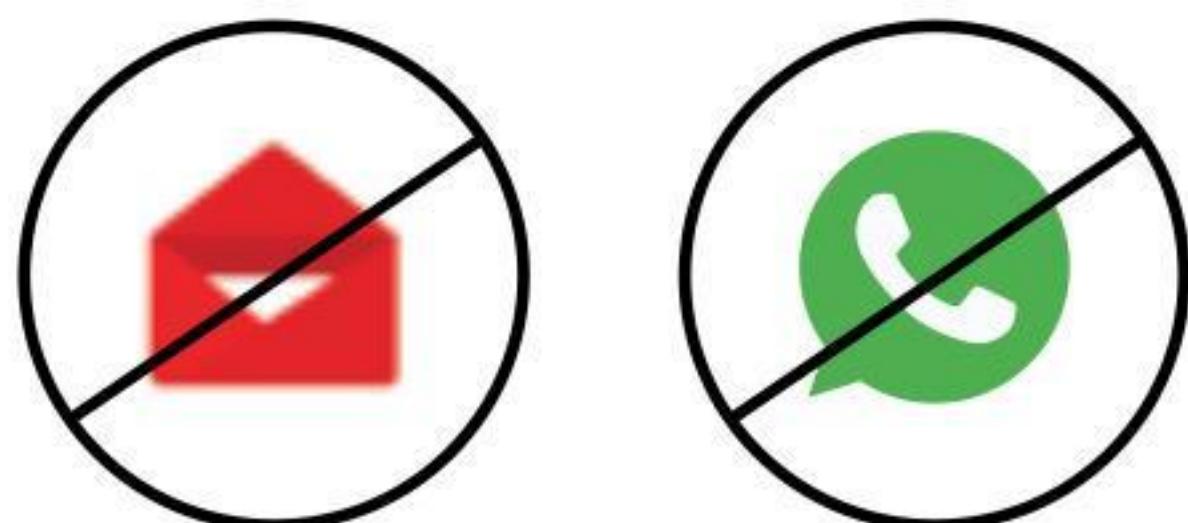


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**TARGETING MINORITY WOMEN**

## Woman in Uttarakhand, engg student held in hate app case

Account named 'Khalsa Supremacist' to mislead: Police

SAGAR RAJPUT,  
JAYPRAKASH SNaidu,  
AVANEESH MISHRA  
& KIRAN PARSHAR  
MUMBAI, DEHRADUN,  
BENGALURU, JANUARY 4

A WOMAN, who is suspected to be the main accused behind the app which hosted doctored photographs and objectionable comments targeting Muslim women, was arrested in Uttarakhand on Tuesday.

Police said the woman is "over 18 years old". Confirming the arrest, Uttarakhand DGP Ashok Kumar told *The Indian Express*: "As per our information the woman, identified as Shweta Singh, hails from Bulandshahr



Vishal Kumar Jha has been sent to police custody till Jan 10. ANI

district in Uttar Pradesh and belongs to an economically weaker family. While we cannot say much about her exact involve-

ment in the case, she allegedly created some fake IDs to commit the crime."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Girl marathons a draw, Cong hopes for a leg-up in tough UP poll race

MAULSHREE SETH  
& MANOJ CG  
LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI,  
JANUARY 4

LAST WEEK, Pooja Patel travelled alone from her village in Allahabad to Lucknow to participate in a marathon organised by the Congress. The BA first-year student ended up winning a scooter as the first prize, and despite a minor hurdle – she doesn't know how to ride and has arranged for the vehicle to be taken back to her village – is thrilled.

"The scooter will make my family proud," said the 18-year-old who hopes to vote in her first



A stampede-like situation at a Congress marathon for girls in Bareilly on Tuesday. PTI

election this year.

The Lucknow marathon is part of a series of such events that the Congress, led by its gen-

eral secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, has been holding across the state as part of its 'Ladki

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

**OMICRON-DRIVEN SURGE**

## Capital first to tighten Covid curbs, orders weekend curfew

Kejriwal tests positive; Metro, buses to ply at full capacity to ensure no queues

MALLICA JOSHI  
& GAYATHRI MANI  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

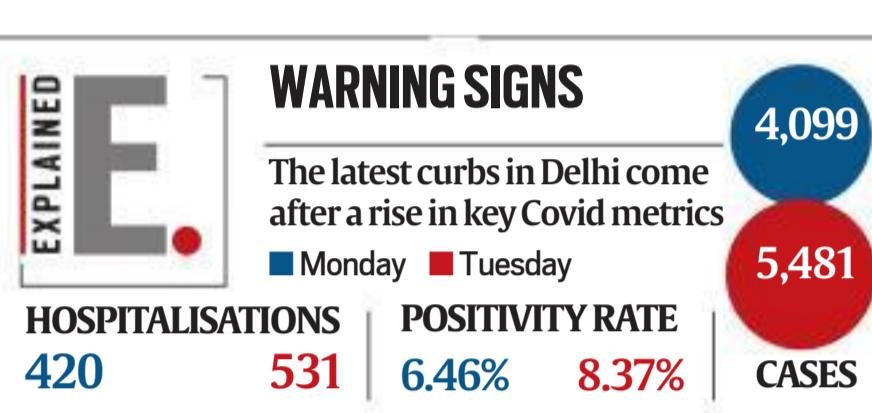
ON A day the national capital reported 5,481 Covid cases and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tested positive for the virus, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) decided to impose a weekend curfew in the city.

Officials said that all services, except shops selling essential items such as groceries, will be shut over the weekend. This includes malls, markets and restaurants. Since a night curfew is already in place, the curfew will be in effect between 10 pm Friday and 5 am Monday.

The national capital is the first major metro to announce such stringent curbs, as a fresh Covid

wave, driven largely by the more transmissible Omicron variant, sweeps across the country.

According to the Delhi government's health bulletin issued on Tuesday, 5,481 cases were reported at a positivity rate of 8.37 per cent, up from two percent points in a day. There are 531 people admitted in hospitals, up from 420 on Monday. Of these, 308 are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms and 168 are on oxygen support, up from 124 on



**WEEKEND CURFEW**

- 10 pm on Friday to 5 am on Monday
- All shops, except those selling essentials, to be shut
- Public transport only for those on essential duty
- 50% occupancy rule in buses, metros rolled back
- WFH for all govt officials, except for essential duty
- Private offices asked to work at 50% strength

Monday. The number of patients on ventilator support, however, has doubled to 14 in a day's time.

Announcing the weekend

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**OVER 100 DOCTORS TEST POSITIVE AT 4 DELHI HOSPITALS**

**WEEKEND CURFEW IN KARNATAKA TOO**

PAGES 4, 7

**Cruise ship back from Goa, Mumbai tests all aboard**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PANAJI, MUMBAI, JANUARY 4

A DAY after 66 people on board the *Cordelia Empress* tested positive for Covid-19 in Goa, the cruise ship returned to Mumbai Tuesday evening where municipal officials waited to screen over 2,000 passengers on board.

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's Additional Municipal Commissioner Suresh Kakani said: "Our team is already there at the docks. They will test everyone by Tuesday night and those positive will be taken to the Richardson & Cruddas Covid treatment and isolation centre. Almost all passengers are residents of Mumbai, so we can't deny them entry."

Amitabh Kumar, Director  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Suspected Maoists target ex-BJP MLA, slit throats of 2 police guards**

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, JANUARY 4

IN AN attack on former BJP MLA Gurucharan Nayak, suspected Maoists reportedly slit the throats of two police personnel assigned to guard him, during a felicitation ceremony in Goiklera police station area of West Singhbhum district in Jharkhand on Tuesday.

A press release issued by DSP, Headquarters, West Singhbhum, Sudhir Kumar, said the former Manoharpur MLA was in Jhirlua village, under Goiklera police station, to participate in a sports event. "After the sports event ended around 5.30 pm, Naxals in civil dress surrounded his vehicle and snatched the weapons of his guards... one got killed and another went missing (he was found dead later). The third guard along with the former MLA reached Sonua safely. After we were informed, the West Singhbhum police and CRPF personnel started conducting raids which is ongoing," said the statement.

Ajay Linda, Chaibasa SP, confirmed that two guards were  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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CDSL:

<https://sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmid=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.

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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.



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**Assam Padma awardee is booked for alleged rape of foster child**

TONA AGARWALA  
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 4

A PADMA awardee has been booked under the POCSO Act for allegedly raping a minor while she was under his foster care.

Based on a complaint from a Chief Judicial Magistrate who was briefed by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) on December 17, the Assam Police registered an FIR against the man the very next day, invoking sections of the Indian Penal Code and the POCSO Act.

"We cannot comment on it since it's sub judice, but the investigation is on," said a police officer investigating the case.

Following the FIR, the man moved the Gauhati High Court, seeking pre-arrest bail. On December 28, he was granted interim bail, and the court called for the case diary on January 7.

In his order, Justice Arun Dev Choudhury said the offence

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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## FROM PAGE ONE

## Capital curbs

dropping, home isolation is the best bet. The government is wary and doesn't want the disease to spread, so that resources can be managed better," Sisodia said.

He said that all Delhi government officials, except those involved in essential duties, will work from home. Private offices have been asked to curtail staff at 50 per cent strength.

The earlier curbs on public transport, whereby the permitted occupancy was restricted to 50 percent of total seats, has been removed. Sisodia said this was being done to ensure no crowding or lines at bus stops and Metro stations, which have been witness to agitated passengers of late.

"We saw in some cases that

because the seating capacity in buses was curtailed, long lines and crowds were seen at bus stops. These places were at risk of becoming super-spreaders. We have decided that buses and Metros will now run at full capacity, but no one will be allowed in without masks. This is being done to ensure there is no crowding at stations and bus stops," he said.

As part of curbs put in place last week, all educational institutions in the city are shut, as are cinema halls, gyms and yoga studios. Restaurants are functioning at 50 per cent capacity.

The Delhi government has been wary of announcing a complete lockdown, fearing a repeat of the migrant worker exodus seen in March-April 2020 and then again in April 2021.

The first lockdown in Delhi was announced on March 23, 2020, two days before the national lockdown was announced. At the time, there were 30 Covid cases in the city, and 23 hospital admissions.

The second lockdown was announced by the Delhi government on April 19, in the midst of the second Covid wave, on a day that 23,686 cases were reported in a day at a positivity rate of over 26 per cent. Over 15,000 beds were occupied at the time.

## Cruise ship

General of Shipping, has ordered Cordelia cruises to stop operations immediately. "I have constituted a committee to investigate this incident. I have also told the operators to halt operations immediately," he said.

The cruise ship, carrying 2017 passengers, left Mumbai on January 1 and reached Goa the next day where it berthed at the Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) cruise terminal. Port officials said it set sail for Mumbai at 11 pm Monday.

Tests conducted in Goa showed that 66 people on board were Covid-19 positive.

Port officials in Goa said there were arguments when passengers were not allowed to disembark, but matters were resolved before the ship set sail for Mumbai.

The Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt Ltd, which owns the

luxury cruise lines, said the Goa administration had shown "lack of empathy" in not allowing passengers to disembark.

