', while the barrack where the case was detected would become a 'quarantine' barrack for the next 14 days where the inmates inside were locked up 24/7. Since cases kept emerging from every barrack, most of us lived in a state of permanent quarantine.

UAPA, sedition, NDPS or is a foreigner, they are not entitled to interim bail/parole. The online functioning of courts meant that trials couldn't commence or remained suspended, further prolonging the incarceration for undertrials charged under these sections.

Such unfair criteria in the grant of interim bail are the reason why Father Stan Swamy was not granted bail last year and died in custody, and G N Saibaba, a 90 per cent disabled former Delhi University professor continues to be incarcerated after having contracted Covid once again in Nagpur Jail. These are the names we know but our prisons are filled with hundreds of such undertrials and convicts who are most at risk from the virus but have been denied access to any form of interim relief. Like Elsie, who was from Bolivia and lived in our ward. Despite her co-morbidities, as a foreigner and an NDPS undertrial, she was not eligible for the HPC's interim bail criteria and died inside prison, thousands of miles away from her two little children whose faces she longed to see. She was put to rest inside prison premises as her family did not have the resources to reclaim her body. Even in death, there was no freedom.

In these times of suffering and despair brought on by the pandemic, it is imperative for the Indian judiciary and the state to ensure the right to life of the people it continues to hold in its custody and not let prisons become graveyards of human rights and dignity.

*Narwal is pursuing a PhD in Modern History and Kalita is pursuing an MPhil in Women's Studies from JNU. Both are Pinjra Tod activists and spent almost 13 months in Tihar jail no.6 charged under UAPA and various other provisions*

ity has come the "othering" of Muslims and, to a lesser extent, Christians, who now live in a social milieu bristling with distrust and hate. An unremitted horror story plays on, with the call for the genocide of Muslims, the hounding of Christians, the state-sponsored eviction drives in minority-dominated areas, the disruption of the prayer services of minorities, etc.

In this grimdest of times for minorities, a section of the Muslim elite under the banner of Indian Muslims for Secular Democracy (ISMD) provided unintended grist to the agenda of the rabid right-wing by turning on those already under siege, allegedly for the crime that a handful of them supported the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. The actions of a few deviants led these self-styled secularists to hector the entire Muslim community with the rhetorical question: "Do they want a reformed modern Islam or the old barbarism of the past decades?" By drawing a contextual relationship between the fiendish worldview of the Taliban and the Indian Muslim, they have reinforced the right-wing disinformation campaign stereotyping Muslims as bigoted, deeply patriarchal and intolerant.

But the real damage to the interests of Muslims from within the community has been wreaked by the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB)'s unyielding obscurantism. Remember the Shah Bano case and the infamous intervention that fanned the fires of inter-religious conflict? And its opposition to the law upending the iniquitous instant triple talaq? The backward-looking AIMPLB's grotesque response to the current attacks on Muslims is to urge the government to enact legislation against blasphemy, which is a painful reminder of Pakistan's awful blasphemy laws. The demand of the AIMPLB is unconscionable, does not represent the community's concerns and must be withdrawn.

Jawaharlal Nehru had presciently observed that too much religion and religiosity would destroy our nation. That seems to be happening already. How do we recover the secular essence that is the lifeblood of our country? Last year, the Delhi High Court underlined the need for a uniform civil code in order to overcome the tangles arising out of the differences in various personal laws. While the court's prescription is unexceptionable, the rationale given was unconvincing. To believe, as the court does, that modern Indian society is "gradually becoming homogeneous and the traditional barriers of religion, community and caste are slowly dissipating", is an absolute travesty of facts. On the contrary, the crux of the problem is that our society continues to cling to archaic practices in the name of religion, caste or tradition. It's high time that our interpersonal and social conduct is regulated by a uniform system of rules and regulations. The need of the hour is a uniform civil code that addresses issues of equality and gender justice, but the understandable fear is that under the present dispensation, such a code would be nothing more than the universalisation of the Hindu personal law.

*The writer is a former civil servant and Secretary General of the Lok Janshakti Party. Views are personal*

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"While curbs should have been put in place earlier to keep Covid in check, now the state must enforce these restrictions, and urge citizens to act responsibly to help dampen the impact of the fifth wave." — DAWN

## Crisis of fraternity

The abrasive intrusion of religion in the public square and the daily othering of minorities puts the nation in danger



ABDUL KHALIQ

IN WHAT COULD pass for a handout from a spokesperson of the government or the Nagpur headquarters, 32 retired IFS officers last week berated critics for "a sustained smear campaign against the present government on its presumed violations of the secular ethos of the country". Ironically, their angry outburst comes at a time when respected international rating agencies have variously dubbed India an "electoral autocracy", a "flawed democracy" and as a "partially free democracy" in the wake of unremitting attacks on minorities and dissidents.

The detractors are accused of "anti-Hindu tirades" by reason of their opposition to the Hindutva ideology and the government, implying thereby that this regime and Hindutva embody the Hindu ethos, which many would see as an insult to a great religion.

The government's apologists argue that "the attacks on majoritarianism are a way to question the mandate that the democratic process gives to the political party that wins elections legitimately and considers itself obliged to the electorate to implement its declared agenda lawfully".

In their skewed understanding, laws like the plainly discriminatory Citizen Amendment Act (CAA) are just since they have been passed by a duly-elected government. But the Nuremberg and Jim Crow laws were also ratified by elected legislatures. The refusal to acknowledge the persecution of Muslims, Christians and political dissidents is akin to the Big Lie of American republicans, denying that Donald Trump lost the presidential election or had anything to do with the insurrection on Capitol Hill on January 6, 2021. Amidst such frightening social discord, secularism as the underpinning credo of our multi-religious country is clearly under threat.

Secularism has meant different things for different nations. The French have a term — laïcité — to define their form of secularism that not only segregates the state from religion but also banishes religious practice and insignia from the public square. In contrast, the US, UK, and, until a few years ago, India, adhere to multiculturalism, where one can be a good citizen and at the same time publicly identify with a culture that is not the ascendant one. Sadly, India can no longer claim to be the secular republic proclaimed in our Constitution. There has been an abrasive intrusion of religion onto the public square. Today, the religion of the majority enjoys state patronage whereas other religions are tolerated, some more than others. The Ayodhya verdict, by privileging faith over the law, was a body blow to the foundational idea of a secular republic. Last year, the prime minister of the country laid the foundation stone of the Ayodhya temple in an elaborate religious ceremony. The cries of "Jai Shri Ram" that rent the air were nothing short of a dirge to secularism. Along with the resurgence of religios-

## Unease of doing business

Personal Data Protection Bill imposes regulatory burden on businesses



SIDHANT KUMAR

THE JOINT COMMITTEE of Parliament has recently presented its recommendations on the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019. The Bill principally seeks to regulate the use of our data and to foster a privacy protection framework in the country. However, in many respects, it fails to strike the balance between privacy rights and ease of doing business.

The prime minister has recently said that "innovation, aspiration and application of technology" will fuel the country to become a \$5-trillion economy. The government has also indicated that technology and electronics manufacturing will be the foundation of the \$5-trillion economy. Its stated goal is to grow the technology and electronics manufacturing sector to \$300 billion by 2025.

However, the Bill as it stands imposes regulatory burdens on businesses without securing proportional gains in privacy protection. It perpetuates an uncertain and onerous regulatory environment. The proposals are certain to undo the gains made in recent years by progressive policies of the government. It could result in the largest expansion of the regulatory state in India since economic liberalisation in 1991. The burden of onerous regulation will be fatal to new entrants, while the costs will be absorbed by established incumbents. The Bill, if adopted, will ensure that the start-up ideas of today that could become unicorns of tomorrow are stillborn.

There are several areas of concern. First, the framework under the Bill is premised on a centralised Data Protection Authority with a wide

discretionary remit to formulate regulation. Second, the Bill has broad-based restrictions on the transfer of data overseas that are likely to splinter our market from the global digital economy. Third, it seeks to impose onerous compliance obligations that have little to do with data protection. Fourth, it sets forth an inflexible framework that is bereft of any formal consultative rule-making process. Lastly, substantial portions of the Bill are out of sync with international data protection practices, which could blunt India's competitive advantage as a digital market. These aspects of the Bill require substantial changes for it to not only achieve its objective of privacy protection, but to also avoid stunting the growth of our digital economy.

The Bill imposes restrictions on the transfer of sensitive personal data outside India. The authority's prior approval would be needed for any such transfer. Further, a narrower category of personal data that is considered "critical" would be entirely prohibited from transfer outside India. It is the authority who is to define "critical data" without even an indicative hint of its scope in the Bill. These requirements destroy the basic value of the digital economy — connectivity beyond physical barriers. It is these steps that are certain to deprive India of the full fruits of the global digital market without any enhancement in user protection. This is completely out of step with the capitalist digital market and places us in the same category as protectionist China.

The Bill also requires large players to have data protection officers physically located

within India. These officers are required to be key managerial personnel. The outside world is likely to see these measures as less about protection and more about protectionism.

The JPC has recommended that all hardware must be monitored, tested, and certified by an authorised agency to ensure its "integrity and trustworthiness". This does not augur well for our goal for electronics manufacturing. This is an all-encompassing requirement alien to any data protection law in the world, including the EU's GDPR. The avowed objective is to ensure against "malicious insertion of software that may cause data breach". In making this recommendation, the JPC has ignored the existing testing requirements under the Bureau of Indian Standards and the mandatory testing of telecom equipment regimes. This proposal is a clear duplication of existing requirements. It constitutes an unfair burden on a sector that holds promise for Indian champions who are already struggling because of the onslaught of Chinese mobile companies in India. This change will impose a testing requirement on hardware as diverse as computers and cars including over 50 million internet enabled connected devices that are likely to blossom across the country over the next decade.

This is certain to result in delays and disruption in supply chains. The premise of this requirement of a continuing liability on manufacturers after the sale of hardware products to ensure against "malicious software" is divorced from reality. The Bill ignores the real threat posed by the insertion of such software clan-

destinely post the sale of hardware through other means. The JPC report provides an insubstantial explanation of these means having even a chance of protecting users.

Extensive compliance requirements have been included, such as the conduct of audits and impact assessments to be filed with the authority. This approach of breathing down the neck of digital businesses is unknown to any data protection regime. The compliance burden is likely to act as a potent deterrent to fulsome participation in the Indian market as most digital businesses run on lean business structures. Also, technology companies that thrive on acquiring a competitive advantage will be reluctant to share information on their processes and business models. These proposals would give companies a reason to pause as they seek to grow in India.

The foundation of the framework is a domineering mandate to be given to a data regulator, structurally geared to intervene rather than facilitate. The provisions seek to regulate by fiat alone, with innovation and ease of doing business as the main casualties. Value generation through technology requires an open and innovation-friendly regulatory environment. The government, therefore, must closely consider each of the policy prescriptions in the Bill including the unintended but deleterious consequences of the regulatory regime mooted.

*The writer is an advocate practising in Delhi and co-author of Privacy Law: Principles, Injunctions and Compensation*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### HEAR CRITICISM

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'PM: Attempts being made to 'tarnish' India's image' (IE, January 21). It is disappointing to find that despite the prime minister's countless visits abroad, India's international image continues to be blemished. Apparently, leaders of the West do not command as thorough control over their media as Modi does. The vain reluctance to recognise any merit in international media criticism of this government, by projecting the truth as an insult to the nation, is banal besides being detrimental to people's interests. Accusatory facts must be countered with facts, not demagoguery.

The nation can, in fact, be grateful to the international media, for exposing to the world the true state of our affairs, however well concealed by our "nationals" behind walls and statues. It is the individual's duty to claim their right, in the interest of the society, and to not let the leader make their self, the nation.

*M Yusuf Ghazali, Patna*

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'PM: Attempts being made to 'tarnish' India's image' (IE, January 21). Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his keynote address during the virtual launch ceremony of 'Azadi Ke Amit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ke Ore', lamented that precedence given to rights, ignoring duties, since independence has made the nation weak. He also regretted that "there is a tendency to tarnish the image of India, including at the international level". Call it coincidence or irony, a re-

port just alongside it 'India: UN should recognise 'phobia' against Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs', where T S Tirumurti, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations speaking at the International Counter-Terrorism Conference on January 18, about the emergence of contemporary forms of religion-phobia, said "especially anti-Hindu, anti-Buddhist, and anti-Sikh phobias is a matter of serious concern and need the attention of the UN and all Member States to address this threat". Now putting such an agenda on the UN table for discussion by the government itself would inevitably raise doubts and questions India's secular credentials.

*LR Murmu, Delhi*

**MUDDLED SURVEYS**  
THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Sanitation reality check' (IE, January 20). There is no gainsaying that surveys conducted by the government to show their achievements and success in different areas often do not present the true picture. This is because the survey reports are softly manipulated and sanitised. Such data contains noise that needs to be reduced to know the reality. The much-talked-about NFHS-5 may also not be smelling roses in this respect. Moreover, as the sanitation concept changes from one person to another person, leave alone from one state to another state, parameters and benchmarks were needed to be calibrated accordingly.

*Tarsem Singh, Mahipur*



UP: Kin say boy  
'died' during  
interrogation,  
cops deny claim

Lucknow: A group of local residents in Lakhimpur Kheri staged a protest following the death of a 17-year-old boy on early Sunday morning who allegedly died after being beaten up by the police during questioning in a case of theft.

The boy belonged to the Scheduled Tribe. On January 19, he was called to a police outpost after the boy's uncle filed a complaint against him for allegedly stealing cellphone. On Sunday morning, the boy succumbed to injuries at a hospital where he was undergoing treatment.

SP Sanjeev Suman said, "Two days, the accused and his uncle were called to the police outpost... After two hours, both the parties reached a compromise... The boy was handed over to the family." The SP added that the deceased's family had alleged that on January 20, his uncle and another local resident came home and thrashed the boy brutally. He was, then, admitted to a hospital. However, in a video widely shared on social media, the boy's family alleged that after the boy's uncle filed a complaint, he was called at the police station. "Mother took him to the police... The cops asked our mother to return home and they would see what action was to be taken... They thrashed my brother brutally. Two days back, he felt unwell. He was rushed to a hospital where he died..." said the boy's sister in the video. The deceased's family could not be contacted for a comment.