South Goa Collector Ruchika Katyal said there was no disembarkation restriction on passengers who had tested negative, and that 13 passengers had in fact got off the ship.

In a statement issued Tuesday, Jurgen Bailom, CEO and President, Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt Ltd, said: "It was disheartening to witness lack of empathy on the part of the authorities for neither allowing local residents nor tourists to disembark. The cruise, however, will be bringing them back to Mumbai and scheduling their flights back to Goa. We would also like to state that there were no officials present at the port at the time of this incident. The cruise was merely receiving haphazard instructions from the collector."

Katyal said port officials, police and officers of the district administration were at the site. She said state government protocols do not bar the entry of persons who test negative for Covid-19.

"Thirteen people who tested negative have stayed back (in Goa) and six who tested positive were admitted to a hospital. When a person is negative, then there is no restriction from our end. It was for the ship to submit as to who wants to get down and whatever details (of negative passengers) we got, we allowed," Katyal said.

"Some positive people were admitted in the hospital by the ship's crew but their families wanted to go back. So from the hospital, these positive people were brought back on the ship again. At that time, there must have been some chaos but it was handled at the site," she said.

Most passengers on board the ship were tourists from Mumbai, Gujarat and Delhi.

MPT Deputy Chairman G P Rai said the cruise liner reached Goa around 11 am on January 2 but was brought into the port by 8 pm. After a crew member tested positive and was taken to a medical facility in Goa, all passengers on board were tested.

On Monday afternoon, RT-PCR tests confirmed that 66 passengers were Covid positive.

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## EXPRESS AUDIO

### Covid surge, NEET EWS quota, and Lakhimpur Kheri chargesheet

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In this episode, we talk about the sharp spike in Covid-19 cases around the country. We also discuss the EWS quota and the Lakhimpur Kheri chargesheet

the woman, while the fourth account was being managed by Jha," said a senior police officer.

Investigating officers said Jha

created an account with the name "Khalsa Supremacist", to

mislead others into believing that it was being operated by a non-Hindu. "In order to make the account look more genuine, they created a few fake Twitter accounts under Sikh names, all of which followed "Khalsa Supremacist", said an officer. On December 31, they changed the name of one of their handles to "Justice for Sikh", said sources.

Meanwhile, Jha, who is from Bihar, was produced before a magistrate court in Mumbai which conducted in-camera proceedings on Tuesday. He was sent to police custody till January 10.

"The police, in their remand application, said they want to conduct searches at his residence and collect documents related to the case. They said there are more accused in the case and hence the proceedings were conducted behind closed doors," said Jha's advocate, Dinesh Pramati.

Jha was studying in a well-known engineering college in South Bengaluru. The head of the department of the college where he was studying said Jha had been on campus since October 4, when offline classes resumed.

He said Jha was an average student and was in the third semester of an engineering programme.

"We started offline classes from October 4 and he started attending classes since then. He is a Bihar resident and we have no idea about his activities. His attendance was 60 per cent and, as per college protocol, we informed his parents about the police taking him to Mumbai," the HoD said.

Based on a complaint filed by one of the women targeted by the app, the Mumbai Police Crime Branch's cyber police station (west) had lodged an FIR on

January 2 against unknown persons who developed the app and some Twitter handles that disseminated its content, under IPC

Sections 153(A) (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion), 153(B) (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration), 295(A) (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings), 354D (stalking), 509 (insulting modesty) and 500 (defamation), and Section 67 (transmitting obscene content in electronic form) of the IT Act.

The app was hosted on US-based GitHub on December 31. Doctored photos of at least 100 Muslim women, along with lewd remarks and comments, were posted online.

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## सोच इमानदार काम लगार



काम लगार



# Twin towers planned at ITO as office space for CM, ministers

**GAYATHRI MANI**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal and his ministers are expected to get new offices as the AAP government is planning to construct a twin-towered building at ITO.

The new building, comprising 30-35 storeys, will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 1,910 crore and constructed on three plots of land at ITO after demolishing the existing structure at Vikas Bhawan-1, MSO Building (PWD headquarters), and GST building, it is learnt. The total plot area of these three existing buildings is 53,603 square meters. The existing built-up area of plots is 38,692

## MEGA PROJECT

**3 buildings that will make space for new structure:** Vikas Bhawan-I, MSO (PWD headquarters) and GST building  
**■ 30-35 storeys, on 53,603 sqm of land**  
**■ Construction expected to begin by 2023**



Meant to be a 'green building', it will have facilities for parking, seminar/conference room with each key office, and an auditorium to accommodate 2,000 people. It will utilise solar power, rainwater harvesting and a sewage treatment plant, and offer facilities such as a library, crèche, community hall, food court, gym and a small market. Currently, the CM, Deputy CM, five ministers and top bureaucrats work from the Delhi Secretariat near Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

A senior PWD official said, "The civil construction on the ground on this project will start by the end of 2023 and it is expected to be completed by 2025."

sqm and the permissible floor area ratio (FAR) is 1.60,809 sqm.

Sources said one of the towers is being planned at the Vikas Bhawan-1 location, and the other where the MSO and GST buildings are currently located.

Tenders have been floated for engaging consultants, who will work on the master plan for maximum utilisation of the permissi-

**UP Police informer, four others rob Rs 75 lakh, arrested**

New Delhi: Five men, including a 20-year-old informer of the Uttar Pradesh Police, have been arrested by the Central district police for allegedly robbing a scrap dealer's employees of collection money worth Rs 75 lakh by posing as policemen.

DCP (Central district) Shweta Chauhan said the arrested men have been identified as Md Rizwan, Md Salman, Md Shoaib, Md Shahbuddin and Sakib Hassan. "During the interrogation, Rizwan disclosed that he is an informer of the UP Police's special operations group (SOG), and earlier was an accountant in a scrap factory. He was aware of the daily collections and shared a plan to rob the cash with his friends. As he also knew working style of police, he decided to commit the robbery," an officer said. As per the complainant, Nizamuddin, the incident took place on December 28. ENS

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For full details of the advertisement and guidelines on application registration on ADA web site, interested candidates may visit our web site <https://www.ada.gov.in>. Registration of application on ADA web site will be accepted from 05<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 1000 hrs onwards. ADA will short-list the eligible candidates for interview depending on availability of vacancies and requirement from time to time.

**Sr.Admin Officer-II, ADA**

## PROJECT DETAILS

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

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

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

<b>6. Parking</b>	Two-wheeler parking with each apartment
<b>7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flooring: Rooms Vitrified Tiles, Kitchen Vitrified / Ceramic Tiles, Toilet Anti-Skid Ceramic Tiles, Balcony Anti-Skid / Matt Finish Ceramic Tiles.</li> <li>Windows: M.S. Sections as per IS Codes / Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Doors Frame: Red Merandi / Mild Steel/ Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Wall Tile: Ceramic Tiles till 4 Feet / 7 feet high &amp; Oil Bond Distemper Above.</li> <li>Kitchen Counter Top Green Marble / Granite • Wall: Oil Bond Distemper • Sanitary fitting: ISI marked CP Fittings, W.C &amp; Washbasin • Electric Fitting: ISI Marked. Structure: RCC Frames Structure designed for SEISMIC forces as per latest IS code and NBC Recommendations.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Applications Timelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Apply Online at TCP website (<a href="https://edraw.tcpcharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home">https://edraw.tcpcharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home</a>) for submitting application for allotment of dwelling units by e-Draw, starting from date 05.01.2022. For more information, call 7053-121-121 (ii) Last Date of submission of Applications is 19.01.2022.</li> </ul>

**Eligibility:** 1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law. 2. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licensed colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats.

3. An applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retaining only one flat.

4. Supportive Affidavit and certificate suggesting eligibility are mandatory to be uploaded at TCP website while submitting application for allotment.

**Allotment Criteria:** 1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.

2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.

3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Group Housing Policy 2013 vide no. PF-2748921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (available at the Department website, i.e., [tcpcharyana.gov.in](http://tcpcharyana.gov.in)).



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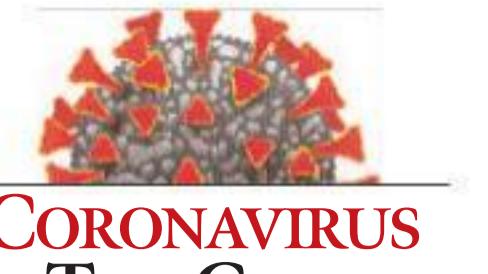
**आशाएं नई खिलीं**  
**पहुंचाई घर-घर**  
**बिजली**



1 करोड़ 41 लाख घरों में  
पहुंचाई बिजली

**सोच इमानदार, काम धमदार**





VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS  
1,85,595  
OMICRON CASES 382  
PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 531  
OXYGEN SUPPORT 168  
VENTILATOR SUPPORT 14

TOTAL CASES		Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	9,116	8,537	
ICU BEDS	2,813	2,672	
Cases	14,889	14,23,699	
Recoveries	14,099	1,509	1
Deaths	1	3	63,477
Tests	65,487	25,113	3,29,98,171
Total active cases			

\*Total active cases

## COULD PUT STRAIN ON SYSTEM

## At 4 hospitals, over 100 doctors positive

ABHINAV RAJPUT &  
ANONNA DUTT

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

AMID THE rise in Covid cases, at least 120 doctors have tested positive and are undergoing quarantine at four major hospitals in the capital.

With the strength of doctors across government hospitals already low due to delays in NEET-PG counselling, the outbreak has thrown fresh challenges.

Those who tested positive over the past few days include roughly 50 doctors at AIIMS, 50 at Safdarjung, 15 at Ram Manohar Lohia and 20 at Hindu Rao hospital. The numbers are likely to be higher if other hospitals are factored in.

At AIIMS, there are 65 staff members, including doctors, who have Covid and are in isolation. As a result, the winter leaves, which were to end on January 10, have been cancelled.

A resident doctor at Safdarjung said more than 40 positive results have been confirmed by the microbiology department, while 10 cases are of doctors who got tested outside.

The biggest challenge is that the hospital is already short-staffed since new batches have not been admitted due to delays in counselling, he said. In fact, this was the cause for a widespread protest by resident doctors across the country recently.

There are more than 2,000 doctors at the hospital.

This time, the infection is mild and most of the people are either asymptomatic or have symptoms like fever and sore throat. The problem is not hospital beds getting full; the prob-



Meanwhile, Tuesday marked the second day of the vaccination drive for children between 15-18 years of age. Gajendra Yadav

lement is a shortage of manpower. Currently, one of the units (every department has four to five units) has run out of resident doctors because all of them are in isolation," said a doctor from the hospital on condition of anonymity.

All heads of departments at the hospital have been asked to report every morning the number

of people in their department who have tested positive.

Hindu Rao resident doctors' association president Tanuraj Tyagi said around 20 doctors have been infected and are currently isolated.

There are 350 resident doctors and around 50 senior doctors, including those from orthopaedic, surgery and

paediatrics departments, at the hospital.

At Ram Manohar Lohia hospital, sources in the doctors' union said around 20 have tested positive for the virus.

A resident doctor at AIIMS said 50-70 doctors have been affected so far. "We have WhatsApp groups in which people keep posting. The exact number is not

known but in every department, there are more than five to six cases and the total number could even be more than 70."