ENS

# 'Relationship with India is our most important relationship, period'

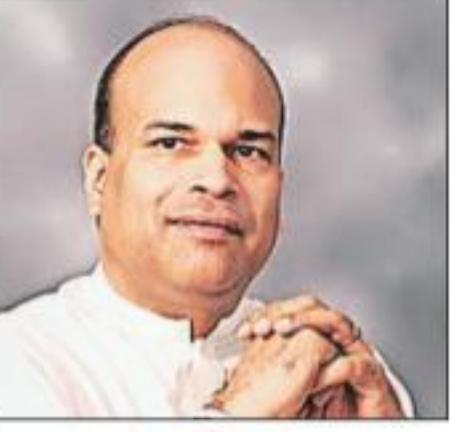
**MILINDA MORAGODA**, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India, spoke to **NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN** about his country's economic crisis, relations with India and big power rivalry in the Indian Ocean. Excerpts:

## How bad is the economic crisis in Sri Lanka?

We have two challenges before us. One is the foreign exchange challenge, which is showing at the moment. The other is the fiscal challenge, a legacy inherited since Independence because we have lived beyond our means. The pandemic has brought it to the top. [American business magnate and investor] Warren Buffett has this famous quotation: "When the tide goes down, you see who is swimming naked." I think the pandemic has brought the tide down. It is a real challenge, India has stepped in to stabilise the situation a little bit, but we have to deal with the root causes.

## How has India helped?

When [Sri Lankan Finance Minister] Basil Rajapaksa visited [in December] 2021, we agreed on "four pillars of co-operation" for the short term. The first column was to do with emergency support for food and medicine, and that is a \$1-billion credit line announced by [External Affairs Minister] Dr Jaishankar after his more recent virtual discussion with Mr Rajapaksa. The second was to help with our petroleum supply, where the idea was, on



THE EXPRESS  
INTERVIEW  
WITH  
**MILINDA  
MORAGODA**  
SRI LANKA HIGH  
COMMISSIONER TO INDIA

one side, a line of credit of \$500 million announced [last Wednesday], and the other was also to collaborate with India on the Trincomalee tank farm and look at how we could work together for energy security and storage. That is the second pillar. The third was how India could support our [foreign exchange] reserves and that was in two stages – the first was India supported us by giving a deferral of two months on our dues to the Asian Clearing Union, and that was \$500 million; and the other was a \$400-million swap. The last pillar is investment, and I would add tourism to that...

**India-Sri Lanka relations have been up and down over the last few years. Would you say that Sri Lanka has had to rethink its relationship with India due to its economic crisis?**

I wouldn't say 'rethinking'. From the moment President Gotabaya Rajapaksa took office, he has always been very focussed on the relationship with India. I think President Rajapaksa wants the two countries to come together, he wants the two economies to integrate more. I think the pandemic struck at a very awkward moment for him, it hit very soon after he took over. And there again, India came up with the vaccines...

**How does Sri Lanka view the intense rivalry for influence in the Indian Ocean, with China on one side, and India on the other with the Quad?**

Throughout our history, our biggest challenges and our biggest opportunities have come from the ocean... In the 1980s, when Sri Lanka was perceived to be close to the US, there were tensions with India and that had ramifications. China is a new player. We have learnt lessons from our history on how to manage this. Sometimes we make mistakes, sometimes we learn from our mistakes, and sometimes we don't...

**Where does SAARC figure in Sri Lanka's worldview?**

Sri Lanka's future in SAARC is

as a good member, and we do what we can do to support the process. But there is a limit to what we can do there. We see the relationship with India to be the most important relationship in the region, it is our most important relationship, period. We will manage that in a way where we can hopefully work from the transactional, strategic to a special relationship and build trust...

**One of the traditional areas of friction between India and Sri Lanka has been the Tamil issue, and recently, Tamil parliamentarians wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to ensure the implementation of the 13th Amendment. Do you foresee this becoming an issue between the two countries?**

President Rajapaksa on Tuesday in his presidential address to Parliament referred to a committee of experts he has set up to develop the framework of the new Constitution, which he said he will place before the Cabinet and the Parliament for discussion. I think he should be given the opportunity. As somebody who has been involved in different facets of it, travelling to these areas in the north and the east, people are not interested in constitutions. They want livelihood, they want development. All political parties should also work on that paradigm...

FULL INTERVIEW ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## FACT-FINDING REPORT ON LAST YEAR'S VIOLENCE

# Report by lawyers, rights groups self-serving and sponsored: Tripura to SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE TRIPURA government has termed a fact-finding report by a team of lawyers and rights organisations on the alleged communal violence in the state last year as "sponsored" and "self-serving", and questioned the "selective outrage" of petitioners who approached the Supreme Court seeking "independent investigation" into the incidents.

"Just few months back, series of pre-poll and post-poll communal violence took place in the state of West Bengal. The so-called 'public spirit' of the petitioners did not move few months back in a larger scale of communal violence and suddenly their 'public spirit' aroused due to some instances in a small state like Tripura," the state government said in an affidavit filed with the Supreme Court.

The state government said it was highlighting the "selective outrage" of the petitioners "not... as a defence, but to satisfy" the court "that under the garb of 'public interest', the august forum" of the court "is used for apparently oblique purpose".

The affidavit also alleged that

public interest litigation (PIL) was being misused. It said that since the court "stopped exercising jurisdiction based on mere newspaper reports, a new device is found to be adopted... Either a pre-planned and planted article started emerging in a few tabloids which becomes the basis of the PIL subsequently or such so-called 'public-spirited' send their own teams to generate a self-serving report", which "thereafter becomes the cause of action as well as 'material' based upon which targeted petitions are filed under the nomenclature of PILs.

The affidavit was filed in response to a plea by lawyer Ehtesham Hashmi, who was one of the members of the team that drew up the fact-finding report titled 'Humanity Under Attack in Tripura — #Muslim Lives Matter'. Hashmi's Twitter bio refers to him as Supreme Court lawyer and member of AICC Legal Cell (SC).

Hashmi's petition said he was constrained to approach the court to seek its urgent intervention "in respect of a series of hate crimes that took place between 13.10.2021 and 27.10.2021 in Tripura". He contended that despite the gravity and magnitude of the incidents, no concrete

steps were taken by the state police against the alleged miscreants and rioters.

Denying the allegations, the state said the report "is a unilateral, exaggerated and distorted version of incidents... and has no veracity in the eyes of law". The affidavit said "the situation in the... state has all along been under control of the law enforcing machinery".

The affidavit also pointed out that the Tripura High Court had already taken suo motu cognizance of the incidents, and the matter is pending before it. The state government said the petitioners could approach the high court if they wanted.

The state also referred to the Supreme Court recently rejecting a plea seeking its intervention to check violence during the recent West Bengal municipal elections and directing the petitioners to approach the Kolkata High Court.

The state government also said it had been diligently performing its constitutional obligations of protecting life and property of citizens. In response to last year's violence, the state's affidavit said, 27 people have been arrested so far and 157 persons/organisations have been served with notices.

## 3 Dalits assaulted in Alwar: Police

**Jaipur:** Some unidentified people allegedly stopped a group of Dalits returning from a wedding and assaulted them in Alwar district of Rajasthan, police officials said on Sunday. The three people who were assaulted received minor injuries in the scuffle in Malakheda area of the district on Saturday night, they said. A case has been registered and the matter is being investigated to ascertain the reason for the attack, the police said. No arrest has been made in the case so far. PTI

## TWO MORE CMs WRITE TO PM TO OPPOSE PROPOSED CHANGE TO IAS RULES

# Change will induce fear psychosis among IAS officers, says Pinarayi

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JANUARY 23



amendments in the Deputation Rules of All India Services will definitely induce a fear psychosis and an attitude of hesitancy among All India Service Officers to implement policies of a state government, which are formed by party/parties politically opposed by the ruling party at the Centre."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHENNAI, JANUARY 23

CENTRE'S PROPOSED amendments to the IAS (Cadre) Rules "strikes at the very root" of the nation's federal polity and state autonomy, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Sunday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the Centre to drop the proposed amendments to the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954.

Earlier, at least three Opposition-ruled states – West Bengal, Rajasthan and Jharkhand – had opposed the proposed amendment, and had written to the Prime Minister, urging him to roll back the decision, claiming that the change in rules for central deputation of IAS officers will affect states' administration.

In his letter to the PM, the Kerala CM wrote, "The proposed

"FORM NO. URC-2"  
Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act  
(Pursuant to section 374(b) of the companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Authorised to Register Rules, 2014)

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before the expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar of Companies, Delhi that ALAFID SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED a business entity may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares.

2. The principal objects of the company are as follows :

- To carry on the business as an aggregator for hospitals by re-engineering the brand value of hospitals by providing the management and technological support.

- To assist, engage in and provide hospital management services including technical, managerial and commercial expertise required to enhance the functioning of new and existing hospitals and healthcare centres.

3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office

House No. 22, Floor 2nd, Block B Pkt Sec 8, Landmark near Swimming Pool, Rohini, New Delhi - 110085

4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code-122050, within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office.

Dated on this 24th day of January 2022.

Name(s) of Applicant

1. ANURAG PANDEY

2. MADHU BALA PANDEY

While the Union is availing the common pool from Group-I officers at the national level, the state governments solely depend on the limited pool of IAS officers available in the state, he wrote.

The state governments are at the forefront of implementation of various programmes. The states also face frequent natural disasters which demands services of IAS officers in the state more than elsewhere. Under such circumstances, forcing the state governments to depute officers would surely aggravate the 'governance deficit' in various states due to shortage of officers and also it is an 'affront' to the administrative frame work of the states, Stalin added.

"I request you to drop these proposed amendments to IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 instead engage with state governments to further strengthen the federal spirit of the nation..." he wrote.

The present deputation rules are heavily loaded in favour of the Centre and bringing in further stringency would further weaken the very root of co-operative federalism. The Kerala government is of the opinion that the proposed amendments be dropped, Vijayan wrote. He said in the federal set-up, the state governments are on par with the Centre as both of them are elected by the people, although the division of authority in the Constitution gives the Union jurisdiction over a wide range of subjects.

"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are also woefully short of officers at specific seniorities, primarily due to the wrong cadre management policies followed by the union government," the Chief Minister wrote.

The amendment proposal "strikes at the very root of our federal polity and state autonomy", he wrote. If implemented, the proposed amendments would cause irreparable damage to the spirit of cooperative federalism that exist between Union and the states and lead to concentration of powers in the union government.

"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are also woefully short of officers at specific seniorities, primarily due to the wrong cadre management policies followed by the union government," the Chief Minister wrote.

The amendment proposal "strikes at the very root of our federal polity and state autonomy", he wrote. If implemented, the proposed amendments would cause irreparable damage to the spirit of cooperative federalism that exist between Union and the states and lead to concentration of powers in the union government.

"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are also woefully short of officers at specific seniorities, primarily due to the wrong cadre management policies followed by the union government," the Chief Minister wrote.

The amendment proposal "strikes at the very root of our federal polity and state autonomy", he wrote. If implemented, the proposed amendments would cause irreparable damage to the spirit of cooperative federalism that exist between Union and the states and lead to concentration of powers in the union government.

"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are also woefully short of officers at specific seniorities, primarily due to the wrong cadre management policies followed by the union government," the Chief Minister wrote.

The amendment proposal "strikes at the very root of our federal polity and state autonomy", he wrote. If implemented, the proposed amendments would cause irreparable damage to the spirit of cooperative federalism that exist between Union and the states and lead to concentration of powers in the union government.

"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are also woefully short of officers at specific seniorities, primarily due to the wrong cadre management policies followed by the union government," the Chief Minister wrote.

The amendment proposal "strikes at the very root of our federal polity and state autonomy", he wrote. If implemented, the proposed amendments would cause irreparable damage to the spirit of cooperative federalism that exist between Union and the states and lead to concentration of powers in the union government.

"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are also woefully short of officers at specific seniorities, primarily due to the wrong cadre management policies followed by the union government," the Chief Minister wrote.

The amendment proposal "strikes at the very root of our federal polity and state autonomy", he wrote. If implemented, the proposed amendments would cause irreparable damage to the spirit of cooperative federalism that exist between Union and the states and lead to concentration of powers in the union government.

"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are also woefully short of officers at specific seniorities, primarily due to the wrong cadre management policies followed by the union government," the Chief Minister wrote.

The amendment proposal "strikes at the very root of our federal polity and state autonomy", he wrote. If implemented, the proposed amendments would cause irreparable damage to the spirit of cooperative federalism that exist between Union and the states and lead to concentration of powers in the union government.

"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are also woefully short of officers at specific seniorities, primarily due to the wrong cadre management policies followed by the union government," the Chief Minister wrote.

The amendment proposal "strikes at the very root of our federal polity and state autonomy", he wrote. If implemented, the proposed amendments would cause irreparable damage to the spirit of cooperative federalism that exist between Union and the states and lead to concentration of powers in the union government.

"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are also woefully short of officers at specific seniorities, primarily due to the wrong cadre management policies followed by the union government," the Chief Minister wrote.

The amendment proposal "strikes at the very root of our federal polity and state autonomy", he wrote. If implemented, the proposed amendments would cause irreparable damage to the spirit of cooperative federalism that exist between Union and the states and lead to concentration of powers in the union government.

"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are also woefully short of officers at specific seniorities, primarily due to the wrong cadre management policies followed by the union government," the Chief Minister wrote.

The amendment proposal "strikes at the very root of our federal polity and state autonomy", he wrote. If implemented, the proposed amendments would cause irreparable damage to the spirit of cooperative federalism that exist between Union and the states and lead to concentration of powers in the union government.

"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are also woefully short of officers at specific seniorities, primarily due to the wrong cadre management policies followed by the union government," the Chief Minister wrote.

The amendment proposal "strikes at the very root of our federal polity and state autonomy", he wrote. If implemented, the proposed amendments would cause irreparable damage to the spirit of cooperative federalism that exist between Union and the states and lead to concentration of powers in the union government.

"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are also woefully short of officers at specific seniorities, primarily due to the wrong cadre management policies followed by the union government," the Chief Minister wrote.

The amendment proposal "strikes at the very root of our federal polity and state autonomy", he wrote. If implemented, the proposed amendments would cause irreparable damage to the spirit of cooperative federalism that exist between Union and the states and lead to concentration of powers in the union government.

"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are also woefully short of officers at specific seniorities, primarily due to the wrong cadre management policies followed by the union government," the Chief Minister wrote.

The amendment proposal "strikes at the very root of our federal polity and state autonomy", he wrote. If implemented, the proposed amendments would cause irreparable damage to the spirit of cooperative federalism that exist between Union and the states and lead to concentration of powers in the union government.