Safdarjung, AIIMS, RML and Hindu Rao are all dedicated Covid facilities.

As per the government orders, all private hospitals and nursing homes in Delhi having 50 beds or more have to reserve

at least 40 per cent of their total bed capacity – that is, 40 per cent of ward bed capacity and 40 per cent of ICU bed capacity – for Covid patients.

Resident doctors at the hospitals said many healthcare workers have been showing symptoms but are not getting tested and the situation can worsen in the coming days.

## Confusion over home isolation protocol likely to end after meeting today

GAYATHRI MANI

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

AMID CONFUSION over home isolation regulations in the capital, the health department will hold a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the protocol for patients infected with Covid, including the new omicron variant.

At the moment, some districts have seen complaints of elderly patients being asked to shift to government facilities, even if they want to isolate at home instead. *The Indian Express* spoke to several district officials, and while most said they were following the Union Health Ministry guidelines issued in April 2021, the current spurt in omicron has led to some amount of ambiguity.

The issue of home isolation was discussed in Tuesday's DDMA meeting as well. We re-

alise that districts are currently following slightly different norms. There is a need for streamlining and we will be discussing that in Wednesday's meeting. As per data, most cases coming in are mild now. The focus has to be on effective home isolation since not all who test positive can be admitted to hospitals or Covid care centres. If that happens, we will run out of beds at a fast pace. A uniform policy for home isolation will be discussed and decided soon," said a senior health department official.

For now, district officials are acting as per older guidelines.

"As per the standard operating procedure (SOP) issued for omicron, Covid positive samples are being sent for genome sequencing, and if any patient is found with the variant, authorities take the patient to a notified government isolation centre for better treatment and care," said south-east District Magistrate Vishwendra.

A senior DDMA official said, "We are conducting 70,000 tests per day. The genome sequencing is less as compared to the number of tests. People need to relax and not panic – it takes about five days for the genome sequencing results."

## Promising booster, accused claiming to be from PMO dupes man

Truecaller app and found it was saved as 'Vaccine Dept'. The man asked me if I had received two doses of the vaccine and then asked me to get the booster as everyone is at risk due to omicron.

He then asked me to get registered and sent an OTP on the phone, I gave him the OTP. Later, he hacked into my WhatsApp account and started messaging my family members to send money. I wasn't even aware of all of this," said Jindal.

In the FIR, Jindal stated that the accused sent messages to people from his contacts list. He asked them to transfer Rs 20,000-Rs 30,000 on Google Pay or Paytm for an emergency and provided them with UPI IDs. A senior officer from Cyber Cell said, "We have received many calls/complaints regarding Covid-related scams. Some are being cheated in the name of getting a booster while others in the name of registering for vaccines or getting tested..."



Delhi has 9,042 beds set aside for Covid patients. Abhinav Saha

Of these, 531 were occupied by Covid positive and suspected patients. This number was 197 a

fortnight ago.

According to a senior health department official, the fact that

a significant portion of Delhi's adult population has been vaccinated is a factor behind the lower hospitalisation rate this time. "We have seen that vaccinated people across the world face milder symptoms in cases of breakthrough infection. Also, the symptoms in patients infected with the omicron variant are milder, as is seen across the world. These patients are also healing faster," the official said.

However, the number of patients on ventilator support doubled in 24 hours. Seven patients were reported to be on ventilator support on Monday and this number rose to 14 on Tuesday.

With the number of people admitted in hospitals inching up each day, the Delhi government has ordered all private hospitals and nursing homes in the city

with a total bed capacity of 50 beds or more to reserve at least 40% of their total bed capacity (40% of beds in wards and 40% of ICU beds) for Covid patients.

A similar order was issued during the deadly second Covid wave. After the number of cases subsided in August, the orders were withdrawn.

According to senior health department officials and doctors, most patients admitted to hospitals at present have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all.

Among those who tested positive on Tuesday was Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. "I have tested positive for Covid. Mild symptoms. Have isolated myself at home. Those who came in touch with me in last few days, kindly isolate yourself and get yourself tested," he tweeted.

With the number of people admitted in hospitals inching up each day, the Delhi government has ordered all private hospitals and nursing homes in the city

cases," said another doctor from the hospital. As per the letter, only 95 beds were available for treatment of trauma patients at the main AIIMS hospital as compared to the 264 available at the stand-alone centre. Only three operation theatres were available instead of six. And, 18 ICU beds were available instead of 38.

These beds are made available under the existing departments of the main hospital. What this effectively means is if I take in the trauma patients, I am pushing out those who probably need cancer surgeries or other planned surgeries," said the senior doctor.

## AIIMS trauma centre designated for Covid again

ANONNA DUTT

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

WITH COVID cases increasing in the city, AIIMS has once again shifted its trauma department to the main hospital and made the stand-alone centre across the road a Covid hospital.

The move has been criticised by doctors at the hospital as it cuts availability of beds, ICU, and operation theatres for trauma patients in need of urgent interventions. It also scatters departments such as the general, neuro, and orthopaedic surgery across the

main hospital, compromising the care of polytrauma patients — those with two or more severe injuries — who need comprehensive treatment by all the teams.

The Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre associated with AIIMS is one of only two level-1 trauma centres — a centre equipped to provide the highest level of care to the critically injured — in Delhi. It was one of the first few stand-alone hospitals that were entirely dedicated to Covid treatment in March 2020.

Trauma services were resumed in late November, keeping 100 segregated beds at the centre still

for Covid patients.

"There are only 150 beds available for trauma care at the centre currently. What is the need to make it a Covid centre? Especially now when we are seeing that the new variant is causing mild disease in most patients. It is sad that we are losing more patients due to trauma than Covid. The hospital has started a new burns and plastics department and a mother and child block that is still not fully utilised and may be used to treat Covid patients," said a senior doctor from the hospital, on condition of anonymity.

The hospital's resident doctors' association has also written to the AIIMS director stating that even with the lockdown, there was only a 20 to 25% decline in the number of trauma patients coming to the hospital, whereas the infrastructure available gets reduced by 75 to 80% when the trauma centre is moved to the main hospital. "Even when road accidents went down because of lockdown, we saw more cases of violence at home and neighbourhoods. Patients were coming to us with stab and blunt wounds... and now we will have cases of road accidents along with such

## AFTER YEAR-LONG STRUGGLE

## In a first, SC certificate made for boy using mother's documents

MALLICA JOSHI

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

WHAT STARTED as a fight for Geeta Devi (30), to get the Scheduled Caste scholarship for her son last year, ended on Tuesday with her case becoming the first in the city where a child was given a caste certificate on the basis of a single mother's documents.

Geeta, who lives in Central Delhi's Bapu Nagar with her

mother, sister and son, was informed by the school last year that she had to submit her son's caste certificate for him to be eligible for scholarships available to children from the category. Thus began her struggle.

After visiting the sub-district magistrate (SDM) office, which issues caste certificates, she was told she would have to bring her husband's caste certificate as proof for her son to get one.

"I am married, but my husband does not figure anywhere

in my life. He left me years ago and is not bothered about us. How could I get his caste certificate as proof?" she said.

"I had an SC certificate in my name. My son is 13 years old and his teachers said I needed to submit his caste certificate for him to be eligible for scholarships. I realised the certificate would also help him later in life and wanted to get it made immediately. When I went to the SDM office, I was told, 'ya toh pita ke naam pe banega, ya ghar ke kissi aadmi ke naam pe'. This was impossible for me. I went to the SDM office four-five times," added Gita, who lost her job in a thread picking unit in 2020 because of the pandemic.

After running around for a few more days, Geeta approached the area MLA, Vishesh Ravi.

According to the Delhi gov-

ernment, till last year, caste certificates were issued only based on the certificate of the father or some other paternal male relative.

After hearing of the case, Ravi wrote multiple letters to the officials in the Revenue Department and met those in the Social Welfare Department and Department for the Welfare of SC/STs of Delhi.

He had also raised this issue in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, highlighting the suf-

fering of single SC/ST mothers, in 2020.

According to officials, a circular to amend the procedure for the issuance of SC/ST caste certificate based on a single mother's caste certificate was issued in July 2020.

"I am finally satisfied that I could do this for my son. I am his parent and caregiver and I was able to give him what he is owed," she said Tuesday after her son's certificate was handed over to her.



Geeta Devi with Manish Sisodia on Tuesday

Sidhu has to be reined in: 4 Punjab ministers to Cong high command

KANCHAN VASDEV  
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 4

THE CONGRESS high command on Tuesday called four Cabinet ministers and one MP to Delhi to discuss the way forward amid a push by PPCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu to be named as the party's Chief Minister face.

Four Cabinet ministers led by Deputy CM Sukhinder Singh Randhawa met AICC general secretary KC Venugopal in Delhi and are learnt to have told him that an undeterred Sidhu needs to be reined in or the party might end up paying a heavy electoral price in the forthcoming polls.

The Cabinet ministers, who accompanied Randhawa, included Sidhu's aide Pargat Singh, Bharti Bhushan Ashu and Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. Fatehgarh Sahib MP Dr Amar Singh was also a part of the delegation that met Venugopal.

The five leaders were called by Venugopal for a meeting in Delhi.



Congress leader Reeta Yadav in hospital.

In UP's Sultanpur, woman Cong leader stopped at gunpoint, fired at

MANISH SAHU  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 4

A CONGRESS leader was shot in the leg by three unidentified assailants in Sultanpur district on Sunday evening.

Reeta Yadav, 35, is in hospital and out of danger.

Yadav, who crossed over to the Congress from the Samajwadi Party last month, was recently in the news for showing black flags to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his November 16 rally in Sultanpur. She had been led out of the ground and arrested.

Police said Yadav had said that the three assailants had forced her driver to stop at gunpoint on the Lucknow-Varanasi highway and opened fire. An FIR has been lodged against unidentified persons at Lamhua Police Station in Sultanpur. No arrests have been made yet.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Sultanpur, Vipul Kumar Srivastava said they had recorded the statements of Yadav and her driver Mustakeem, as well as visited the spot. Mustakeem, 50, a local resident who owned the SUV that Yadav had hired, escaped without any injuries. A panel of doctors is examining Yadav, the ASP said.

Police said they suspect a sophisticated weapon was used in the attack. They have found no eyewitnesses to the incident so far.

Yadav has told police that on Sunday afternoon, she went to Sultanpur for some work in a vehicle. On her way back, as she reached an overbridge on Lucknow-Varanasi Expressway, three men on a black motorcycle reportedly forcibly stopped her vehicle, fired on her and escaped.

"Inquiry is on and the picture would be clear soon," said Senior Superintendent of Police, Sultanpur, Vipin Kumar Mishra.

Congress Sultanpur district president Abhishek Singh Rana said Yadav, a resident of Lalu ka Purva village in the district, joined the party after meeting party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Lucknow and Jagdishpur in Amethi. Sultanpur borders the traditional Gandhi constituency of Amethi.

Abhishek Rana said they would wait till evening to decide what to do on the basis of action taken by police.

Yadav had shown black flags to the PM at a rally addressed by him after inaugurating the Purvanchal Express. A case had been lodged against her at the Gosaiganj police station in Sultanpur.