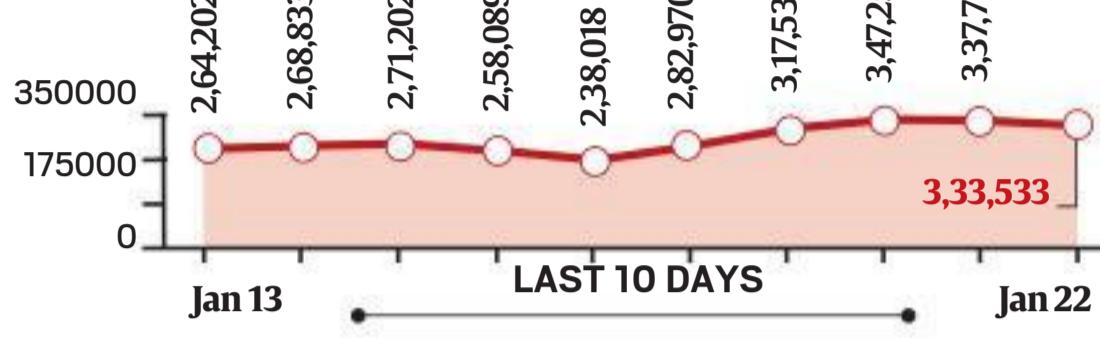
"I would also like to highlight the fact that many of the state governments are

## TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

## DASHBOARD, AS ON JAN 22

<b>692</b> DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN	New cases <b>3,33,533</b>	Active cases <b>21,87,205</b>	Deaths <b>525</b>
Weekly CFR: 0.52%   Overall CFR: 1.38%   Total deaths: 4,89,409			

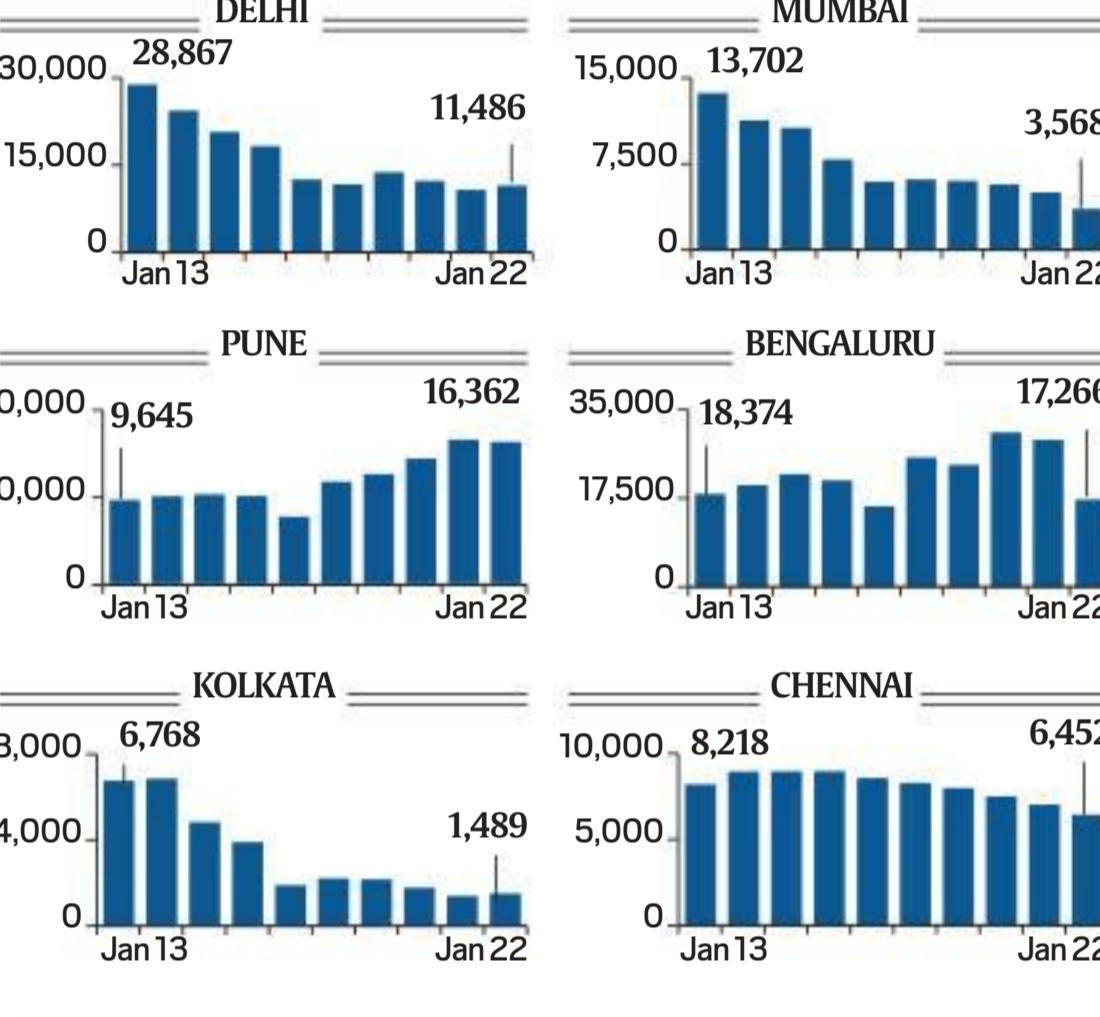
## NEW CASES, DAILY



## SURGE IN THE STATES

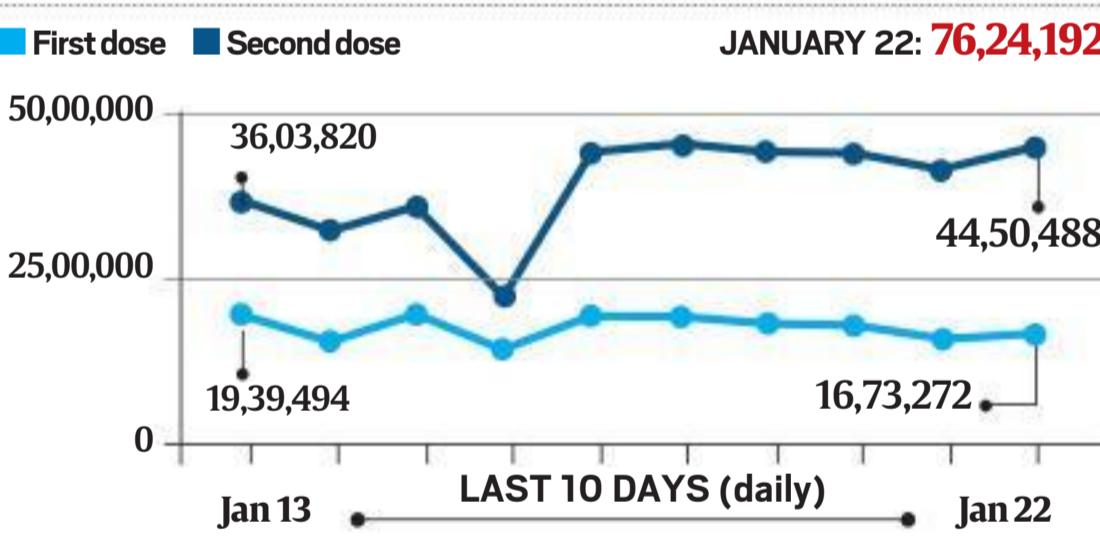
State	ON JANUARY 22			Weekly positivity
	New Cases	Active Cases	Deaths	
Maharashtra	46,393	2,79,930	56	20.98%
Kerala	45,136	2,47,938	132	38.67%
Karnataka	42,470	3,30,477	26	18.47%
Tamil Nadu	30,744	1,94,697	33	18.06%
Gujarat	23,150	1,29,875	15	17.77%

## CASES IN THE CITIES, LAST 10 DAYS



TESTS ON JAN 22	71,55,20,580
WEEKLY POSITIVITY	16.18%
OVERALL POSITIVITY	5.48%

INDIA TOTAL DOSES	161,92,84,270
(Adults 1st dose: 88,57,74,825; adults second dose: 68,39,22,086; 15-18 age group first dose: 4,15,77,103; precautionary doses: 80,10,256)	



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

Strengthen your Main Exam Preparation with our  
**Online & Offline Courses**

G.S Current Affairs Crash Course  
G.S Test Series  
Optional Subjects Test  
Essay Course

Enroll now on: [www.vajiramandravi.com](http://www.vajiramandravi.com)

## The comments in India that led to removal of Germany's navy chief

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE HEAD of the German navy, Vice Admiral Kay-Achim Schönbach, resigned on Saturday evening after certain comments made by him while on an official visit to India drew criticism in Germany and triggered a diplomatic situation in Ukraine.

**What exactly happened here?**  
Vice Admiral Schönbach, who was speaking at an event organised by the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) in Delhi, said on Friday that Russia's President Vladimir Putin deserved "respect", and that Ukraine would never get back the Crimean peninsula that Moscow annexed in 2014.

The comments came at a sensitive moment, with tens of thousands of Russian troops amassed at Ukraine's borders, NATO's negotiations with Russia stalled, and US President Joe Biden having predicted this

week that Putin would "move in" and invade Ukraine.

The German Defence Ministry asked the navy chief for an explanation, and on Saturday evening, Schönbach posted on his official Twitter handle that his "security policy statements in a talk show at a think tank in India" were his "personal opinion for that moment on the spot".

He added that he "shouldn't have done it like that... it was a clear mistake", according to a translation of the tweet in German.

He submitted his resignation later that evening.

**But what did Schönbach really say?**

"The Crimean Peninsula is gone. It's never coming back. This is a fact," he said. "Is Russia really interested in a small tiny strip of Ukraine soil to integrate into their country? No, this is nonsense. Putin is probably putting pressure because he can do it, and he knows he splits us, he splits the European Union."

What Putin "really wants is respect", he said. "On eye level, he wants respect. And my

God, giving him respect is low-cost, even no-cost. It is easy to give him the respect he demands, and probably deserves."

Schönbach said it was important to have Russia on the side of the West against China. "...And there we have a Christian country, even Putin, he's an atheist but it doesn't matter. I think having this big country, even if it is not a democracy, on our side [is important]... probably keeps Russia away from China".

**What is the situation with Ukraine and Russia right now?**

According to Western nations, Russia and Ukraine could be on the brink of war. Russia has positioned more than 100,000 troops along the border. British officials said on Saturday that Putin plans to instal a pro-Russian leadership in Kyiv.

On January 19, President Biden delivered a grim prognosis of the situation.

"Do I think he'll (Putin) test the West, test the United States and NATO, as significantly as he can? Yes, I think he will," Biden told reporters at the White House. "But I think he

will pay a serious and dear price for it that he doesn't think now will cost him what it's going to cost him."

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey V Lavrov in Geneva on Friday. International media reports said the US had offered a summit be-

tween Biden and Putin in a final attempt to defuse the crisis, but that Blinken had underlined that the right of Ukraine and other countries to join NATO was not negotiable.

Russia has been asking the US to stop the expansion of NATO to the east, and to not establish military bases in former Soviet states, or develop bilateral military cooperation with them.

**And where does Germany stand?**

While the UK and the US have sent weapons to Ukraine, Germany has so far not done so, despite appeals from Kyiv. Defence Minister Lambrecht sought to explain Germany's position in an interview to *Welt am Sonntag*: "We are standing on Kyiv's side. We have to do everything to de-escalate. Currently, arms deliveries would not be helpful in this respect; there is agreement on this in the German government."

**How has Ukraine responded to Schönbach's comments?**

Kyiv has been very upset, and the German

ambassador, Anka Feldhusen, was called in to receive its "categorical unacceptability" of Schönbach's comments. The Ukrainians also demanded that the Germans publicly disown Schönbach's statements.

On Saturday, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeted: "Recent statements by Germany about the impossibility of transferring defence weapons to Ukraine, in particular due to permission to third parties, the futility of returning Crimea, hesitations to disconnect Russia from SWIFT – do not correspond to the level of our relations and the current security situation."

**Was Schönbach speaking specifically about Russia and Ukraine in India?**

He was not. He was delivering a talk on Germany's Indo-Pacific Strategy, and spoke about a range of topics, including China.

India and Germany must work together to promote defence and security ties in the region, he said.

LONGER VERSION ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## SIMPLY PUT

## Reining in the subsidy bill

After falling for several years, the food and fertiliser subsidy outlay has reversed the trend since 2020-21, thanks to additional allocation, higher food procurement amid Covid-19, and rising global fertiliser prices.

**HARISH DAMODARAN**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

ON FEBRUARY 1, Budget day, two numbers likely to come under close scrutiny relate to the Centre's spending on food and fertiliser subsidy. Between 2015-16 and 2019-20, the aggregate outlay on the two fell, both in absolute terms (from Rs 211,834 crore to Rs 189,813 crore) and as a share of the Centre's total expenditure (from 11.8% to 7.1%). A further drop, to Rs 186,879 crore and 6.1%, was projected in the Budget for 2020-21 presented on February 1, 2020. This was before Covid-19 struck.

That declining trend has, however, since completely reversed. The combined food and fertiliser subsidy bill in the revised estimates for 2020-21 was a massive Rs 556,565 crore, representing 16.1% of the Centre's entire Budget (*Table 1*). While the budget estimates for 2021-22 stood lower, they are still way above the trend till 2019-20.

There are two reasons for the reversal.

## Coming clean

The first has to do with the Centre, until last year, not providing fully for the subsidy, arising from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and fertiliser firms selling grains/nutrients at below cost to public distribution system (PDS) consumers/farmers.

In the case of food, the Centre wasn't wholly funding the difference between the FCI's economic cost – what it incurs in procuring, handling, transporting, distributing and storing grain – and its average issue price, multiplied by the quantities sold. To bridge the gap, FCI had to borrow heavily, especially from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF). These loans were availed at interest rates ranging from 7.4% to 8.8% per annum.

*Table 2* shows that FCI's borrowings from NSSF in 2019-20, at Rs 110,000 crore, exceeded the food subsidy of Rs 108,688 crore provided through the Budget. The same goes for fertilisers, where the industry was owed Rs 48,000 crore of subsidy dues at the start of 2020-21. The budgeted subsidy of Rs 71,309 crore fell short of the requirement of about Rs 85,000 crore just for 2020-21, exclusive of arrears.

But in the revised estimates for 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated an additional Rs 3,69,687 crore towards food and fertiliser subsidy. As a result, all outstanding NSSF loans to FCI got repaid and the fertiliser subsidy dues cleared at one go. This

CENTRE'S SPENDING ON SUBSIDY (Rs CRORE)				
FISCAL YEAR (APR-MAR)	FOOD SUBSIDY (1)	FERTILISER SUBSIDY (2)	TOTAL (1+2)	CENTRE'S BUDGET* (3)
	(1)	(2)	(1+2)	AS% OF (3)
2013-14	92,000	67,339	15,59,339	15,59,447
2014-15	1,17,671	71,076	1,88,747	16,63,673
2015-16	1,39,419	72,415	2,11,834	17,90,783
2016-17	1,10,173	66,313	1,76,486	19,75,194
2017-18	1,00,282	66,468	1,66,749	21,41,973
2018-19	1,01,327	70,605	1,71,932	23,15,113
2019-20	1,08,688	81,124	1,89,813	26,86,330
2020-21**	1,15,570	71,309	1,86,879	30,42,230
2020-21***	4,22,618	1,33,947	5,56,565	34,50,305
2021-22**	2,42,836	79,530	3,22,366	

RAMACHANDRA GUHA, HISTORIAN

# Civil service, judiciary, media are performing at below optimum levels...framers of Constitution would've been horrified

Ramachandra Guha on the Indian Republic, deepening of democracy, undermining of public institutions, rewriting of history, and the abandoning of national icons by the Congress, allowing the BJP to appropriate them. This session was moderated by MONOJIT MAJUMDAR, Editor for Explanatory Journalism, *The Indian Express*

**Monojit Majumdar:** *Rebels Against the Raj* documents seven remarkable foreigners who gave up their country and their old lives to embrace and immerse themselves in India. Why is it important to know them now?

This book has been in the making for a very long time. I wrote a biography of Verrier Elwin, an Oxford scholar who came to India in the 1920s, became the leading authority on Adivasis, was close to both Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, and was the first foreigner to be granted Indian citizenship after 1947. One of his abiding regrets was that despite all his books on Adivasis, having met Madeleine Slade (later Mira Behn) at Sabarmati Ashram, knowing Gandhi and Nehru and understanding their nationalism, he didn't have that absolute mark of identification with India, which was going to prison during the Raj. That's why I wanted to write about people who took this rather radical step of identifying so completely with their adopted country, that they were willing to undergo arrest and incarceration. After I finished the second volume of my Gandhi biography in 2018, I began writing this book. It just so happens it is out in the 75th year of Indian independence but it is timely because it is principally a group portrait of seven extraordinary individuals and through them, provides a newer understanding of 20th century India and its encounters with the West. It's a challenge to xenophobia, insularity and parochialism. It also questions the sense that Indians know everything and can't learn anything from foreigners. Jingoism is sweeping the world and these lives are a challenge to that kind of view. I think they uphold the best traditions of our freedom movement; people like Gandhi and Tagore, who were completely grounded in India but willing to engage with open minds and learn from other countries and cultures.

**Monojit Majumdar:** Seventy-two years after the Constitution was adopted, where does India's republican experiment stand today?

In some ways, democracy has deepened. Narendra Modi is the Prime Minister with an OBC background. Mamata Banerjee, who has no dynastic connection in politics, is also completely self-made. Our voting percentages are still high. Many of our entrepreneurs are no longer from standard business families like the Ambanis, Birlas and Tatas.

In other ways, I think we are facing a decline, particularly in the quality, capability, and effectiveness of our public institutions. The civil service, the judiciary and the media are performing at below optimum levels, at levels the framers of the Constitution would never have anticipated. If Ambedkar and his colleagues had seen the turbidity, laggardness and delays in the judiciary, seen how much of the media is completely captive to the ruling party, how bureaucrats and police officers just serve their political masters and not what is laid down in the Constitution, they would be horrified. Our institutional decay has been going on for a very long time and isn't just a product of this government. It dates back to the '70s

**As long as Sonia and Rahul Gandhi are in charge of Congress, it (rewriting of history) can keep going on. Because in Sonia Gandhi's history, Congress is all the Gandhi family... I think Modi and Shah want the Gandhi family there forever, for both political and ideological, and history-rewriting reasons**

**Sandeep Dwivedi:** Once princely states invited foreigners, now we have Jaspreet Bumrah getting spotted by John Wright in the IPL. What is the role outsiders have played for cricketers in India?

The global context starts from Ranjitsinhji, who had to make his name in England before being accepted as an Indian cricketer. Sunil Gavaskar said how an English coach called TS Worthington, who was opening batsman and played Test matches for England in the 1930s, taught him how to play the rising ball at a school camp in the 1960s. There have also been reverse examples. Bishan Singh Bedi taught Alan Knott yoga to improve his flexibility. The great thing about cricket is that it is truly non-xenophobic. The fans are xenophobic, but cricketers are not.

**Sandeep Dwivedi:** You were in cricket administration... Is there an inevitability in the Indian cricket system that the political class will prevail regardless of who is the chief or his qualifications?

I agree. I think Sourav Ganguly's tenure has been disappointing in that a person who was independent-minded and stood up for what he believed

was right as captain has become so submissive and deferential. Why didn't he fight for the Ranji Trophy? I hope that our defeat in South Africa leads to some introspection about how not having a Ranji Trophy may have contributed to us not having a very good bench strength. Is there a great young Indian batsman now after Kohli? No. You learn batting in the long haul only in Ranji Trophy, you can't learn it in IPL.

**Liz Mathew:** The BJP has managed not just an electoral victory but succeeded in making an ideological intrusion. It has changed the narrative. How is this happening?

I think of the poet WB Yeats' lines — "The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity" — when I contrast Manmohan Singh with

Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, or Rahul Gandhi with Shah. No one should underestimate the political intelligence of Narendra Modi. I think the political intelligence of Amit Shah may be overrated; he's a manipulator and a divider, an intriguer but Modi understands things. He understands how to shift the narrative.

The fact that the BJP has claimed Patel and Bose — two life-long Congressmen — as its icons, is a sign of how clever he is, and in some ways, diabolically clever he is. But of course, it's the Congress party who has ceded them. At a state level, I think they face robust ideological opposition. But absolutely do not underestimate Modi's intelligence, his ability to manipulate symbols, ideas, names, rewrite the past and paint dreams of what the future might be like. Clearly Rahul Gandhi is incapable of opposing him, not just politically, but also ideologically. In many ways, the Gandhis are Modi and the BJP's best friends and this is becoming more evident every day. History will pass its own verdict on what's happening. I am looking beyond symbols, ideas and statutes and events to the deeper degradation of Indian democracy. We should be worried about all that has gone on under Modi's watch for the last eight years, and particularly after 2019, after Amit Shah entered the Cabinet.

**Liz Mathew:** Being a historian, you must have assessed the purpose of this history rewriting for the right wing, and it is in the process now. How far can it go?

As long as Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are in charge of the Congress, it can keep going on. Because in Sonia Gandhi's history, Congress is all the Gandhi family... I think Modi and Shah want the Gandhi family there forever, for both political and ideological, and history-rewriting reasons

was right as captain has become so submissive and deferential. Why didn't he fight for the Ranji Trophy? I hope that our defeat in South Africa leads to some introspection about how not having a Ranji Trophy may have contributed to us not having a very good bench strength. Is there a great young Indian batsman now after Kohli? No. You learn batting in the long haul only in Ranji Trophy, you can't learn it in IPL.

**Liz Mathew:** The BJP has managed not just an electoral victory but succeeded in making an ideological intrusion. It has changed the narrative. How is this happening?

I think of the poet WB Yeats' lines — "The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity" — when I contrast Manmohan Singh with

Indian democracy. I think Modi and Shah want the Gandhi family there forever, for both political and ideological and history rewriting reasons.

**Harish Damodaran:** Do you think that maybe the first 68 years were actually an aberration; the majoritarian impulse was always there? What exactly happened in the '40s? How is it that we became a 'secular' state and lasted 68 years? Suppose Godse hadn't killed Gandhi, what we are seeing today maybe would have come a little earlier?

My great teacher, the sociologist Andre Beteille, told me many years ago that the fundamental blocks of Indian society are family, caste, and religion. A modern secular framework requires individuals to detach themselves from these. That was the attempt of our Constitution makers, certainly of Gandhi and Ambedkar. It's no accident that none of Gandhi's children joined politics after Independence. Yes,

constructing a secular state was not just against the grain of Indian but South Asian culture. Pakistan and Bangladesh are Islamic majoritarian states. Nepal is Hindu, Myanmar and Sri Lanka are Buddhist majority, Bhutan has treated Nepalese minorities barbarically while Turkey has destroyed its democratic models at the altar of Islamic fundamentalism and the cult of personality politics. India is now approximating this norm. In some ways, Partition is the original sin and fundamentalism has forced a mirror image reaction.

**Devyan Onial:** You were born and grew up in Uttarakhand and in *The Unquiet Woods* you wrote about peasant uprisings against commercial forestry. What do you think of projects like the Char Dham corridor and do you see any local opposition to them?

I have been in touch with those opposing the Char Dham project and was dismayed by what the Supreme Court

has decided. If you just look at the pictures that the Ravi Chopra committee gathered, you realise that it's an utter environmental and social disaster. I think my home state has made some terrible strategic mistakes, the first being making Dehradun the capital instead of Nainital or Gairsain, which is so far away from the hills. This obviously distorted Dehradun and led the real estate mafia to take over. Why can't it learn from hill states like Himachal and what it has done in education and health besides horticulture? I have no nostalgia for Uttarakhand being part of Uttar Pradesh but broadly speaking, Uttarakhand has not fulfilled its potential.

**Monojit Majumdar:** Do you believe that non-historians have rushed into the space to explain India's past because purist and scholarly historians have stayed away from writing for a wider audience?

The problem with popular history

not just change the way we think, it distracts attention from the urgent tasks of economic and social renewal. Modi sees himself as an emperor. Not as an emperor of Hindu minds or even as the first Hindu emperor; he sees himself as doing what Shivaji and Prithviraj Chauhan could not do, which is to create a unified Hindu state. That chills me, frightens me. And that's absolutely not good for the Republic.

**Raj Kamal Jha:** A refrain today is how polarised we have become. Are we more polarised than ever or is it that we are spending too much time on our phones? How do we expand the common ground? Are there issues in politics today, for example, on which the BJP voter and the non-BJP voter would agree?

The obsession of people, particularly young people, with their phones is universal across all democracies and they reinforce each other. I'm increasingly horrified by the fact that on Twitter I only get feedback that comforts me and I have to follow different kinds of people from the other side of the spectrum. Every morning, I take a walk in Cubbon Park, which is next to the cricket stadium. Around 7.30 am, I see boys coming in for practice, all of them on their smartphones. When we played cricket, we chatted with each other. You go to board a flight and you see the airline staff on their smartphones. This is a peculiar disembodied experience we are leading. Whether that contributes to polarisation, I'm not sure, but certainly visual images of a certain type reinforce your prejudices.

Can we have a common ground? Not in the short term. Maybe in mature democracies we can have a transformation. I think young people have to find a way of connecting with each other and getting their information from other places as well — from reading, writing, travelling and listening to music.

**Raj Kamal Jha:** You referred to Andre Beteille's formulation that family, caste, and religion are the building blocks of society in India. Where do you situate free speech and dissent in these?

First, it must begin at home; there must be dissent within the family, within the caste system, and within religion. At the time of our freedom movement, Ambedkar was showing a different path on how caste should operate. Gandhi was showing a different path on how Hindus and Muslims should operate. Family, caste, and religion do constrain dissent and free speech within the territories they control. And if family, caste and religion are so overwhelmingly important, the society as a whole, the political system as a whole, will also constrain dissent.

**Shivani Naik:** As a historian who interacts with India's educated elite, do you think the lack of humanities education keeps people from getting a more balanced view of our realities?

My short answer is yes. The longer answer, it works both ways. History and politics graduates have absolutely no understanding of the complexities of the scientific and technological world and vice versa. So we are a nation of two cultures. We have to find ways of breaking the silos within the university system itself.

**Monojit Majumdar:** What might Gandhi have said about putting Netaji under a canopy at India Gate that was for some time considered for him?

Netaji was a fascinating and complex figure. When he took over the leadership of the INA, he constituted four regiments. One was called Bose Regiment; the other three were called Gandhi, Nehru and Azad. He had profound respect for his colleagues, his past, and what he thought would be his future colleagues in the Congress-led national movement. He was all for Hindu-Muslim harmony, detested the Hindu Mahasabha and would have detested the RSS. Also, in 1943, when Gandhi was in jail, Bose gave a wonderfully moving address over the Azad Hind Radio on October 2, the former's birthday,

calling him "the father of the nation" for the first time. Bose talked about how Gandhi was the fountainhead and inspiration not just for him but for the freedom movement as a whole. I think Gandhi would not have minded being displaced by Bose. They had great mutual affection for each other. INA soldiers worked with Gandhi in Noakhali for his vision of Hindu-Muslim reconciliation.

Why is the BJP celebrating Bose? One, it does not have icons in the freedom struggle. Second, he's not Nehru. Third, he seems closer to the BJP's idea of masculinity. All these are being done as distractions from unemployment, inflation, our declining status in the world, attacks on minorities

Governance in the environmental field, more broadly in the developmental field, is knowledge-proof. India has a vast cadre of highly qualified scientists, environmental scientists, whose advice is disregarded. The depressingly well-known example is the Madhav Gadgil report on the Western Ghats. Had it been implemented, it would have saved states like Kerala and Karnataka from environmental disaster.

**Rinku Ghosh:** What impact will the cultural appropriation of icons, the rewritten history and the ritualisation of the Hindu way of life through spectacles like the one at Kashi Vishwanath have on the next generation?

All these are being done as distractions from unemployment, inflation, our declining status in the world, attacks on minorities. Quite likely on August 15, the Sangh will appropriate Aurobindo Ghosh as it will be his birth anniversary.