Yadav also has other cases lodged against her in Sultanpur, dating back to 2018 and 2020. In both cases, a chargesheet has been filed, said a senior police officer.

In 2018, Yadav, her businessman husband Santosh Yadav and two others were arrested under IPC Section 387 (putting a person in fear of death or of grievous hurt, in order to commit extortion). They were later released on bail.

The second case was lodged against Yadav in 2020, after she and some unidentified people took out a protest without following due Covid protocols.

SSP Mishra said Yadav had never made any request for security cover.

**Jaishankar calls Blinken, Lavrov**

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has spoken to the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov within 24 hours on Monday – his first phone calls to his counterparts in the new year.

With Blinken, the conversation covered a range of bilateral and global issues, including situation in the Indo-Pacific region, Jaishankar tweeted. With Lavrov, Jaishankar discussed the follow up of the Annual Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin that took place on December 6. ENS

## 'Double-engine govt' brought Delhi to N-E doorstep: Modi

JIMMY LEIVON &  
DEBRAJ DEB  
IMPHAL, AGARTALA, JANUARY 4

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi, who visited the poll-bound Manipur and Tripura Tuesday to inaugurate development and infrastructure projects running into thousands of crores, said the "double-engine government model" of BJP ruling both Centre and states succeeded in bringing "Delhi – the Government of India – to the doorstep of the Northeast" region.

"Every officer and minister was asked to visit the (Northeast) region and serve the people as per their local needs. You can see that there are five important faces from the region in key portfolios in the (Union) Council of Ministers," the PM told a public meeting in Imphal.

Kicking off the BJP's campaign for the upcoming Manipur Assembly elections, Modi said Manipur was once "synonymous with blockades" but has become under the BJP rule "a symbol of a



PM Narendra Modi being welcomed in Manipur, Tuesday. PTI

new work culture of change, peace and development". He claimed there was no more extremism in the border state.

The PM accused previous governments of neglecting the Northeastern states, charging them with using instability and division for political gains.

"Do not let Manipur fall into darkness again, for these forces are still at work to sow seeds of division," he told a large gathering after inaugurating 13 projects worth around Rs 1,850 crore and laying

the foundation for nine projects worth around Rs 2,950 crore.

Modi thanked the people of Manipur for the formation of a stable BJP government and attributed to its stability benefits people got under central schemes.

Among the projects for which foundation stones were laid by the PM are five national highways to be built at Rs 1,700 crore. And the newly-inaugurated projects include a steel bridge on the Barak river on NH37, which would decongest traffic between

Imphal and Silchar in Assam. He also dedicated 2,387 mobile towers built to people.

In Agartala later in the day, the PM inaugurated a Rs 500-crore terminal building at Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport and said Tripura was set to become a trade and business hub of the Northeast, under the HIRA (highways, internet services, railways and airways) model of development he said he had promised in 2018.

Modi also addressed a public meeting where, amid chants of "Modi Hai To Mumkin Hai", he said Tripura had been reeling under poverty and underdevelopment under previous governments.

Stating there was no alternative to "double-engine government" model, Modi praised the Biplab Deb government for its implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, which he said benefited over 1.8 lakh people in the state. "We have received tremendous love here. This is huge capital. We shall return it with 'double vikas' through our 'double-engine government', he asserted.



BJP president J P Nadda in Secunderabad on Tuesday. PTI

## 'Undemocratic': Nadda on Telangana BJP chief's arrest

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 4

BJP NATIONAL president J P Nadda on Tuesday participated in a candlelight protest in Secunderabad against the arrest of Telangana BJP chief and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Sunday night.

Kumar was arrested after he and other supporters staged a protest against a state government order regarding the transfers and postings of government employees in the newly created districts of Telangana. Police said

the protesters had defied Covid-19 protocol and rules in view of the emergence of Omicron.

Hyderabad City Police initially declined permission for Nadda's Tuesday rally, but "agreed" after he promised that all the BJP leaders and supporters will strictly follow Covid-19 restrictions. Subsequently, the BJP decided not to hold a rally in the city, and instead held a candlelight protest near Gandhi statue.

At the protest, Nadda spoke of the "undemocratic" arrest of Kumar, and said the state government's action was "suppression of democracy".

**सोच ईमानदार  
काम धमदार**

**राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में ₹45.47 करोड़ से निर्मित  
इन्द्रप्रस्थ उत्तर प्रदेश अतिथि गृह, नई दिल्ली**

तथा

**₹51.36 करोड़ से निर्मित परिसंभागीय  
वाणिज्य कर कार्यालय भवन, नोएडा**

**लोकार्पण**

**योगी आदित्यनाथ**

**मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा  
(वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से)**

दिनांक  
05 जनवरी, 2022

समय  
सात 6:30 बजे

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5, कालिदास मार्ग  
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## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

## AGE MATTERS

ATTORNEY GENERAL for India K Venugopal, 90, on Tuesday made yet another pitch for increasing the age of retirement for judges of higher judiciary. Venugopal has been a vocal advocate of increasing tenure of the judges, and has consistently spoken about it at every farewell of Supreme Court judges since 2017. Currently, 62 is the retirement age for High Court judges and 65 for Supreme Court judges. At Tuesday's online farewell for Supreme Court judge Subhash Reddy, the nonagenarian asked why judges must retire at 65 when lawyers can comfortably argue even at the age of 70-75 years.

## MAKING A POINT

AT THE beginning of the New Year, soldiers of the Indian Army and China's People's Liberation Army exchanged greetings across 10 locations, including eastern Ladakh where the two have been involved in a standoff over the past 20 months. While the Indian Army shared photos of the exchanges, Chinese social media handles shared videos and images of the PLA troops unfurling the Chinese flag in Galwan Valley – which saw violent clashes in June 2020 that left 20 Indian and at least four Chinese troops dead. On Tuesday, the Indian Army too shared photographs of its soldiers with the Tricolour in Galwan Valley from January 1. The troops from both sides, however, were on their respective sides of the buffer zone.

## LOGO PICK

INDIA AND Japan established diplomatic relations on April 28, 1952. To mark its 70th anniversary this year, the two countries have decided to have special logos. While Japan launched its logo in August 2021, India launched its logo on Tuesday after a competition in which a total of 1,131 entries were received. The logo depicts a Peacock and a Green Pheasant – the national birds of India and Japan respectively. The Green Pheasant forms the numeral 7 with its tail and the Peacock forms the numeral 0. It has been created by Anup Deo Puri, who has studied Master of Computer Application at Sardar Patel University in Gujarat.

## Odisha CM sanctions Rs 78 lakh for outfits run by Missionaries of Charity in state



Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik

DAYS AFTER the Centre's decision against renewing FCRA registration of the Missionaries of Charity, effectively cutting off its foreign funding, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday sanctioned Rs 78.76 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for institutions run by the Missionaries of Charity (MoC) in the state.

Thirteen institutions run by MoC in eight districts will benefit from the funds.

This comes days after Patnaik had directed all district collectors to ensure that no inmate of organisations run by the non-profit organisation across the state suffers from any distress. In a letter to all collectors, he had asked them to be in regular touch with organisations run by MoC, established in 1950 by Mother Teresa, to ensure that no inmate from these institutions suffers, especially from food and health-related issues. "Wherever needed, funds from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund can be utilised for this purpose," Patnaik wrote.

An official from the CM's office said: "Based on the CM's directions, all collectors carried out assessments in their districts and sent out requirements for the institutions. Based on (these) requests, assistance has been sanctioned." According to the official, more than 900 inmates in various leprosy centres and orphan-

ages in the state will benefit from the sanction, and more assistance will be released "as and when required".

The Sisters of MoC arrived in Odisha in 1974. Since then, they have opened 18 homes: nine for the sick, the abandoned and the elderly; six facilities for children; and three centres for the treatment of leprosy-afflicted and those suffering from mental illness. There are 87 sisters who look after these institutions.

In Odisha, Christians form the largest minority group, with a population of 11.6 lakh, as per the last Census. They constitute 2.7 per cent of the state's population, followed by Muslims (2.17 per cent).

In 2008, Odisha witnessed major riots when people from Christian community were targeted by Hindutva groups in Kandhamal. At the time of the incident, BJP and BJD were in a coalition government, with Patnaik as chief minister. The BJD called off its alliance with the BJP the following year and also swept the Assembly polls, winning 103 out of 147 seats.

## SIGNS OF INFIGHTING

## BJP MLA complains to Uttarakhand CM about neglect by two ministries held by same minister



State minister Harak Singh Rawat

ministries are run by minister Harak Singh Rawat.

In his January 1 letter, sources said, the MLA demanded deployment of an executive engineer in Nainital electricity distribution section, which was recently

Akhilesh set to visit Ayodhya, address rallies on January 9

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 4

SAMAJWADI PARTY (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav is scheduled to visit Ayodhya this weekend to lead the eleventh phase of the party's *Vijay Yatra*.

This will be Yadav's first visit to Ayodhya during the ongoing election campaign. On December 26, Union Home Minister Amit Shah alleged that the SP chief was planning to stop the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya if elected to power in the upcoming Assembly polls. Senior BJP leaders on the campaign trail have also pointed out that the SP was in power when the police fired at *kar sevaks* in Ayodhya in 1990.

"The full schedule of the visit will be released on Wednesday," SP national spokesperson Rajendra Choudhary said. Sources said Yadav will stay in Ayodhya on Saturday and address rallies in the temple town the following day. He may also travel to several places in the district in a "rath". SP district president Ganga Singh Yadav said a team of party leaders will visit Ayodhya on Wednesday to chalk out the plan.

Yadav recently said that SP would have completed the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya within a year.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at an event to lay the foundation stone of an anti-terror squad (ATS) training centre, in Deoband on Tuesday. PTI

## Previous govts used to withdraw cases against terrorists, says Yogi

MAULSHREE SETH &  
AMIT SHARMA  
MEERUT, JANUARY 4

ATTACKING THE Samajwadi Party, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday alleged that the previous governments used to withdraw cases against terrorists and that the law and order situation in the state was in a bad shape until the Bharatiya Janata Party government implemented its "zero tolerance policy towards criminals and anti-social elements".

"Cases against terrorists used to be withdrawn by previous governments but our government shoots them. We are opening this ATS Training Centre to finish off terrorists," Adityanath said, addressing a meeting after laying the foundation stone of an Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) Training Centre at Saharanpur's Deoband on Tuesday.

Yogi said that the previous governments did not like to discuss crime control or the ATS but it was because of the zero tolerance policy of his government towards the criminals and anti-so-

cial elements.

"The change (in governance) is visible to all of you. It is because of our policy (of zero tolerance) that there had not been a single riot in Uttar Pradesh during the BJP rule of nearly five years," said the UPCM.

Reacting to a statement of Akhilesh Yadav, where he spoke about constructing Ram Temple, Adityanath said that even Lord Krishna is cursing "babus" (Yadav) for ordering to fire on Ram Bhaktas, engineering riots in Muzaffarnagar and creating havoc at Jawahar Bagh and Kosi Kalan."

In its communication to the universities dated December 28, 2021, UGC said that the Ministry of Education, on November 30, wrote to it conveying its observation that some departments have been started in central universities "without any assessment of the number of students interested in such courses".

"Therefore, it is requested that you may conduct the courses based on the demand of the students and the number of students attending a particular course and do a rationalization of all Departments within the sanctioned number of students and teaching staff aligned with the number of students enrolled in such courses," the UGC wrote to the registrars of all central universities on December 28.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Delhi University Democratic Teachers' Front (DTF) criticised the move, saying the government should not be guided by job prospects only while deciding on such matters.

"This UGC advice will not only see small language and some social science Departments closing down across universities and colleges and loss of jobs for teachers and scholars but also truncate growth of research in these areas. It will weaken these subjects at the school level too. This excess move is unacceptable especially in DU, where 4,500 teachers have been working on an ad-hoc basis for the last several years," it said.

The universities should promote any course they want to launch and raise awareness among students. But there may be a case where there are very few or no takers for a course even after attempts by a particular university to promote it.

Going ahead with the launch of that course or department in such a situation cannot be encouraged considering the UGC funds them. The letter makes it clear that some universities launched departments without following the laid down norms," a senior official said on Tuesday.

The official also rejected the allegation that the UGC's directive will disproportionately hit language and social science departments.

"The demand for high quality liberal arts education has not reduced. But the policies also need to be attuned to the 21st century marketplace of ideas," the official added.

Meanwhile, the DTF has also expressed fear that the decision to rationalise will disproportionately hit ad-hoc teachers. "Any such move is unacceptable especially in DU, where 4,500 teachers have been working on an ad-hoc basis for the last several years," it said.

## As Polavaram project costs jump, Andhra CM seeks PM's help

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 4

THE ESTIMATED cost of the Polavaram multipurpose irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh has jumped to Rs 55,657 crore at 2017-18 rates, according to Chief Minister YS Jagannath Reddy's request to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approval.

The project's estimated cost per 2013-14 prices was approximately Rs 20,400 crore. The revised estimate includes a drinking water supply component of Rs 4,000 crore. "The revised estimates include increasing capacities of the right and left main canals, Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R), land acquisition, and drinking water supply pipelines," Minister for Water Resources P Anil Kumar said.

Reddy also requested PM Modi for the release of pending payments of Rs 2,100 crore already incurred by the state towards the Polavaram project.

The Rs 55,657-crore estimation was mentioned in a revised Detailed Project Report-2, prepared by the state's Water Resources Department. In August last year, Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhar said his ministry had accepted the earlier revised cost estimate of Rs 47,726 crore, although the Ministry of Finance is yet to accept it.

The Chief Minister met Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi on Monday evening.

## KERALA SEMI-HIGH SPEED CORRIDOR

## CM announces rehab package, says he won't give in to protests

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JANUARY 4

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan

WITH PROTESTS mounting in Kerala against the proposed semi-high speed corridor, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday announced a mega rehabilitation and land acquisition package for those affected by the project. He also said his government would not give in to the protests as the project was in the state's interest.

Presenting the project details before a selected audience in the state capital to counter the Opposition-backed protests, the Chief Minister recalled how his previous government facilitated long-pending land acquisition for GAIL, national highway development and inter-state power highway.

"The interest of the state would be implemented meticulously. Surrendering before the protests against the projects, which are beneficial for the state, was not the policy of the previous government. We have the mandate for that stand and this government would continue that policy," he said.

Announcing the rehabilitation package, Vijayan said in rural areas land would be acquired at four times the market rate, while in urban areas it would be

two times the market rate.

"An amount of Rs 13,265 crore has been set apart for compensation. Apart from the compensation for the acquired land and properties, households would be given a compensation of Rs 4.60 lakh. Otherwise, they would get a house constructed under a state scheme along with Rs 1.50 lakh," he said.

A similar attractive package was also announced for traders and others whose means of livelihood would be adversely affected by the project.

The CM said the project would generate 50,000 jobs in its implementation stage, and 1.10 lakh jobs would be created once it is operational. Preference would be given to the eligible from the affected families.

The land acquisition would be completed within two years and the project would be made operational in 2025 after ensuring that the construction is done

THE 529-km rail corridor is envisaged to reduce travel time between south (Thiruvananthapuram) and north (Kasaragod) to 4 hours from the existing 12 hours. The cost of the project has been estimated at Rs 64,000 crore. As the Kerala Rail Development Corporation, the implementing agency, started marking the alignment of the rail corridor, protests erupted in several parts of the state.

365 days round the clock," he said. After assuming office for the second consecutive term in May last year, the government has been pushing for the project.

In the ongoing CPI(M) district conferences, Vijayan has been highlighting the scheme, blaming that the protests were led by a combination of Congress-BJP and Jamaat-e-Islami.

Hours after the announcement, Congress state president K Sudhakaran said his party "would not allow him (CM) to go ahead with the project."

Uttarakhand Cong leader's meeting with BJP triggers exit speculation

*Dehradun:* Former Uttarakhand Congress president Kishore Upadhyay met state Bharatiya Janata Party leaders in Dehradun on Monday night, triggering speculation that he may be in talks to join the BJP. The meeting was held in the presence of Pralhad Joshi. Upadhyay, however, denied the rumours and said he was meeting to convince them to support his Vanadhirakar Andolan on tribal rights. ENS

I-T officials carry out searches at the premises of ACE Group in Noida on Tuesday. Gajendra Yadav

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

THE INCOME Tax Department on Tuesday conducted searches at business premises of a real estate company in Delhi/NCR. Separately, searches were also conducted at business premises of some companies dealing in trade of shoes in Agra, an Income Tax Department official said.

Sources said searches have been conducted at the premises of real estate company ACE Group and its promoter Ajay Chaudhary in Delhi, Noida and Greater Noida, among other locations.

"As a law-abiding company, we strictly adhere to all laws, rules and regulations. Income-Tax (department) had raided the group three months back and even at that time the group had fully co-operated with the agency," PTI

quoted an ACE Group spokesperson as saying.

With Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls looming, searches by the I-T Department and GST authorities at premises of several businessmen triggered a political blame game between the ruling BJP and the Opposition Samajwadi Party. Last month, GST authorities had searched the premises of a perfume trader, Peeyush Jain, in Kanpur and Kannauj.

A total of Rs 197.49 crore cash, 23 kg gold and some goods of high value were allegedly recovered by the authorities in Kannauj at Odochem Industries – a manufacturer of perfumery compounds – and its proprietor Peeyush Jain, the I-T department had said.

Later, searches were conducted at premises of a perfume businessman said to have links with the SP, Pushpraj Jain ("Pampi"), as well as Fauzan Malik.

## J&amp;K Police to get US-made rifles, pistols for anti-militancy operations: officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JANUARY 4

THE JAMMU and Kashmir Police has decided to equip personnel of its counter-insurgency force, the Special Operations Group, with American Sig Sauer assault rifles and pistols.

The force had invited global bids on the Government e-Marketplace portal, expressing its

intent to purchase modern assault rifles and pistols some months ago, officials said in a statement on Tuesday.

A number of arms manufacturers responded to it, but the choice fell on the American ones, they said. Sources said the force initially intends to procure 500 Sig Sauer 716 rifles and 100 Sig Sauer MPX 9mm pistols for the SOG, besides the personnel deployed for security of protected people.

If the proposal is approved, the Indian Army personnel guarding the Line of Control with Pakistan and the Line of Actual Control with China are equipped with Sig Sauer assault rifles, which have a 7.62x51 mm cartridge as compared to the 5.56x45 mm cartridge of the INSAS (Indian Small Arms System) rifles used by the police.

## 'TEACH COURSES ON DEMAND'

## UGC's letter to universities draws criticism

ers' front said.

The UGC, in its communication to the registrars, also cited a May 26, 2020, note of the Department of Higher Education in which the Centre had set norms on the number of departments that can be opened in a central university in the initial five years of their operations, keeping in mind the number of potential students expected.

Referring to that guideline, a UGC official said on the condition of anonymity that the apprehensions over the latest UGC communication are "misplaced" as it is a reiteration of existing guidelines that universities should launch courses and departments after a thorough assessment of demand.

"The universities should promote any course they want to launch and raise awareness among students. But there may be a case where there are very few or no takers for a course even after attempts by a particular university to promote it. Going ahead with the launch of that course or department in such a situation cannot be encouraged considering the UGC funds them," the official said.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Delhi University Democratic Teachers' Front (DTF) criticised the move, saying the government should not be guided by job prospects only while deciding on such matters.

"This UGC advice will not only see small language and some social science Departments closing down across universities and colleges and loss of jobs for teachers and scholars but also truncate growth of research in these areas. It will weaken these subjects at the school level too. This excess move is unacceptable especially in DU, where 4,500 teachers have been working on an ad-hoc basis for the last several years," the official added.

Meanwhile, the DTF has also expressed fear that the decision to rationalise will disproportionately hit ad-hoc teachers. "Any such move is unacceptable especially in DU, where 4,500 teachers have been working on an ad-hoc basis for the last several years," it said.



# Mumbai reports over 10k fresh Covid cases

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 4

MUMBAI ON Tuesday registered 10,606 new Covid-19 cases, crossing the 10,000 mark for the first time since April 7, 2021, when it had recorded 10,428 cases.

The highest number of cases recorded in the city in a single day was on April 4, 2021, when 11,163 cases were registered.

The 10,606 new infections recorded on Tuesday was 34% higher than that of Monday. Two fatalities were also registered, as per data of the public health department.

The test positivity rate shot up to 21.8%. Of the 49,661 tests conducted, 10,860 were detected with Covid-19, as per the data of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

The difference between the data of the BMC and the state government is due to the delay in updating daily cases to the centralised server.

Out of the total detected patients, 9,665 (89%) of the patients are asymptomatic. Also, 834 of



Children wait for the jab at a vaccination centre in Mumbai on Tuesday. Amit Chakravarty

them required hospitalisation, of whom 52 are on oxygen support. Of the 30,565 beds available, 4,491 are currently occupied.

A total of 18,466 Covid-19 cases have been detected in Maharashtra, with a 51.8% surge from Monday, when 12,160 cases were identified. Before this, the state had surpassed the 18,000 daily cases mark on May 30, when it recorded 18,600 cases. Mumbai was again the

major contributor to the state's total tally on Tuesday, followed by Thane Municipal Corporation with 1,354 cases and Navi Mumbai with 1,116 cases.

"Due to the delay in confirmation of Omicron variants, we are getting delayed in quarantining them. Due to the high transmission rate, close contacts of the patients also get infected," said an officer from the civic health department. "We are putting

curbs on gatherings to stop the fast transmission of the virus. We know that cases will double and are aiming at controlling its growth," he added.

The infection rate among healthcare workers has also surged. As per data shared by Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD), 170 resident doctors contracted Covid-19 in the last two days in Maharashtra.

In Bengaluru Urban district, all schools and colleges, except medical and paramedical institutions, will remain closed from January 6, except for students in classes 10, 11 and 12. Schools in other districts will continue to function, it was announced.

The meeting was held in view of the sudden jump in number of Covid-19 cases in the state. Karnataka logged 2,479 cases on Tuesday and four fatalities, PTI reported. Since January 1, the city has been logging over 1,000 cases daily.