WHY  
RAMACHANDRA  
GUHA

**R**amachandra Guha is a historian and public intellectual whose works include a biography of Gandhi, a pioneering environmental history, a social history of cricket and his latest book, *Rebels against the Raj* (Penguin/Allen Lane). An authority on modern India, he is an important voice on contemporary India and the nation's journey, 72 years after it adopted the Constitution



Illustration: Suvajit Dey



Police escort Sedef Kabas before her appearance at court on Saturday. AP

TURKEY  
Journalist jailed before trial for President insult

**Istanbul:** A well-known Turkish journalist has been jailed pending a trial for insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, her lawyer said. Sedef Kabas was taken into custody after she cited a proverb on television and social media referring to an ox. Under the insult law, thousands have been prosecuted for targeting Erdogan since he became President in 2014. Her lawyer, Ugur Poyraz, tweeted that she had been arrested during an appearance at court in Istanbul on Saturday. The judge accepted the prosecution argument that she posed a flight risk. Kabas, 53, was detained by police at her home in Istanbul on Saturday following her remarks on Tele 1 and Twitter. AP

UAE  
Ship detained, drugs seized in Mideast waters

**Dubai:** The US Navy announced in Sunday it seized a boat in the Gulf of Oman carrying 40 tonnes of urea fertilizer used to make explosives that was caught last year smuggling weapons to Yemen. The British royal navy said it confiscated 1,041 kg of illegal drugs in the same waters. The interdictions were the latest in the volatile waters of the Persian Gulf as American and British authorities step up seizures of contraband during the grinding conflict in Yemen and ongoing drug trafficking in the region. US forces found 40 tonnes of urea fertilizer, known to be a key ingredient in homemade improvised explosive devices, hidden on board. AP

FRANCE  
Adventurer dies attempting solo Atlantic crossing

**Le Pecq:** A 75-year-old French adventurer has died on a solo attempt to row across the Atlantic Ocean. The death of Jean-Jacques Savin was announced by his friends on Facebook. They said maritime rescue services located the body on Saturday inside the cabin of his boat, which was found overturned off the Azores Islands, a mid-Atlantic Portuguese archipelago. The former soldier set off on Jan. 1 from the southern tip of Portugal on the westward voyage he had thought would take about three months. In 2019, Savin had previously floated alone across the Atlantic in a large barrel-shaped capsule. AP

Beijing: Beijing's city government on Sunday introduced new measures to contain a recent outbreak of Covid-19, as China's capital continued to report new local cases of the virus less than two weeks before it hosts the Winter Olympic Games.

Nine locally transmitted cases were found in Beijing on January 22, the National Health Commission said on Sunday, of which six were in the city's Fengtai district.

Fengtai will organise nucleic acid tests for Covid for all of its residents on Sunday, district

health authorities said.

Authorities have asked resi-

dents of "risky areas," including a neighbourhood of Fengtai, to not leave the city, a local government spokesman said, adding that Fengtai residents have been asked to avoid mass gatherings.

Beijing city has also asked residents to conduct nucleic acid tests if they find themselves with Covid-like symptoms within 14 days of receiving any deliveries from overseas. Authorities have suggested Beijing's first case of the Omicron variant of the novel coronavirus could have arrived via a package from Canada. REUTERS

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorikmr.in](http://www.dirflorikmr.in) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of download of bidding document 21.01.2022 from 3:00 PM to 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
2. Bid submission Start Date 22.01.2022 from 10:00 AM  
3. Bid submission End date 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online) 14.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17046

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17036

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorikmr.in](http://www.dirflorikmr.in) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of download of bidding document 21.01.2022 from 1:00 PM to 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
2. Bid submission Start Date 22.01.2022 from 10:00 AM  
3. Bid submission End date 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online) 14.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17046

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17036

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorikmr.in](http://www.dirflorikmr.in) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of download of bidding document 21.01.2022 from 1:00 PM to 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
2. Bid submission Start Date 22.01.2022 from 10:00 AM  
3. Bid submission End date 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online) 14.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17036

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorikmr.in](http://www.dirflorikmr.in) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of download of bidding document 21.01.2022 from 1:00 PM to 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
2. Bid submission Start Date 22.01.2022 from 10:00 AM  
3. Bid submission End date 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online) 14.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17036

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorikmr.in](http://www.dirflorikmr.in) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of download of bidding document 21.01.2022 from 1:00 PM to 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
2. Bid submission Start Date 22.01.2022 from 10:00 AM  
3. Bid submission End date 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online) 14.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17036

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorikmr.in](http://www.dirflorikmr.in) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of download of bidding document 21.01.2022 from 1:00 PM to 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
2. Bid submission Start Date 22.01.2022 from 10:00 AM  
3. Bid submission End date 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online) 14.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17036

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorikmr.in](http://www.dirflorikmr.in) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of download of bidding document 21.01.2022 from 1:00 PM to 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
2. Bid submission Start Date 22.01.2022 from 10:00 AM  
3. Bid submission End date 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online) 14.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17036

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorikmr.in](http://www.dirflorikmr.in) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of download of bidding document 21.01.2022 from 1:00 PM to 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
2. Bid submission Start Date 22.01.2022 from 10:00 AM  
3. Bid submission End date 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online) 14.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17036

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorikmr.in](http://www.dirflorikmr.in) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of download of bidding document 21.01.2022 from 1:00 PM to 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
2. Bid submission Start Date 22.01.2022 from 10:00 AM  
3. Bid submission End date 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online) 14.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17036

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorikmr.in](http://www.dirflorikmr.in) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of download of bidding document 21.01.2022 from 1:00 PM to 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
2. Bid submission Start Date 22.01.2022 from 10:00 AM  
3. Bid submission End date 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online) 14.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17036

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorikmr.in](http://www.dirflorikmr.in) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of download of bidding document 21.01.2022 from 1:00 PM to 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
2. Bid submission Start Date 22.01.2022 from 10:00 AM  
3. Bid submission End date 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online) 14.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17036

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorikmr.in](http://www.dirflorikmr.in) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of download of bidding document 21.01.2022 from 1:00 PM to 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
2. Bid submission Start Date 22.01.2022 from 10:00 AM  
3. Bid submission End date 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online) 14.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary  
dipk-17036

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorikmr.in](http://www.dirflorikmr.in) / [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of download of bidding document 21.01.2022 from 1:00 PM to 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
2. Bid submission Start Date 22.01.2022 from 10:00 AM  
3. Bid submission End date 11.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM  
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online) 14.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

&lt;p



Police escort Sedef Kabas before her appearance at court on Saturday. AP

TURKEY  
Journalist jailed before trial for President insult

**Istanbul:** A well-known Turkish journalist has been jailed pending a trial for insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, her lawyer said. Sedef Kabas was taken into custody after she cited a proverb on television and social media referring to an ox. Under the insult law, thousands have been prosecuted for targeting Erdogan since he became President in 2014. Her lawyer, Ugur Poyraz, tweeted that she had been arrested during an appearance at court in Istanbul on Saturday. The judge accepted the prosecution argument that she posed a flight risk. Kabas, 53, was detained by police at her home in Istanbul on Saturday following her remarks on TV 1 and Twitter. AP

UAE  
Ship detained, drugs seized in Mideast waters

**Dubai:** The US Navy announced in Sunday it seized a boat in the Gulf of Oman carrying 40 tonnes of urea fertilizer used to make explosives that was caught last year smuggling weapons to Yemen. The British royal navy said it confiscated 1,041 kg of illegal drugs in the same waters. The interdictions were the latest in the volatile waters of the Persian Gulf as American and British authorities step up seizures of contraband during the grinding conflict in Yemen and ongoing drug trafficking in the region. AP

FRANCE  
Adventurer dies attempting solo Atlantic crossing

**Le Pecq:** A 75-year-old French adventurer has died on a solo attempt to row across the Atlantic Ocean. The death of Jean-Jacques Savin was announced by his friends on Facebook. They said maritime rescue services located the body on Saturday inside the cabin of his boat, which was found overturned off the Azores Islands, a mid-Atlantic Portuguese archipelago. The former soldier set off on Jan. 1 from the southern tip of Portugal on the westward voyage he had thought would take about three months. AP

## THE WORLD

## DEPUTY PM SAYS CLAIM SHOULD BE PROBED IF COMPLAINT IS MADE

## UK lawmaker claims she was fired over her Muslim faith

REUTERS & AP  
LONDON, JANUARY 23

A FORMER minister in Britain's Conservative government says she was told her Muslim faith was a reason she was fired, a claim that has deepened the rifts roiling Prime Minister Boris Johnson's governing party.

Former transport minister Nusrat Ghani told the *Sunday Times* that when she was demoted in 2020, a government whip said her "Muslimness" was "making colleagues uncomfortable."

She said she was told "there were concerns that I wasn't loyal to the party as I didn't do enough to defend the party against Islamophobia allegations."

"It was very clear to me that



Nusrat Ghani

the whips and No. 10 (Downing St.) were holding me to a higher threshold of loyalty than others because of my background and faith," Ghani said.

Chief Whip Mark Spencer said he was the person Ghani was talking about, but strongly denied her allegation.

"These accusations are completely false and I consider them to be defamatory," he wrote on Twitter. "I have never used those words attributed to me."

The Conservative Party whips' office said Ghani's claims

"are categorically untrue." The Conservative Party does not tolerate any form of racism or discrimination," it said.

The Prime Minister's office said Johnson met with Ghani to discuss her concerns in 2020, and invited her to file a formal complaint, but that she didn't do so.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab said on Sunday that Ghani's claims should be properly investigated if she makes a formal complaint.

"We have absolutely zero tolerance for any discrimination, and any Islamophobia, in the Conservative Party," Raab told Sky News on Sunday. "A claim like this, as serious as it is, should be properly reported, and then a proper investigation (should take place)."



## SAIL SET FOR UNESCO HERITAGE LIST

**Eleventh century Viking ships, built in the Nordic clinker boat tradition, sit on display at the Viking Ship Museu in Roskilde, Denmark. For thousands of years, wooden sailboats allowed the people of Northern Europe to spread trade, influence and sometimes war across seas and continents. In December, the UN's culture agency added Nordic 'clinker boats' to its list of traditions that represent the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden jointly sought the UNESCO designation. The term 'clinker' is thought to refer to the way the boat's wooden boards were fastened together. AP**

## 3-day talks with Taliban begin in Norway

DAVID KEYTON  
OSLO, JANUARY 23

A TALIBAN delegation led by acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi on Sunday started three days of talks in Oslo with Western government officials and Afghan civil society representatives amid a deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

The closed-door meetings are taking place at a hotel in the mountains above the Norwegian capital. The first day will see Taliban representatives meeting with women's rights activists and human rights defenders from Afghanistan and from the Afghan diaspora.

Before the talks, the Taliban's deputy minister of culture and information tweeted a voice message he said was from Muttaqi, expressing hope for "a good trip full of achievements."

Muttaqi is certain to press the Taliban's demand that nearly \$10 billion frozen by the US and other Western countries be released as Afghanistan faces a precarious humanitarian situation. The Norwegian Foreign Ministry said, "Norway continues to engage in dialogue with the Taliban to promote human rights, women's participation in society, and to strengthen humanitarian and economic efforts in Afghanistan." AP

## PM JACINDA ARDERN CANCELS WEDDING AMID STRICT RESTRICTIONS

## New Zealand orders nationwide curbs

NYT & REUTERS  
JANUARY 23

People take part in a demonstration against the Belgian government's restrictions imposed to contain the spread of Covid-19 in Brussels on Sunday. Reuters

## Beijing introduces more measures as cases mount

**Beijing:** Beijing's city government on Sunday introduced new measures to contain a recent outbreak of Covid-19, as China's capital continued to report new local cases of the virus less than two weeks before it hosts the Winter Olympic Games.

Nine locally transmitted cases were found in Beijing on January 22, the National Health Commission said on Sunday, of which six were in the city's Fengtai district.

Fengtai will organise nucleic acid tests for Covid for all of its

residents on Sunday, district health authorities said.

Authorities have asked residents of "risky areas," including a neighbourhood of Fengtai, to not leave the city, a local government spokesman said, adding that Fengtai residents have been asked to avoid mass gatherings.

Beijing city has also asked residents to conduct nucleic acid tests if they find themselves with Covid-like symptoms within 14 days of receiving any deliveries from overseas. REUTERS

## MEANWHILE

## ITALY'S BERLUSCONI OUT OF PRESIDENTIAL RACE



Italy's former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi decided against running for President, removing an obstacle to cross-party negotiations ahead of the vote in parliament beginning on Monday. The nomination of PM Mario Draghi is seen as the probable outcome, but it is still unclear whether the broad sweep of parties that support his coalition will endorse him for fear his departure could trigger an early national election.

## Sanctions will undercut ability to deter possible Russian aggression: US



A Ukrainian soldier at the border with Russia. NYT

China's pursuit of 'absolute national security' may lead to Soviet-style collapse: Advisor

KJ VARMA  
BEIJING, JANUARY 23

THE BLIND pursuit of "absolute national security" coupled with excessive defence spending can lead to the Soviet-style collapse, China's top foreign policy advisor has warned the ruling Communist Party headed by President Xi Jinping.

The pursuit of "absolute national security" can extract a heavy price, Jia Qingguo, member of China's top political advisory body – the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) – has said, citing the collapse of the Soviet Union as proof of the pitfalls of putting military expansion over long-term security.

Months after assuming power in 2012, President Xi himself said the breakdown in party disciplines led to the downfall of the erstwhile USSR's 20 million-strong Communist Party. "If Party members did and said whatever they wanted, the party would turn into a mob," Xi said.

Jia, who was also a former dean of the international relations school at Peking University, says the unfettered pursuit of security "will see the costs go up drastically and the benefits go drastically down until the costs outweigh the benefits", the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

To ignore the comparative nature of security, and blindly pursue [it] will result in making the country less secure, as it inflicts unbearable costs and fails to achieve absolute security," Jia, who sits on the Standing Committee of CPPCC, writes in the latest issue of the bimonthly Journal of International Security Studies. Too much emphasis on defence spending could trigger an arms race making all countries involved less secure, writes Jia. PTI

messaging app on Sunday. "We call on the British Foreign Office to stop provocative activities, stop spreading nonsense."

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said the information "shines a light on the extent of Russian activity designed to subvert Ukraine, and is an insight into Kremlin thinking."

Mykhailo Podolyak, a Ukrainian advisor to the Presidential office, said the allegations should be taken seriously.

"There'll be very serious consequences if Russia takes this move to try and invade but also install a puppet regime," British Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab told Sky News on Sunday.

The foreign ministry said it had information the Russian government was considering former Ukrainian lawmaker Yevhen Murayev as a potential candidate to head a pro-Russian leadership.

"This kind of plotting is deeply concerning," National Security Council spokeswoman Emily Horne said. "The Ukrainian people have the sovereign right to determine their own future, and we stand with our democratically-elected partners in Ukraine."

missed the comments as "disinformation", accusing Britain and NATO of "escalating tensions" over Ukraine.

Britain made the accusation late on Saturday, also saying Russian intelligence officers had been in contact with a number of former Ukrainian politicians as part of plans for an invasion.

The Russian Foreign Ministry dismissed the comments as "disinformation", accusing Britain and NATO of "escalating tensions" over Ukraine.

Britain made the accusation late on Saturday, also saying Russian intelligence officers had been in contact with a number of former Ukrainian politicians as part of plans for an invasion.

The Russian Foreign Ministry dismissed the comments as "disinformation", accusing Britain and NATO of "escalating tensions" over Ukraine.

As of Saturday, drone hobbyists and other operators of light electric sports aircraft face "legal liabilities" if caught flying the objects, the Interior Ministry said, adding it may grant exemptions to businesses seeking to film.