The order issued by the government stated, "All offices will function five days a week from Monday to Friday during this period. The Government Secretariat will run with officials below the rank of Under Secretary at 50 percent working strength. There shall be weekend curfew from Friday 10 pm to Monday 5 am in the State. In Bengaluru Urban district, all

"In metro cities, when cases of Omicron were detected in December last year, we sequenced isolates of Covid patients for genomic structure. Last week, 84 per cent cases in Delhi were of Omicron variant. Similarly, in other places, 60-75 per cent of the isolates are of Omicron variant. Overall in the country, it was 28 percent last week and it is increasing rapidly," Dr Arora said.

The active Covid-19 caseload currently stands at 1.71 lakh cases and the weekly positivity rate is 2.05%, according to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare data. A total of 1,892 cases of Omicron variant have been detected in India on Tuesday.

Screening of passengers from all foreign countries will also be strengthened at airports, the meeting decided. As on January 3, Kerala had 181 Omicron cases.

## Only one of 578 Omicron patients in Maharashtra had serious illness: data

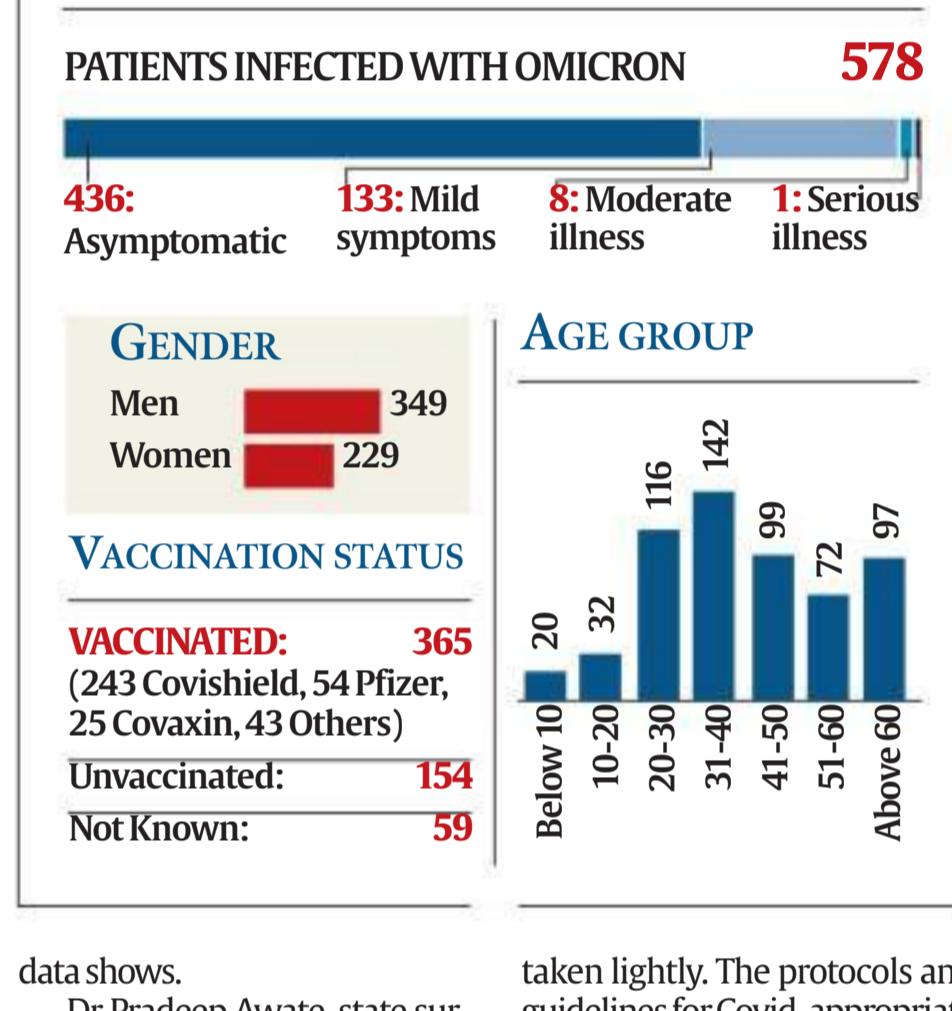
ANURADHA MASCARENHAS  
PUNE, JANUARY 4

ONLY ONE of the 578 people, who were confirmed to have been infected with Omicron, developed severe illness from Covid-19 in Maharashtra, the state health department said on Tuesday, in findings that support early studies on the highly transmissible variant.

Eight other patients were moderately ill, with symptoms such as fever and oxygen saturation, and 133 had mild symptoms, the department said, adding that 436 patients were asymptomatic.

The government data also falls in line with scientific consensus that the Omicron variant evades immunity from infection after two-dose vaccines.

As many as 365 of the 578 people, over 63 per cent, were vaccinated, 154 were unvaccinated, and the status of 59 other patients was not immediately known, the



data shows.

Dr Pradeep Awate, state surveillance officer said, "The spread of Omicron variant must not be

taken lightly. The protocols and guidelines for Covid-appropriate behaviour remain the same and must be followed diligently."

## MAHARASHTRA

## Home tests up, concern over unreported cases

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 4

THE SHARP surge in demand for at-home antigen testing kits amid the third Covid wave has become a cause of concern for the Maharashtra health department. Officials believe that many positive cases are going unreported as those testing positive are not informing the agencies. The Covid-19 national task force too has flagged the issue.

Even as active Covid-19 cases in Maharashtra rose five times in

the last month, the demand for at-home antigen testing kits also spiked. As per Sujit Jain, director, MyLab Discovery Solutions, the demand for CoviSelf has surged by nearly 200% in the third wave. However, the public health department has no mechanism to record Covid positive cases which is causing under-reporting of the actual daily burden in the state.

As per the protocol, each of the easy-to-use testing kits has a unique QR code to ensure traceability and genuineness. "When you take the test, you have to download the app and take a pic-

ture of the result. The report is submitted to the ICMR website directly. We take undertakings from all our retailers and customers," said Jain.

However, it is not mandatory for the users to upload their results. A test drive by *The Indian Express* confirms the same. If the T(Test) line appears on the card, the suspected patient is considered Covid positive. As the test results are already visible on the card without uploading it on the app, users may keep away from doing so to avoid quarantine and subsequently, flout the Covid-19

safety protocols.

"We are coming up with new advertisements to encourage people to submit their reports," Jain said. "We are aware of the situation and will take the required steps to ensure that the positive cases don't go unreported," said Dr Pradip Awate, state surveillance officer.

"There is no data from home testing kits. It is a screening test, not a confirmatory test... If those testing positive don't follow isolation rules, they will end up infecting close contacts," said Suresh Kakani, additional commissioner, BMC.

## MP cabinet approves scheme to help govt procurement agencies

IRAM SIDDIQUE  
BHOPAL, JANUARY 4

THE MADHYA Pradesh government in a Cabinet meeting Tuesday gave its nod to MP Mukhyamantri Krishak Upayan Sahayta Yojna, a scheme aimed at providing budgetary allocation to enable government agencies such as Food and Civil Supplies Corporation and Markfed to tide over operational losses incurred during procurement of grains from farmers.

The announcement comes at a time the MP government has suffered a cumulative operational loss of nearly Rs 6,000 crore in procurement of grains, and another Rs 12,000 crore is stuck in unsettled accounts of grains procured by the Centre.

The MP government procures grain through the Department of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, along with MP Markfed. It receives payments for procured grain from the Centre after the stock is lifted. These agencies in turn borrow loans to pay farmers within 10 days, while awaiting its dues with the Centre to be settled.

This scheme had been brought to ensure agencies such as MP Markfed out of the vicious

cycle of paying heavy interest on loans taken to ensure procurement and timely payment to farmers," said Agricultural Minister Kamal Patel said. "If the present set-up continues without any interventions, these departments reeling under huge debts will not be able to undertake procurement."

He also said that in cases of many crops, and pulses such as moong, the state government procured around 1 lakh metric tons against the stipulated procurement limit of 95,000 metric tons set by the Centre.

The move was undertaken to ensure farmers get a fair market price. However, the cost of increased procurement was borne by the state government through loans. But the dues are paid back to the state government only once the stock is lifted from the godown.

A senior state official said that in cases where stocks are not taken, refused, or rejected, the operation and other procurement cost is entirely borne by government agencies.

Until March 2021, the MP government had a debt of Rs 2.5 lakh crore in loans, which exceeded its budget of Rs 2.41 lakh crore. The government presently pays Rs 20,942 crore every year as interest.

## Karnataka imposes weekend curfew

Night curfew extended till Jan 19

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, JANUARY 4

WITH COVID-19 cases surging, the Karnataka government on Tuesday decided to impose weekend curfew and extend night curfew until January 19.

Curfew will be in place between 10 pm and 5 am across the state.

In Bengaluru Urban district, all schools and colleges, except medical and paramedical institutions, will remain closed from January 6, except for students in classes 10, 11 and 12. Schools in other districts will continue to function, it was announced.

All rallies and protests are prohibited. The government has also directed that there should be intensive surveillance on the state's boundaries with Kerala, Maharashtra and Goa.

State Revenue Minister R Ashoka said, "Many people who have returned from Goa after the new year have tested positive.

We are looking to trace everyone who returned from Goa after January 1; they will be tested. For international passengers from high-risk countries, an RT-PCR

test will be done. If found positive, triaging will be done and they will be sent to Covid Care Centres or hotel isolation." The government order said movement of trains and air travel are permitted.

## KERALA

### Public gatherings limited

With 3,640 cases on Tuesday, Kerala imposed a number of measures, including restrictions on public events. The number of participants in closed premises

will be limited to 75, while in open spaces gatherings of 150

will be allowed. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by CM Pinarayi Vijayan.

Screening of passengers from all foreign countries will also be strengthened at airports, the meeting decided. As on January 3, Kerala had 181 Omicron cases.

## ODISHA

### Be ready, hospitals told

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday directed all private and public hospitals to prepare in the next 10 days to handle the third wave of the Covid pandemic.

"Omicron is spreading rapidly across the country. The number of patients has doubled in a few days. Odisha is also witnessing an increase in the number of patients... we need to take immediate steps to ensure that the next wave is properly managed and hospitals are ready to handle the situation," he said.

## FOR THE PM

A crowded Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad on Tuesday during a "blessing ceremony" for PM Narendra Modi. Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel also attended the event. Nirmal Harindran

## In Jharkhand, man lynched, body set on fire over tree felling

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, JANUARY 4

A 34-YEAR-OLD man was on Tuesday lynched and his body set on fire by villagers who accused him of cutting trees at a place which they considered sacred according to their tribal customs.

Police said Sanju Pradhan of Chaprideepa village in Simdega district of Jharkhand was dragged out of his home in the afternoon by a large group of angry fellow villagers after he skipped a meeting called by them to discuss and resolve the tree-felling issue. The mob took Pradhan to nearby Besrajar area and beat him to death. They also set his body on fire. They rushed to the spot after we received information. We could reach the place only after negotiating with the villagers."

No arrests have been made so far as more than 500 people were involved in the lynching, the police officer said.