A rare drone and missile strike on the capital of Abu Dhabi blew up several fuel tanks and killed three people last week.

The Houthis, who hold Yemen's capital and have fought a bloody, yearslong war with a Saudi-led military coalition that includes the UAE, claimed the assault. While the UAE has largely withdrawn troops from the stalemate conflict, the country continues to be a major player and support local militias on the ground.

Government regulations in the UAE already restrict flying drones in residential areas as well as near, around and over airports.

Cairo: Workers in war-wrecked Yemen recovered five more bodies from the rubble of a prison facility hit by a Saudi-led coalition airstrike, bringing the death toll to at least 87, an international aid group said on Sunday.

Internet access, meanwhile, remained largely down after another Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a telecommunications center Friday at the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, according to advocacy group NetBlocks.

The center is key to Yemen's connection to the internet.

Ahmed Mahat, head of the Doctors Without Borders mission in Yemen, said rescuers completed their search efforts late Saturday at the site of the prison in Yemen's northern province of Saada. He said 266 people were wounded in the airstrike during an intense air and ground escalation in the country's civil war.

As of Saturday, drone hobbyists and other operators of light electric sports aircraft face "legal liabilities" if caught flying the objects, the Interior Ministry said, adding it may grant exemptions to businesses seeking to film.

A rare drone and missile strike on the capital of Abu Dhabi blew up several fuel tanks and killed three people last week.

The Houthis, who hold Yemen's capital and have fought a bloody, yearslong war with a Saudi-led military coalition that includes the UAE, claimed the assault. While the UAE has largely withdrawn troops from the stalemate conflict, the country continues to be a major player and support local militias on the ground.

Government regulations in the UAE already restrict flying drones in residential areas as well as near, around and over airports.

Cairo: Workers in war-wrecked Yemen recovered five more bodies from the rubble of a prison facility hit by a Saudi-led coalition airstrike, bringing the death toll to at least 87, an international aid group said on Sunday.

Internet access, meanwhile, remained largely down after another Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a telecommunications center Friday at the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, according to advocacy group NetBlocks.

The center is key to Yemen's connection to the internet.

Ahmed Mahat, head of the Doctors Without Borders mission in Yemen, said rescuers completed their search efforts late Saturday at the site of the prison in Yemen's northern province of Saada. He said 266 people were wounded in the airstrike during an intense air and ground escalation in the country's civil war.

Cairo: Workers in war-wrecked Yemen recovered five more bodies from the rubble of a prison facility hit by a Saudi-led coalition airstrike, bringing the death toll to at least 87, an international aid group said on Sunday.

Internet access, meanwhile, remained largely down after another Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a telecommunications center Friday at the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, according to advocacy group NetBlocks.

The center is key to Yemen's connection to the internet.

Ahmed Mahat, head of the Doctors Without Borders mission in Yemen, said rescuers completed their search efforts late Saturday at the site of the prison in Yemen's northern province of Saada. He said 266 people were wounded in the airstrike during an intense air and ground escalation in the country's civil war.

Internet access, meanwhile, remained largely down after another Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a telecommunications center Friday at the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, according to advocacy group NetBlocks.

The center is key to Yemen's connection to the internet.

Ahmed Mahat, head of the Doctors Without Borders mission in Yemen, said rescuers completed their search efforts late Saturday at the site of the prison in Yemen's northern province of Saada. He said 266 people were wounded in the airstrike during an intense air and ground escalation in the country's civil war.

Internet access, meanwhile, remained largely down after another Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a telecommunications center Friday at the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, according to advocacy group NetBlocks.

The center is key to Yemen's connection to the internet.

Ahmed Mahat, head of the Doctors Without Borders mission in Yemen, said rescuers completed their search efforts late Saturday at the site of the prison in Yemen's northern province of Saada. He said 266 people were wounded in the airstrike during an intense air and ground escalation in the country's civil war.

Internet access, meanwhile, remained largely down after another Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a telecommunications center Friday at the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, according to advocacy group NetBlocks.

The center is key to Yemen's connection to the internet.

Ahmed Mahat, head of the Doctors Without Borders mission in Yemen, said rescuers completed their search efforts late Saturday at the site of the prison in Yemen's northern province of Saada. He said 266 people were wounded in the airstrike during an intense air and ground escalation in the country's civil war.

Internet access, meanwhile, remained largely down after another Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a telecommunications center Friday at the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, according to advocacy group NetBlocks.

The center is key to Yemen's connection to the internet.

Ahmed Mahat, head of the Doctors Without Borders mission in Yemen, said rescuers completed their search efforts late Saturday at the site of the prison in Yemen's northern province of Saada. He said 266 people were wounded in the airstrike during an intense air and ground escalation in the country's civil war.

Internet access, meanwhile, remained largely down after another Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a telecommunications center Friday at the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, according to advocacy group NetBlocks.

The center is key to Yemen's connection to the internet.

Ahmed Mahat, head of the Doctors Without Borders mission in Yemen, said rescuers completed their search efforts late Saturday at the site of the prison in Yemen's northern province of Saada. He said 266 people were wounded in the airstrike during an intense air and ground escalation in the country's civil war.

Internet access, meanwhile, remained largely down after another Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a telecommunications center Friday at the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, according to advocacy group NetBlocks.

The center is key to Yemen's connection to the internet.

Ahmed Mahat, head of the Doctors Without Borders mission in Yemen, said rescuers completed their search efforts late Saturday at the site of the prison in Yemen's northern province of Saada. He said 266 people were wounded in the airstrike during an intense air and ground escalation in the country's civil war.

Internet access, meanwhile, remained largely down after another Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a telecommunications center Friday at the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, according to advocacy group NetBlocks.

The center is key to Yemen's connection to the internet.

Ahmed Mahat, head of the Doctors Without Borders mission in Yemen, said rescuers completed their search efforts late Saturday at the site of the prison in Yemen's northern province of Saada. He said 266 people were wounded in the airstrike during

SECTOR WATCH  
COMMERCE

## Buoyant exports but unfavourable trade balance: Why is there a dichotomy

KARUNJIT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

EXPORTS HAVE risen nearly 50 per cent year-on-year in the first nine months of the fiscal to put the country on track to hit a target of \$400 billion in merchandise exports. Imports have also risen sharply during the same period, leading to a sharp uptick in fiscal deficit. India is pursuing a number of new Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to expand opportunities for exporters.

## How have Indian exporters performed in FY22?

Exports between April and December 2021 hit \$301.4 billion, up 49.7 per cent year-on-year and 26.5 per cent above exports during the same period in 2019. Exports of two traditional sectors – petroleum products and gems and jewellery – have been key contributors to export growth in December, rising by 152 per cent and 162 per cent, respectively, over the previous fiscal.

India's exports have been buoyed by a worldwide increase in trade, with global merchandise trade posting a quarterly record of \$5.6 trillion in Q3 2021, according to a report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Global trade in both goods and services in 2021 is estimated to be worth \$28 trillion, up 23 per cent from 2020, and 11 per cent, compared to pre-Covid levels.

Among non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports, engineering goods, such as iron and steel products, organic and inorganic chemicals as well as textile products like cotton yarn and fabrics, have been key contributors to export growth in this fiscal.

Exports of engineering goods grew 38.4 per cent in December to \$9.8 billion, up from \$7.1 billion a year ago.

Exports of electronic goods rose 34 per cent to \$1.7 billion while exports of organic and inorganic chemicals grew by 27 per cent to \$2.7 billion in the same period.

A Sakthivel, president of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), said this trend of growth is likely to continue with Indian exports benefiting from positive sentiment internationally.

"Now, there is a good sentiment towards Indian goods internationally," Sakthivel said, adding Indian exporters were increasingly understanding market requirements and upgrading their products.

Outbreaks of Covid-19 infections in key competitors such as Vietnam, leading to disruptions in supply have also likely contributed to increased demand for Indian exports.

India's services exports



Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai. File

have grown at an estimated 18.4 per cent to \$177.7 billion in the first nine months of the fiscal year.

## How have India's imports grown? What is the impact on the current account deficit?

India's merchandise imports have grown even faster than exports at 68.9 per cent year-on-year in the first nine months of the current fiscal to \$443.8 billion, up from \$262.8 billion the previous fiscal. Key imports for India during the fiscal so far, include petroleum and petroleum products, gold and electronic goods.

Higher imports of machinery, electronic goods, vegetable oil, coal, and chemicals were key contributors to the sharp uptick in imports in the first three quarters of the fiscal.

The rise in imports has led to an increase in the trade deficit to \$142.4 billion in the April–December period, up from \$61.4 billion in the year-ago period, and 125.9 billion in the corresponding period of FY20. Services trade surplus is estimated to be about \$74.4 billion in the first three quarters.

Experts have estimated that current account deficit for the fiscal will be about \$40-\$45 billion.

## What are key developments in Indian trade?

India is currently in the process of negotiating FTAs with the UK, the UAE, Australia, Israel, and the EU, and is aiming to close interim trade deals with the UAE, Australia and the UK within this year.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has, at multiple forums, noted that Indian industry should be prepared to give market access to trading partners if it wants to benefit from greater market access for its own products.

"Our focus is wherever we have a competitive or comparative advantage, we should look at market access and wherever the advantage is with some other country, we don't have to force the Indian consumer to buy expensive," Goyal said to an industry body on Friday.

HDFC Capital is aligned with the Government of India's goal to increase housing supply and support the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - 'Housing for All' initiative. H-CARE 3 combines with the HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Funds – 1 & 2, raised in 2016 and 2017 respectively, to create a \$3 billion funding platform which has recently been rated as one of the world's largest private finance platforms focused on development of affordable housing.

H-CARE 3 will provide long-term, flexible funding across the lifecycle of affordable and mid-income housing projects including early-stage funding. In addition, H-CARE 3 will also invest in technology companies (construction technology, fintech and clean-tech) engaged in the affordable housing ecosystem.

HDFC Capital's target is to finance the development of one million affordable homes in India through a combination of innovative financing, partnerships and technology, whilst focusing on sustainability. The company is in active discussions with leading global investors to raise additional funds to be invested in affordable housing in India.

HDFC Chairman Deepak Parekh said, "In India, housing will play an even more important role as a catalyst for growth with increased demand for affordable and mid-income housing."

Currently, protecting health is paramount and in this context, a health insurance should be viewed as an essential commodity, insurance experts said. "I would request the Finance Minister to consider the reduction of GST for health insurance from the current 18 per cent to the lowest slab of 5 per cent. This move will also make health policies more affordable and push more and more people to buy a health cover," said Shanai Ghosh, executive director & CEO, Edelweiss General Insurance.

"The government should consider a drastic reduction in the GST applicable on health insurance premiums which is currently charged at 18 per cent. This will encourage people to purchase health insurance and additional top-up plans to protect themselves from medical crises and emergencies," said Roopam Asthana, CEO & whole-time director, Liberty General Insurance.

Covid has shaken people and made them realise the importance of having a health insurance, insurance experts said. However, to

close down on the gap between realisation and intention to actually buying health insurance, it would really help if the government could consider increasing the tax deduction limit under section 80D of the Income Tax Act for health policies. Given the high medical costs, a higher tax rebate will ensure more disposable income with the growing middle class, thereby encouraging them to buy the much-needed health policy, Ghosh said.

"In the upcoming Union Budget, we request the government to intensify steps towards increasing insurance penetration in the country, since even today a large part of the population in the country still remains underserved or uninsured," Asthana said.

As per regulator Irdai's Annual Report 2020-21, insurance penetration in India stands at 4.2 per cent of the GDP as against the global average of 74 per cent.

As per insurance sector officials, hospitals keep on changing tariffs on a regular basis. There is no body to regulate the hospitals on the tariff structure and grading. However, insurance officials said the regulator currently doesn't have the infrastructure to regulate the hospitals.

"As healthcare is a state subject, it's going to be a tough proposition for Irdai to regulate the hospitals," said an official.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

**DEVA'S SHAREHOLDERS** to continue pursuing Indian assets abroad

Several Deva's shareholders, "A better approach for the Modi government would be to return to the negotiating table, and continue with settlement talks."

Deva's shareholders are pursuing Indian assets abroad to recover the awards and have got a French court order for freezing Indian properties in Paris and got partial rights over funds maintained by India funds in Canada.

"We have already entered liens or obtained seizure and garnishment orders on tens of millions of dollars in Indian state assets," a spokesperson for Deva Multimedia said.

**INFLATION** rises to 4.4% in January

India's inflation rate rose to 4.4% in January, the highest level in 10 months, driven by a sharp increase in food prices.

Food inflation was 5.2% in January, up from 4.8% in December.

Core inflation, which strips out volatile food and fuel prices, rose to 3.8% in January from 3.6% in December.

Overall inflation has been rising steadily since last year, reaching 4.1% in December.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

Analysts say the rise in food prices is due to factors such as drought, inflation in raw materials and labor costs.

The central bank has said it will monitor inflation closely and adjust interest rates as needed.

Analysts say the rise in inflation is temporary and unlikely to affect the central bank's decision on interest rates.

The central bank has kept interest rates at a record low of 4% since March 2020.

Food inflation has been a major driver of inflation in India, particularly in rural areas.

# Fire and water mix well

Tanisha-Ishaan win Syed Modi International title, in sign of bigger things to come

SHIVANI NAIK  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

IT IS not uncommon for Tanisha Crasto and Ishaan Bhatnagar to squabble plenty on court. "Kyu aaya hai? Mera shuttle hit." (Why did you go for that return? It was my shuttle to hit.) has rung across playing arenas through the European winter swing of tournaments and now in India - Delhi and Lucknow. But the duo, she - 18 and he - 19, eventually settle into a frenzied pace, and have now secured their first Super 300 mixed doubles badminton title at the Syed Modi International on Sunday.

Beating Hema Nagendra Babu and Srivedya Gurazada 21-16, 21-12 in a severely depleted field, the Crasto-Bhatnagar pairing, follow in the footsteps of Jwala Gutta-V Diju and Ashwini Ponappa-Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, who have played immensely entertaining badminton on way to victories. "I think after this title, we are capable of great heights, though there's scope to do much better. We'd like to create our own history," Tanisha says.

When the Badminton Association of India announced six years ago that the U17 nationals would have its first-ever mixed doubles competition, the two paired up together - both "randomly."

"Everyone was searching for partners, so I messaged her," Ishaan from Raipur, recalls. "I'd just started on the Indian circuit and really liked his game. He was all over the news winning both singles and doubles, so I randomly asked him. Then we won the first ever tournament," Tanisha, born and raised in Dubai, remembers.