Terming the incident as "unfortunate", Simdega Deputy Commissioner Sushant Gaurav said, "We are trying to ascertain the exact sequence of events that led to the killing. It is true that the villagers considered the area from where the person used to cut trees a sacred place... The administration and police are working to bring the culprits to justice."

## BENGAL POST-POLL VIOLENCE

## Registered 51 cases, charges filed in 20: CBI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JANUARY 4

murder, rape, and attempt to rape," it stated. "As such, CBI has registered cases meeting only these criteria..."

The agency stated, "No case meeting the criteria laid down by High Court and referred (to) by NHRC has been closed. Insofar as 29 complaints of sexual offence referred by NHRC, CBI has registered 7 regular cases and rest have been/and are being legally processed." It stated, "CBI refutes reports, published in a section of media alleging that CBI has found no evidence in 21 cases listed by NHRC relating to rape and attempt to rape which were mandated to CBI by High Court. These reports contain misrepresentation of facts, are mischievous, grossly misleading & entirely false."

## Kerala revokes senior IAS officer Sivasankar's suspension

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 4

KERALA GOVERNMENT Tuesday revoked the suspension of senior IAS official M Sivasankar, who was arrested and placed under suspension in July 2020 in gold smuggling case, officials said. Sivasankar was the principal secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The decision to withdraw the suspension came following the recommendation of a commit-

tee headed by the chief secretary. The cabinet will soon fix his next assignment.

The gold smuggling case pertains to the seizure of 30 kg of gold on July 5, 2020 from a diplomatic baggage at the air cargo of the Trivandrum International Airport by the Customs (Preventive) Commission, Kochi.

The state had placed Sivasankar under suspension on charges of illegally appointing Swapna Suresh, a key accused in the case, with a government entity under the IT Department.



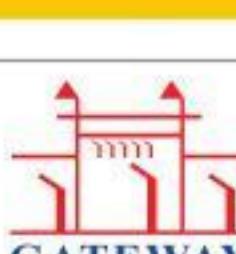
## INDIA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND COVETED JOURNALISM AWARDS

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- Print/Digital • Arts, Culture and Entertainment • Books (Non-Fiction) • Prakash Kardaley Memorial Award for Civic Journalism • Photo Journalism



# RNG 2019: The winners

**EXPRESS NEW SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

OVER THE last few days, we have introduced you to standout works from journalists across the country who have been recognised by the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism awards for their work done in 2019. They were tenacious in chasing leads, sifted fact from opinion and myth-making, investigated all angles and held up the truth, simple and pointed. Here is the complete list of winners:

**HINDI (PRINT):** Anand Choudhary, Dainik Bhaskar  
**HINDI (BROADCAST):** Sushil Kumar Mohapatra, NDTV India

**REGIONAL LANGUAGES (PRINT):** Aniket Vasant Sathe, Loksatta  
**REGIONAL LANGUAGES (BROADCAST):** Sunil Baby, Media One TV  
**ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REPORTING (PRINT):** Team Pari (People's Archive Of Rural India), comprising Shalini Singh, Sanket Jain, Ritayan Mukherjee, Vishaka George, Kavitha Muralidharan, Medha Kale, Parth M N, Urvashi Sarkar, Namita Waikar, Chitrangada Choudhury, Aniket Aga, Jaideep Hardikar, M Palani Kumar and Subhi Jiwani and P Sainath.  
**ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE**

**AND TECHNOLOGY REPORTING (BROADCAST):** Team Scroll, comprising Nooshin Mowlana, Sujit Lad, Omkar Phatak, Swati Ali, Dewang Trivedi, Shubhi Suresh and Sannuta Raghav.  
**UNCOVERING INDIA INVISIBLE (PRINT):** Shiv Sahay Singh, The Hindu  
**UNCOVERING INDIA INVISIBLE (BROADCAST):** Tridip K Mandal, The Quint  
**BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC JOURNALISM (PRINT):** Suman Banerji, Business Today  
**BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC JOURNALISM (BROADCAST):** Ayushi Jindal, India Today TV  
**REPORTING ON POLITICS**

**AND GOVERNMENT (DIGITAL):** Dheeraj Mishra, The Wire  
**REPORTING ON POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT (BROADCAST):** Seemi Pasha, Theewire.in  
**SPORTS JOURNALISM (PRINT):** Nihal Koshie, The Indian Express  
**SPORTS JOURNALISM (BROADCAST):** Team NewsX, which included Aishwarya Jain, Siddharth Reg, Riyanka Choudhary and Preerna Sandilya  
**INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING (PRINT):** Kaunain Sheriff M, The Indian Express  
**INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING (BROADCAST):** S Mahesh Kumar, Manorama News

**REPORTING ON ARTS, CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT:** Uday Bhatia, Mint  
**PRAKASH KARDALEY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR CIVIC JOURNALISM:** Chaitanya Marpkwar, Mumbai Mirror  
**PHOTO JOURNALISM:** Zishaan A Latif, The Caravan  
**BOOKS (NON-FICTION):** Arun Mohan Sukumar

The photo stories of our winners appeared in our print and digital editions between December 24, 2021 and January 4, 2022. You can read their stories and watch their video bytes on our website, rngfoundation.com/awards.

**DEVAS-ANTRIX DEAL**  
**Will take action against seizure of assets, says AAI**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, JANUARY 4

**E** Potential damage  
**EXPLAINED**

THE SEIZURE would be an embarrassment for the Indian government as Devas has been claiming that it would underscore that India is an unsafe place to invest in, as the government could ignore its contractual obligations and deploy its law enforcement agencies to harass and intimidate investors.

tion award through assets linked to India.

Besides the Montreal court, the investors had moved a federal court in the US which, on Monday,

turned down their plea to identify assets of Antrix across America. After the investors said Antrix had no assets in Washington district, as they had been directed by the court for the Western district of Washington to find earlier, it told them to identify Antrix assets in the US eastern district of Virginia.

A statement by the senior advisor to the Devas shareholders Jay Newman stated: "The action by Devas in Canada is just a start. Additional actions are forthcoming that will underscore that India is an unsafe place to invest in. No foreign investor should invest in a country where the government can ignore its contractual obligations and deploy its law enforcement agencies to harass and intimidate investors..."

The three investors – CC/Devas Mauritius, Telcom Devas Mauritius and Devas Employees Mauritius Pvt Ltd – had moved the Montreal district court last year for seizure of assets of the Indian government to enforce an October 13, 2020, order by the UN Commission on International Trade Law tribunal for Antrix Corporation (a commercial arm of ISRO) to pay \$111 million as compensation for cancellation of a Devas-Antrix satellite deal signed in 2005.

The Montreal court ordered

the seizure of the AAI funds after

preliminarily identifying it as an

alter ego of the Government of India, which owns ISRO and Antrix. A formal judgment will be

passed later on Devas investors' efforts to collect the compensa-

tion award through assets linked to India.

The foreign investors in Devas

have been trying to get courts on

foreign shores – especially in the

US – to allow identification of as-

sets of Antrix and the Indian gov-

ernment to enforce compensations

awarded by international courts over the failed 2005 Devas-

Antrix satellite deal.

## कुटेशन नोटिस

हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन नारनील में वाहनों की मुरम्मत के लिए हार्डवेयर/पेटी आईटम्स/कॉटन व्होलथ इत्यादि की अगले एक वर्ष के लिए खरीद की जानी है। इच्छुक सप्लायर दिनांक 28.01.2022 तक अपनी सीलबद्ध कुटेशन महाप्रबंधक नारनील के नाम भेज सकते हैं। जिसके उपर स्टार आर्टिम कुटेशन लिखा होना अनिवार्य है। स्टार आर्टिम की लिस्ट व अन्य शर्तों के लिए महाप्रबंधक कार्यालय में सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं। कुटेशन से संबंधित सभी दस्तावेज किसी कार्य दिवस में आकर 200/- रुपये जमा करवाने उपरांत महाप्रबंधक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन कार्यालय से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

महाप्रबंधक,

हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन,

नारनील।

6665/HRY

**HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED**

(A State Government Undertaking)

Block No. 16 & 17, SDA Commercial Complex, Kasumti, Shimla-171009 Himachal Pradesh (India)

Phone No. 0177-6215183, Email: himaputrim@gmail.com

## GLOBAL E-TENDER NOTICE

Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited, Shimla invites Global E-Tenders for the procurement of Fortified Soya Refined Oil for three months supply/six months supply (as the case may be). The detailed tender notice, tender documents and other instructions can be down-loaded or viewed on-line from the portal <https://htptenders.gov.in>. The last date of submission of sample, earnest money deposit, tender document fee, processing fee shall be till 15.01.2022 upto 05:00 PM and on-line tenders shall be till 28.01.2022 upto 05:00 PM The tenders of Fortified Soya Refined Oil shall be opened on 31.01.2022 at 11:00 AM.

Managing Director

**NMDC Limited**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-11/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028  
CIN No - L13100TG195GOI001674

## CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT

Tender Enquiry No: HO(Contracts)/NISP/O&M/PDS/254 Dated: 05/01/2022 NMDC Limited, A "NARAVATA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids from experienced domestic bidders for "Operation & Maintenance Contract for Power Distribution System of NISP for a period of two years at Nagarnar, near Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh state".

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and / or downloaded from – NMDC website <http://www.nmdc.co.in>

Central Public Procurement portal (CPP PORTAL)

<http://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> and MSTC portal

<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/> from 05/01/2022 to 27/01/2022.

For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidders to visit MSTC website and search Tender Event No. NMDC/HO/79/21-22/ET/381.

The Bidders, on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website / CPP Portal / MSTC websites for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted:

Chief General Manager (Contracts), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, Fax No. +91-040-23534746, Tel. No. +91-040-23532800, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in

Chief General Manager (Contracts)

एक काम देश के नाम

इस्पाती इरादा

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**

E-Tender Notice No.: 16-2021-NGP-SNT-DL Date 31.12.2021

Name of Work: Replacement of old version Datalogger and strengthening of existing data logger Network system as per RDSO Guidelines of Nagpur Division.

Tender Cost: ₹. 5849108.77.

EMD: ₹. NIL. Cost of tender booklet:

Nil. Date & Time of closing of Tender:

24.01.2022 at 15.00 hrs. details on

Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

DRM (S&T), Nagpur

RailMadad Helpline 139



50% of hall capacity for Kolkata film fest  
**Kolkata:** Despite the Covid-19 threat, the week-long 27th Kolkata International Film Festival will be held from January 7, the organisers said on Tuesday. They said an audience of 50% of the hall capacity will be allowed. The inaugural ceremony will be held online. Meanwhile, in a tweet Tuesday night, Kolkata Film Festival chairperson and TMC MLA Raj Chakraborty said he and his wife have tested positive for Covid-19.

ENS

## KERALA ACTOR ABDUCTION-ASSAULT CASE

# Trial court directs police to probe director's claims

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JANUARY 4

A TRIAL court in Kochi hearing the case of abduction and sexual assault of an actress directed the police on Tuesday to probe a recent revelation that one of the accused had seen a video of the assault before it was produced in court.