Both followed their fathers onto the court - Ishaan's father played at a local club while Tanisha's dad switched from cricket to badminton. They would eventually wind up in Hyderabad at the national camp.

"It was the toughest adjustment for me. In Dubai, hardly any female players used to practice then, so I would train alone. In India, there's a good crop of sparring partners," Tanisha says, adding she misses her mother's home-cooked fish fry in Hyderabad, vastly different from the academy's mess kitchens.

On court, Tanisha is a fighter. "She's a great motivator. Even if we are 10 points behind, she'll say 'kuch nahi hai' (it's nothing) and convince me we can win. I play better when I'm calm, and her confidence rubs off," Ishaan says. The chatter is often as bustling as the energy she brings to her hop-skip defence at the net. "Sometimes she has some logic, and I have mine, and it doesn't work together. Then we go blank," Ishaan explains of their chaotic communication, which somehow still works.

"I think he covers for my mistakes really well," Tanisha says, and reckons the coordination developed after six years together is their strength. They both agree that Ishaan can get angry, though he insists, "Sometimes she doesn't listen to me and



Tanisha Crasto and Ishaan Bhatnagar first teamed up six years ago for the U17 Nationals mixed-doubles tournament.

# After breaker, Nadal hits cruise control

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MELBOURNE, JANUARY 23

RAFAEL NADAL finally got the better of a crazy, long tiebreaker and knew he'd won half the battle. After saving four set points and missing with the first six of his own, Nadal finally clinched a tiebreaker that lasted 28 minutes and 40 seconds to set himself on course to secure a spot in the Australian Open quarterfinals for a 14th time.

After his 7-6(14), 6-2, 6-2 fourth-round victory over fellow left-hander Adrian Mannarino on Sunday, Nadal is potentially just three wins away from a men's record 21st Grand Slam singles title. He later reflected on a tiebreaker where momentum swung wildly; where chants of "Let's go Rafa, Let's go!" rang out; where a point was decided on a 25-shot rally with both players scrambling at full stretch; and that ended only when Nadal volleyed from deep in the court and Mannarino's reflex reply skewed wide.

"Well, you know, I played a couple," he said, smiling, in reference to long tiebreakers. "But, yeah, (it was) a crazy one, chances for both. And, yeah, lucky to win that tiebreaker at the end, no?" Half of the match in the tiebreak, without a doubt." Nadal will next play Denis Shapovalov, the 22-year-old Canadian who finished off a 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3 win over Olympic gold medalist Alexander Zverev on Margaret Court Arena less than an hour later to reach the last eight in Australia for the first time.

Shapovalov had to isolate after testing positive for COVID-19 when he arrived in Australia ahead of the year's first major, but recovered quickly to help Canada win the ATP Cup in Sydney and now reach a Grand Slam quarter-final for the third time.

Women's No. 1 Ash Barty advanced to the quarterfinals for the fourth straight year when she beat 20-year-old American Amanda Anisimova 6-4, 6-3. Barty is aiming to be the first Australian woman to win her home Grand Slam title since 1978 and has gone through the first four rounds without dropping a set.

Anisimova, coming off a third-round upset over defending champion Naomi Osaka, broke Barty's opening service game of the second set — a first for the tournament — but the two-time major winner responded by taking six of the last seven games.

Barty beat Anisimova in the semifinals of the French Open in 2019 on the way to winning her first Grand Slam title and won her second at Wimbledon last year.

She'll next play No. 21-seeded Jessica Pegula, who beat fifth-seeded Maria Sakkari 7-6(0), 6-3.

French Open champion Barbora Krejcirova breezed to a 6-2, 6-2 win over two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka and is into the last eight for the third time in four Grand Slam events.



Rafael Nadal defeated fellow lefty Adrian Mannarino 7-6(14), 6-2, 6-2 to reach the quarter-finals of the Australian Open for the 14th time. Reuters

Wimbledon runner-up Matteo Berrettini completed a Grand Slam set with a 7-5, 7-6(4), 6-4 win over 19th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta in the last match on Day 7.

The seventh-seeded Berrettini has now reached the quarterfinals at all four of the tennis majors and will next play No. 17 Gael Monfils, who beat Miomir Kecmanovic 7-5, 7-6(4), 6-3. The 35-year-old Monfils made it to the last eight for the second time in 17 trips to Melbourne Park.

Mannarino, who didn't finish his 4-hour, 38-minute four-set, third-round win over No. 18 Aslan Karatsev until after 2 a.m. on Saturday and appeared to be hampered by an abdominal or upper leg injury, threw everything at Nadal in the opening set on Rod Laver Arena.

"After first set I couldn't really fight against Rafa," said the 33-year-old No. 69-ranked Mannarino. "You know, he was playing too well for me not to be 100%. The second and third set just went all the way for Rafa, so that's it." The No. 14-seeded Shapovalov spent almost 11 hours on court through the first three rounds, winning twice in four sets and once in five, and was surprised by the relative speed of his 2-hour, 21-minute win over Zverev. "Definitely happy with where the game is at," he said. "I played pretty smart today."

## FOURTH ROUND

**Men's singles:** R Nadal (6), Spain, def. A Mannarino, France, 7-6(14), 6-2, 6-2, D Shapovalov (14), Canada, def. A Zverev (3), Germany, 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3, G Monfils (17), France, def. M Kecmanovic, Serbia, 7-5, 7-6(4), 6-3, M Berrettini (7), Italy, def. P. Busta (19), Spain, 7-5, 7-6(4), 6-4; **Women's Singles:** M Keys, United States, def. P. Badosa (8), Spain, 6-3, 6-1, B Krejcirova (4), Czech Republic, def. V Azarenka (24), Belarus, 6-2, 6-2, J. Pegula (21), United States, def. M. Sakkari (5), Greece, 7-6(0), 6-3, A. Barty (1), Australia, def. A. Anisimova, United States, 6-4, 6-3

## THIRD ROUND

**Mixed doubles:** R Ram, United States, and S Mirza, India, def. M. Middelkoop, Netherlands, and E Perez, Australia, 7-6(6), 6-4

## BRIEFLY

### Asia Cup: Japan stun holders India 2-0

Muscat: Defending champions India were stunned 0-2 by reigning Asian Games gold-medallists Japan in their second Pool A match of the Women's Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Sunday. Japan scored through Naga Yuri (2nd minute) and Saki Tanaka (42nd minute) to stun the Indians. A slow start from the Indians cost them dearly as Japan took the lead against the run of play in the second minute through Nagai Yuri. The Indians continued to dominate the proceedings after the change of ends but failed to create any real scoring opportunity. Japan surprised India again in the 42nd minute when Tanakana doubled the lead. PTI

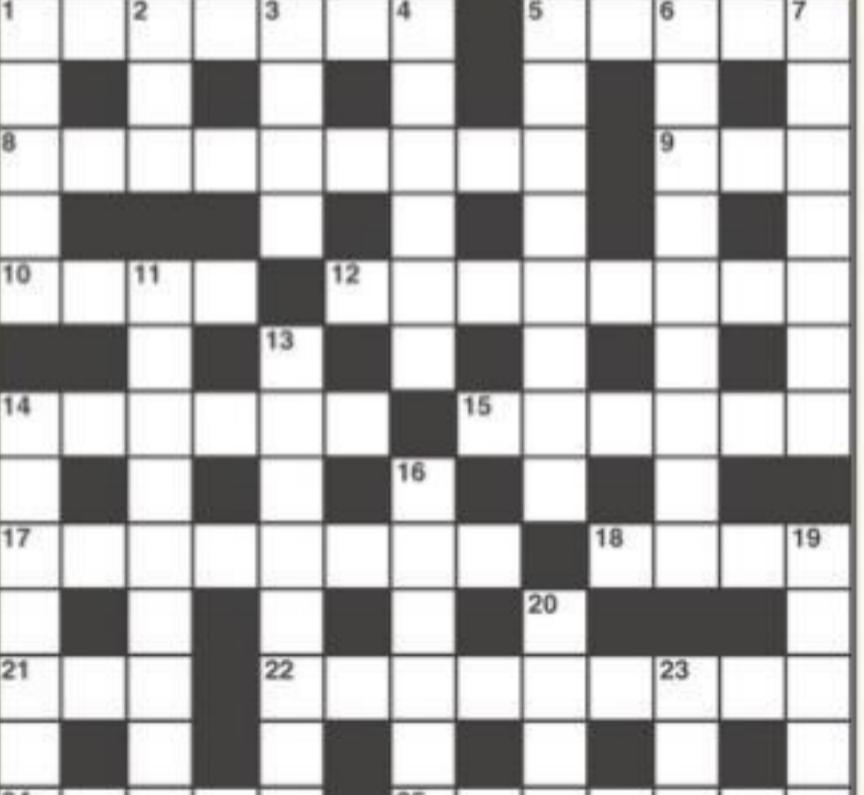
### Chhetri equals ISL goalscoring record

Bambolim: Sunil Chhetri's 11-game barren run of goals in the Indian Super League came to an end as he salvaged a point for Bengaluru FC in a 1-1 draw against FC Goa here on Sunday. Scoring his 48th ISL goal, the India captain equalled the league's all-time record goalscorer, Ferran Corominas' tally. Dylan Fox (41st) scored his first goal for FC Goa with a header until Chhetri (61st) equalised with his first of the campaign. The result keeps both Bengaluru FC and FC Goa in eighth and ninth place positions respectively in the points table with 14 points each. Bengaluru FC will be up against Chennaiyin FC in their next at the Athletic Stadium on Wednesday. PTI

### Sindhu wins Syed Modi International

Lucknow: Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu eased past young compatriot Malvika Bansod in straight games to win her second women's singles title at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament here on Sunday. Playing in a depleted field due to multiple COVID-19 cases, top seed Sindhu hardly broke her sweat to get past Bansod 21-13 21-16 in a lop-sided title contest. The final lasted just 35 minutes. It was former world champion Sindhu's second Syed Modi title after having annexed the BWF World Tour Super 300 event in 2017. Earlier, the men's singles final between Armaud Merkle and Lucas Claerout was declared a 'No Match' after one of the finalists tested positive for COVID-19. PTI

## CROSSWORD 4645



**ACROSS**

- Fundamental shifting in cargo (7)
- Is classified as military distinctions (5)
- US rifle is adapted for infantrymen (9)
- It's sticky to chew (3)
- How fire can become widespread (4)
- Cheer up when the right man is about (8)
- Slips in proofs of humanity? (6)
- Shooting star's remote origins (6)
- A new look for cars here (8)
- Space evolved a long time back (4)
- Potted plant leaves (3)
- It keeps locks in good order (9)
- Cried for a drink (5)
- Dull fashion dies out (7)

**DOWN**

- Bid for a chest without a top (5)
- Gossip that could cook one's goose (3)
- Wriggly line on the map of Africa (4)
- Fruit woman within call (6)
- Reconciled to having had to give up work (8)
- Sleepwear in unusual gathering (5,4)
- Remains as a group of students (7)
- Strong line taken at a trade exhibition? (4,5)
- A test for every living being (8)
- Wandering man about desert (7)
- Screenplay many tear up in a way (6)
- Chase around wanting treatment? (5)
- Not yet up in the garden (4)
- Initially thought by some to come from outer space (3)

**Solutions Crossword 4644:** Across: 1 Stud farm, 5 Scar, 9 Relic, 10 Schemes, 11 Off the record, 13 Ousted, 14 Africa, 17 Labour of love, 20 Willing, 21 Early, 22 Reed, 23 Dressers. Down: 1 Sort, 2 Upfits, 3 Face the music, 4 Rested, 6 Cameo, 7 Residual, 8 Cheerfulness, 12 Follower, 15 Inverse, 16 Forger, 18 Bulge, 19 Ayes.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You should have a busy start to the week, so no slacking, please. This is one of those moments when the very best you can possibly do is stick to routine tasks and put sentiment and regrets to one side. There is no substitute, by the way, for a healthy dose of self-discipline.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

If you've been concentrating on pursuing your worldly ambitions in recent weeks, then don't let up now. Even if success is assured, there's still some thinking to be done and people to be convinced that you're right. It's mainly a matter of finding the best words.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You should spare no effort when it comes to improving your existence. It's quite rare that such a beneficial line-up of planets affects your emotional state as at the present time, and you'd be foolish not to take advantage of this to improve the general condition of your partnerships.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The immediate future looks positive and constructive, even if you do have a few doubts. Over the long-term, there's a definite need for more space and comfort in your living conditions, although you may not make a move until the Moon begins to play a role in your home and family affairs.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You may concentrate on your material interests. It seems better to save than spend but if money must flow out, aim it towards necessities rather than luxuries. Above all, steer clear of those who are too fond of rumour and gossip, or who are out to waste your time.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

With the Moon so powerfully aligned with your sign, this is a fine day to make a greater than usual effort to get your own way and still reach sensible compromises. You'll be able to clear up niggling irritations with little difficulty, although you'd better have the facts at your fingertips.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Sometimes you can hide your head in the sand, but not now. There's no getting away from your essential needs and desires today. The general planetary picture is extraordinarily helpful and there's little risk in forcing issues into the open as long as you keep a dialogue going with other concerned individuals.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

In spite of a certain shyness, you love it when other people are forced to listen to your opinions, and that's exactly what you'll be insisting on this week. The fact is that your ideas are probably the best. But will other people agree? Well, probably not.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

There should be a welcome absence of tension from most of today's personal proceedings, although excitement could boil over into animated arguments and disputes. These are lively times and you're a force to be reckoned with, as reckless individuals could soon discover.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

The sky's the limit, and there's no reason why you shouldn't achieve your ambitions in whatever activity happens to be. Friends will be of more help than you've come to expect, although any favours you accept now might have to be paid back sooner than you hope.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

The planetary connections between your work and money are so powerful as to suggest an imminent windfall, almost certainly as a reward for all your past efforts. At least, that's one interpretation. Plus, for some reason we have yet to understand, discretion is required in personal matters.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

This is no time to be shy and withdrawn. The Sun, Mars, Venus and Saturn are just a few of the planets compelling you to face up to your needs, wants and desires and it's about time you made these your guiding priority rather than always trying to please other people.

## 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.

unless they sleep a lot, are cruel. - Renata Adler (5,6)

GSEE

EIPDL

FOROL

CILUBP

**SOLUTION: GESE, EIPDL, FOROL, CILUBP**

**Difficulty Level 3s**  
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

1	4</td
---	-------

# Virus stops play: A dozen players test positive, India out of Asian Cup

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

FOR TWO years, the Indian women's football team had been preparing for its biggest tournament so far: the Asian Cup. However, after playing just one match, they had to withdraw from the continental championship on Sunday following a Covid-19 outbreak in the squad.

It is learnt that a dozen out of the 23 players in the group and four members of the support staff tested positive ahead of the crucial group-stage match against world number 39 Chinese Taipei. However, even as Taipei players took the field at Navi Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium at the official kick-off time, 7.30 pm, there was no one to face them.

With two players already out injured, and 12 testing positive, India had just nine players available for the Taipei game. Out of them, two had symptoms consistent with Covid-19.

According to tournament regulations, a team has to name a minimum of 13 players for a match to go ahead. The hosts' 'failure' to do so meant they could not take part in the match, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said, and as a consequence, had to withdraw from the competition.

The AFC cited clause 4.1 from its rulebook, which stated that if a team has less than 13 players and is not able to participate in a match, it shall be held responsible for the Match not

taking place and shall be considered to have withdrawn from the relevant Competition.'

All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel said the players were 'heartbroken' but insisted 'this wasn't the end of the world' for them. 'The promise on display in the first match against IR Iran was there for all to see, and am confident they will bounce back from this temporary setback,' he said.

Despite the hosts being forced out, the AFC said the show will go on in the 12-team Asian Cup. On Monday, four matches will be played as scheduled, with the 2023 World Cup hosts Australia and former world champions Japan among the teams in action.

The AFC's decision to go ahead with the games despite a Covid-19 outbreak underlines the approach being taken by sports bodies, who continue to organise tournaments amidst global rise cases globally. Just days ago, the Indian squad at the Under-19 Cricket World Cup in the West Indies was hit by Covid-19 but the schedule was unaffected and the BCCI sent reinforcements.

#### No men's final at Modi badminton

At the Syed Modi International Super 300 event in Lucknow, the men's singles finalists, Frenchmen, Arnaud Merle and Lucas Claeboeuf were forced into isolation on Sunday after one tested positive and the other was deemed a close contact. The world governing body, BWF, had not determined what to do



While Chinese Taipei players took the field at Navi Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium at the official kick-off time, there was no one to face them. Amit Chakravarty

with ranking points, given this unprecedented situation where two opponents from the same country were involved, and the walkover was mutual - not naming the positive.

But this came to pass at the end of a torrid week where 32 matches across singles and doubles witnessed walkovers / no matches. Assam shuttler Ashmita Chalihia had a confirmed positive on Day 1, and then the spurt of walkovers kept piling up, till the French duo were denied a final due to the virus.

Last week, the India Open had started with seven positives amongst Indians, including Kidambi Srikanth. Subsequently, Singaporean women's singles player Yeo Jia Min had tested positive after returning home, days after having a fever when in India. The Indian jamboree now moves to Orissa for a Super 100, again risking the health of players.

The ongoing tournament was India's first appearance at the Women's Asian Cup after 19 years, and on home soil. The tournament,

#### BUBBLES BURST

**CRICKET** The Indian squad at the Under-19 World Cup in the West Indies was hit by Covid-19 last week, with five players testing positive. Four Zimbabwe players and two from the West Indies team, too, had tested positive.

**BADMINTON** The men's singles finals of the Syed Modi International Super 300 event on Sunday was called off after one of the finalist tested positive. A total of 32 matches witnessed walkovers / no matches in the tournament. Last week, the India Open had started with seven positives amongst Indians, including Kidambi Srikanth who was staying at the official hotel.

**TENNIS** There have been three confirmed positive cases reported at the ongoing Australian Open. Australian Bernard Tomic and Ugo Humbert of France tested positive earlier this week while Belgian Alison van Uytvanck said she was down with the virus on Sunday.

**FOOTBALL** Ahead of India's first match of the women's Asian Cup, two Covid-19 cases were reported within the group. Before the second game on Sunday, a total of 12 players were down with the virus along with four support staff. Isolated cases in at least four other teams were reported earlier in the week.

less draw against Iran and were to take on 8-time Asian champions China on January 26, which made Sunday's match against Taipei a must-win. However, the team did not even travel to the stadium for the match even as four match officials and Taipei players entered the field at sharp 6.30 for the routine pre-match warm-up drills. At 7.10 pm, the Taipei players went to the dressing room to get changed. At 7.30 pm, the AFC officially called off the match. (With inputs from Shivani Naik)

**Virat could've carried on for two more years: Shastri**

**DEVEN德拉 PANDEY**

JANUARY 23

FORMER INDIA coach Ravi Shastri believes Virat Kohli could have led the Indian Test team for another two years. Kohli decided to step down after the 1-2 series defeat in South Africa, and now won't be captain in any format.



"I felt that he could easily continue for next two years, but now as he has stepped down, we should all respect his decision," Shastri told *The Indian Express* on the sidelines of the Legends League Cricket in Oman.

Shastri decided not to continue as head coach of the Indian team after his tenure expired at the end of the T20 World Cup last year and was succeeded by Rahul Dravid.

Under the Shastri-Kohli regime, India won two Test series in Australia and also took a 2-1 lead in the series England, with the final Test to be played later this year. The former India all-rounder describes his seven-year tenure with the Indian team as satisfactory and predicts a bright future for the team.

When asked who should now lead the Indian team, especially in Test cricket, Shastri's first choice is Rohit Sharma.

"First thing, the future of the team is very bright. From what I have seen in seven years, the new talent that is coming in is amazing. As far as the captain is concerned, Rohit is the captain in two formats. He was appointed vice-captain of the Test team that went to South Africa, but he couldn't go due to injury. This means that he must be being thought of as the captain," he said.

#### 'Why make a vice-captain?'

However, Shastri is not in favour of appointing a vice-captain of the Indian team and says there is no rule which states that a team has to have one. "Why make a vice-captain? Whose place in the team is certain and is better on that day, make him the vice-captain. What is the use of making a vice-captain who has to be dropped from the playing 11?"

Some analysts feel that Rishabh Pant should be appointed as vice-captain. "As far as Pant is concerned, he is an amazing player. He listens too. It's not that he doesn't listen. He has a lot of talent and will go on. He is a better alternative than having a designated vice-captain," Shastri said.

Kohli's lack of major silverware is often counted against him, but Shastri feels a captain shouldn't be judged on World Cup wins alone.

"How many top players do we have who have never even touched the World Cup? Who is the captain who has won the World Cup? Only Kapil Dev and Mahendra Singh Dhoni in India. Should we not talk about any other captain? I can speak because I have grabbed the World Cup trophy. In our country, even if you won the World Cup and lost the Test series, people would still go after the team. We all have this habit. For seven years, it was our endeavour to win as much as we can," he argued.

Shastri has taken a break after his tenure with the Indian team and is expecting to be back in the commentary box for India's final Test in England in the summer.

(Devendra Pandey is in Oman on the invitation of Legends Cricket League)

India run hosts close, but can't prevent 0-3 ODI series debacle to end disappointing tour which had begun on a high note

**ABHISHEK PUROHIT**

JANUARY 23

A SOUTH Africa tour that had begun with expectations of dominance – heightened by the Centurion Test win – ended with a fifth successive defeat for India, a four-run loss in Cape Town bringing a 0-3 ODI series wipeout. It was the closest India had come to winning a game after Centurion, albeit an inconsequential one with the series already lost. But just when the match seemed to have settled decisively in their grasp, following a familiar middle-order stumble and a stunning revival, they fell apart at the final hurdle.

In his previous ODI, Deepak Chahar had walked in at 160/6 in a chase of 276 against Sri Lanka in Colombo last July. It became 193/7, but Chahar took India to a series-sealing victory with an unbeaten 69, playing some outrageous strokes along the way.

Six months later, Chahar appeared to have stolen another ODI chase from a home side's grasp; his 54 off 34 deliveries had resuscitated India from 223/7 in their pursuit of 288 at Newlands. In his only match of the tour, Chahar had come in at 195/5 after Shreyas Iyer's exit to a short ball for 17.

#### Chahar's enterprise

Chahar pulled a Lungi Ngidi short ball for four and hit Dwaine Pretorius for successive sixes – a swipe high over deep mid-wicket and a sliced drive past sweeper cover. His blows, aided by Jasprit Bumrah's spunk, had shocked the South Africans, and the once-steep equation had been hacked down to a mere 10 off 18.

And then Chahar played one shot too many on a surface where taking the pace off had increasingly made uninhibited strokeplay fraught with risk. He was caught by a sliding Pretorius at cover off Ngidi, and India managed to add only five runs after his dismissal. Four balls were still left in the game when Yuzvendra Chahal top-edged Pretorius for David Miller to take a sitter and leave Chahar close to tears on a chair near the boundary with his pads still on.

He had tried his best to change the script but India eventually stuck to the narrative of the first ODI in Paarl. They were 138/1 there chasing 297. Shikhar Dhawan and Virat Kohli had added 92, but after the former's departure, they unravelled to 214/8 and a 31-run loss.

In Cape Town, India were 116/1. Dhawan and Kohli had put on 98. Dhawan fell, and the middle order caved in again. There was an enterprising 39 off 32 from Suryakumar Yadav, who had replaced Venkatesh Iyer, but like Chahar, he played too many forcing shots on a difficult pitch, and paid the price.

In contrast, Quinton de Kock had hung around long enough to make 124 to propel South Africa to 287, which proved to be just enough to consign Rahul Dravid's first tour as full-time India coach to an utter disaster.

In his previous ODI, Deepak Chahar had walked in at 160/6 in a chase of 276 against Sri Lanka in Colombo last July. It became 193/7, but Chahar took India to a series-sealing victory with an unbeaten 69, playing some outrageous strokes along the way.



South Africa batsman Quinton de Kock's 130-ball 124 included 12 fours and two sixes. Reuters

#### SCOREBOARD

**South Africa**

Q de Kock c Dhawan b Bumrah	124
(130b, 12x4, 2x6)	
J Malan c Pant b Chahar	1 (6b)
T Bavuma run out	8 (12b, 1x4)
A Markram c sub b Chahar	15 (14b, 3x4)
R van der Dussen c Iyer b Chahal	52
(59b, 4x4, 1x6)	
D Miller c Kohli b Krishna	39 (38b, 3x4, 1x6)
A Phehlukwayo run out	4 (11b)
D Pretorius c SA Yadav b Krishna	20
(25b, 5x4, 1x4)	
K Maharaj c Kohli b Bumrah	6 (5b, 1x4)
S Magala c Rahul b Krishna	0 (2b)
L Ngidi not out	0 (0b)
<b>Extras:</b> (lb 2, nb 3, w 13)	18
<b>Total:</b> (49.5 overs)	287
<b>FO:</b> 1-8, 2-34, 3-70, 4-214, 5-218, 6-228, 7-272, 8-282, 9-287, 10-287	
<b>Bowling:</b> Chahar 8-0-53-2, Bumrah 10-0-52-2, Krishna 9.5-0-59-3, Yadav 10-0-53-0, Chahal 9-0-47-1, Iyer 3-0-21-0	
<b>India</b>	
KL Rahul c Malan b Ngidi	9 (10b, 2x4)
S Dhawan c de Kock b Phehlukwayo	61
(73b, 5x4, 1x6)	
V Kohli c Bavuma b Maharaj	65 (84b, 5x4)
R Pant c Magala b Phehlukwayo	0 (1b)
S Iyer c Phehlukwayo b Magala 26 (34b, 2x4)	
S Yadav c Bavuma b Pretorius	39
(32b, 4x4, 1x6)	
D Chahar c Pretorius b Ngidi	54
(34b, 5x4, 2x6)	
J Yadav c Bavuma b Ngidi	2 (6b)
J Bumrah c Bavuma b Phehlukwayo	12
(15b, 2x4)	
Y Chahal c Miller b Pretorius	2 (6b)
P Krishnan not out	2 (3b)
<b>Extras:</b> (lb 2, nb 2, w 7)	11
<b>Total:</b> (49.2 overs)	283
<b>FO:</b> 1-18, 2-116, 3-118, 4-156, 5-195, 6-210, 7-223, 8-278, 9-281, 10-283	
<b>Bowling:</b> Ngidi 10-0-58-3, Pretorius 9.2-0-54-2, Magala 10-0-69-1, Maharaj 10-0-39-1, Phehlukwayo 7-0-40-3, Markram 3-0-21-0	
<b>South Africa won by 4 runs</b>	

## Kohli: Sedate fielder, super-charged batter

**SANDIP G**

JANUARY 23

THE LONG and tedious wait for Virat Kohli's 75th international century dragged on to another day. It has been 784 days since he registered one – his longest ever wait – and a span in which both his life and cricket changed unrecognisably. He became a father, forsook captaincy, and the halo around his batting has just begun to fade. But for all the changes in his life and career, for all the intrigue that surrounds his decision to step down as Test and T20 captain, he hasn't lost his passion or intensity, the drive or energy, those characteristics that define him, on the field.

Relinquishing captaincy has not doused the fire of ambition in him – not even in ODIs, the only format wherein captaincy was stripped off him. He might be more quiet when fielding, he might not exhort the bowlers as fervently as when he was the captain, he might not walk or run as urgently as when he was the captain, the stump mic might not capture the incessant hard-edged tone of his chatter.

But it's no longer Kohli's business to inject energy and intensity into his colleagues when fielding – it's the duty of the captain to conduct the orchestra, and Kohli is no longer one. It would have been weird had he run around the field as animatedly as he had been when he was the captain. It would have painted him as overbearing and obtrusive, keen to impose his persona even when he was not the captain. So he was sedate. There were no turbo-charged celebrations, no vein-popping or fist-punching, or feisty send-offs. Pheew, he even had a congratulatory chat with de Kock, as he walked back to the dressing room.

But let his calmness not be misconstrued as detachment, or a lack of passion. For, it was the usual Kohli when he strode out to bat.



During his 84-ball 65, Virat Kohli didn't look to over-impose himself. Reuters

Evident was his bristling intensity to revive his gold standards, the burning passion to slog through the desert and find an oasis of hundreds.

Only such a switched-on, determined batsman, and not a cagey one, could flick the first ball off his body for a four. It might have been a semi-loose ball, but the emphatic way he whipped it stressed that none of his hunger had diminished. He would not go easy into the sunset.

On the contrary to rumours that he had lost his vigour. He seemed extra-energised, super-stimulated. There were some clues that captured his mindset – like the striding front-foot, the buoyant drives and the alacritous running between the wickets.

The usual spirit-sapping stream of singles appeared through the leg side. In between he

drove with thrilling, easy power through the covers. He teased out the weak points of South Africa's bowling and pulled them apart. None of his fours was a cover-drive, well-cushioned as the region was. But he drove as sumptuously as he had in recent times. He seemed to have regained his free-spiritedness. Not fully, but almost fully.