The accused, Dileep, an actor

himself, had allegedly seen the footage of the sexual assault at his home, film director Balachandran Kumar told a Malayalam TV channel in an interview last week. Dileep, the director alleged, had a "close friendship" with the prime accused in the case, Sunil Kumar, alias Pulsar Suni, and got access to the video after he was released on bail.

Following the interview, Balachandran Kumar's statement was recorded by the probe team.

The court directed the police to submit its report on the disclosure by January 20. It, however, has not decided on the prosecution's demand for a further probe into the 2017 case based on the fresh revelation.

Dileep, meanwhile, has alleged a conspiracy behind Balachandran Kumar's disclosure and petitioned the trial court demanding that call and travel de-

tails of the investigating officer, Biju Poulose, be seized. He also petitioned the DGP for the same.

The rape survivor also petitioned the Chief Minister to probe into the director's revelation.

The fresh allegation against Dileep and the prosecution's demand for further probe comes at a time when trial court's six-month extension, given by Supreme Court in August last year, is set to expire next month. The trial

was meant to be completed in February 2021 as per an earlier order of the top court, but it was granted an extension due to the pandemic situation.

Besides, the trial got another twist with special prosecutor V.N. Anil Kumar last week submitting his resignation. He walked out of the court last Wednesday when it told him to submit in writing his request for deferring the examination of Poulose.

The Montreal court ordered the seizure of the AAI funds after preliminarily identifying it as an alter ego of the Government of India, which owns ISRO and Antrix. A formal judgment will be passed later on Devas investors' efforts to collect the compensa-

**MADHYA PRADESH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.**  
Tilhan Sangh Bhawan, 01 Arera Hills Bhopal  
URL : [www.mpphscil.mp.gov.in](http://www.mpphscil.mp.gov.in), Phone : 0755-2578915  
Dated : 04.01.2022

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Tender for rate contracts of following items/Services shall be floated on website & portal from 04.01.2022 to next 30 working days :-  
1. Tender(S) For MPPHSCL Godown Insurance.  
Prospective bidders are requested to visit [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) & [www.mpphscil.mp.gov.in](http://www.mpphscil.mp.gov.in) for further details.  
M.P. Madhyam/103167/2022 CGM (TECHNICAL)

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BARIPADA.**  
Tel. No. 06792-254029, Fax No. 06792-259464, E-mail: [eerws\\_bpd@rediffmail.com](mailto:eerws_bpd@rediffmail.com), [eerws\\_bpdc@rediffmail.com](mailto:eerws_bpdc@rediffmail.com)  
Govt. of Odisha e-procurement Notice  
Bid Identification No. 40 of 2021-22, Date: 30.12.2021

1. Nature of the Work : Execution of Rural Piped Water Supply New Projects under different Blocks in Mayurbhanj district in Percentage rate. (07 packages).  
2. Estimated Cost : 300.93 lakh to 424.58 Lakhs.  
3. Period of Completion : 11 months.  
4. Date and time of availability of bid document in portal : From 11 hour of 01.01.2022 to 16.02.2022 up to 17 hours.  
5. Last Date / Time for receipt of bids : Both Technical & Financial Bid for each Package Up to 17 hours of 16.02.2022.  
6. Name and address of the : Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Baripada.  
7. Date & Time for Opening of Tender : 17.02.2022 at 11.00 A.M.  
8. Corrigendum and addendum if any shall only be published in the above website <http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in>  
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement Portal: [https://tendersodisha.gov.in](http://https://tendersodisha.gov.in)  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Baripada OIPR-25004/11/0036/2122

**NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Notice Inviting Tender**  
For and on behalf of President of India, St. Divisional Electrical Engineer (RSO), Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites 'E-Tender' in prescribed tender form for the following work.

Name of the work with its location	Comprehensive Housekeeping and other allied works at PNP Running Room for the period of two years.
Approx. Tender value (Rs)	Rs. 73,93,257.50/- (Including GST)
E.M.D. (Rs.)	Rs.1,47,900/- Note: Online payment mode available on IREPS website.
Date & Time of tender opening (Immediately when tender submission ends).	28.01

## FROM PAGE ONE

### Girl marathons a draw, Cong hopes for boost in UP poll race

hooon, lad sakti hooon (I am a girl, and I can fight) campaign ahead of the Assembly elections.

On Tuesday, one such marathon at Bareilly saw a near-stampede situation as the eager girls broke into a run. While no one was injured, such impressive turnouts have been a steady feature of these marathons.

Despite the Bareilly incident and questions being raised about the wisdom of holding mass events such as these amid rising Covid numbers, the Congress is pleased at what it says is the "momentum" these marathons have generated. While rival parties have said these are unlikely to translate into any kind of electoral support, the party is hopeful: Never in the recent past has its events generated the kind of buzz these marathons have managed.

The Congress has so far held these 5-km marathons in Meerut (December 19), Jhansi (December 26), Lucknow (28 December) and Bareilly (January 4), with the Jhansi and Lucknow events reportedly drawing over 10,000 runners.

Rahul Richharia, the Congress co-ordinator for the Jhansi event, said the response was so overwhelming that the organisers had to reduce the age-limit to accommodate more participants. "We had said only those aged 18 and above can participate, but (at Jhansi) there were over 500 girls who were less than 18, so we brought down the limit to 15 years. There were also about 400 women above 40, even a 59-year-old," he said.

A police officer said the accused had appeared before them and his statement had been recorded.

According to the FIR, the victim, an inmate of a children's home, had alleged sexual assault for a year by her foster father while she was under his care.

DLSA secretary Bichitra Dutta said the allegation was "serious".

"Based on our preliminary findings on the statement from the victim, other witnesses as well as the CWC's account, the

victim was repeatedly subjected to rape for over a year she was under his foster care," she said, adding that "findings of medical examination, conducted as part of the enquiry, also prima facie support the allegations".

The victim is currently in a children's home, under special police protection.

According to the FIR, the victim was placed under foster care of the accused for a period of one year (in August 2020) with the condition that it would have to be renewed.

The FIR alleged that the accused did not renew the child's foster care deed nor did he place the child before the CWC when the year was up despite multiple reminders from the CWC.

On October 28 this year, the accused produced two children (including the victim) before the CWC, but the CWC "could not arrive at any decision for renewal of foster care" and sent them to a children's home.

### Padma awardee booked for alleged rape of foster child

alleged was "serious in nature". However, interim bail was granted, taking into consideration the "antecedents of the petitioner, his allegation that the instant FIR has been lodged to humiliate and malign his reputation" as well as a counter petition against the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of the district.

Noting that the FIR did not "disclose any specific statement" of the victim, the court said an interim order would be passed in the "interest of justice". It asked the petitioner to appear before the police within 7 days.

A police officer said the accused had appeared before them and his statement had been recorded.

According to the FIR, the victim, an inmate of a children's home, had alleged sexual assault for a year by her foster father while she was under his care.

DLSA secretary Bichitra Dutta said the allegation was "serious".

"Based on our preliminary findings on the statement from the victim, other witnesses as well as the CWC's account, the

According to the FIR, the issue first came to light when the CWC members approached DLSA's Dutta on November 30 with the victim's statement, requesting them to help with legal remedies available.

The DLSA guided them and sent a letter to the CWC chairman on December 8, seeking an action-taken report.

When no report was submitted till December 15, the DLSA sent a show-cause notice to the CWC on December 16, "keeping in view the inaction on the part of CWC" and considering the "nature & gravity of the allegations". Thereafter, the DLSA began a preliminary inquiry into the matter, recording the statement of the victim as well as or-

dering a medical examination. The medical report of the victim, according to the FIR, clearly showed signs of sexual assault.

Senior advocate AM Bora, counsel for the accused, said: "There is a background to this case, and it is very important. The CWC has sent several girls to be fostered under his and his wife's care for several years owing to his philanthropic nature. He has looked after many children."

"However, a conflict had arisen between the CWC and him when he asked them to reimburse him money used in treatment for the other foster child under his care... There is

much more to this case, and that is why interim bail was granted to him even in a case like POCSO," Bora said.

According to the court order, S Zahoor, Additional Public Prosecutor, Assam, said the "social status" of a person should not be a consideration in a case involving such allegations.

An official of the CWC said: "There was no intentional delay on our part. We are only a five-member committee, and our term already expired on August 31, 2021. This was an important case and all the members were in different places in the district and thus, it took some time."

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU  
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT  
Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads, Circle**

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Tender Notice No. 3/2021-2022/D1/Dated: 03.01.2022

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu sealed percentage tender in Two cover system through online only will be received upto 08.02.2022, 15.00 hours (p.m.) by the Superintendent Engineer (H), NABARD and Rural Roads, Tirunelveli circle for Construction / Reconstruction of Three Bridge works under NABARD Loan Assistance in the Scheme RIDF XXVI – 50 Bridges and 26 Bridges for the year 2020 – 2021 pertaining to Paramakudi (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Division, which was approved in G.O.(Ms) No. 132 Highways and Minor Ports (EAP.II (2)) Department dated 24.10.2020 and G.O.(Ms) No. 136 Highways and Minor Ports (EAP.II(2)) Department dated 05.11.2020.

Details such as Name of work, approximate value of work, EMD, documents to be uploaded, critical dates and all other details related to the work will be available from 19.01.2022 onwards in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in>. If any changes / Corrections / Amendments etc. related to this tender arises, it will be published on the above Government website only.

**Superintendent Engineer (H),  
NABARD and Rural Roads, Tirunelveli-2.**  
*“குடிகளை கட்டுவது நாம்திறம் அதை நடவடிக்கை எடுத்து போய்வது நாம்திறம் படித்துப் போய்வது”*

**VACANCY**

Some post of AICRP Scientist and KVK Scientists and Supporting Staff through direct recruitment are advertised in the University. For details please visit University Website i.e. [www.uuhf.ac.in](http://www.uuhf.ac.in)

**Registrar**

**कनारा बैंक Canara Bank**  
A Govt. of India Undertaking  
सिंडिकेट Syndicate

**Recovery Section, Regional Office**  
4th Floor, Luv-Kush Tower, Exhibition Road, Patna - 800001, Ph : 0612-2321058, Email: [recropat@canarabank.com](mailto:recropat@canarabank.com)

**PROPERTY FOR E-AUCTION**

**E-AUCTION Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.** Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / hypothecated/ Pledged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 15.02.2022. Details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name / Address Contact No. of the Branch	Name and Address of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor (s)	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Property	Reserve Price / EMD/Bid Multiplier Amt./A/c No./IFSC
1	RAH Patna / Sarababad Branch Mob. 8002760687 8210998451	Borrower / Guarantor : (1) Sri Binod Kumar, S/o Ragu Nandan Singh, Prabha Niwas, Aadash Colony, Road No. - 03, Khemini Chak, Patna, Bihar, Pin - 800027 (2) Smt. Pusplata Prabha Sinha, W/o Binod Kumar, Prabha Niwas, Aadash Colony, Road No. - 03, Khemini Chak, Patna, Bihar, Pin - 800027	Rs. 24,91,637.17 as on 30.04.2021 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All Part & Parcel of the property Mauza - Brahmapur, Sekhpura, P.S. - Phulwarisharif now Gaurichak, Taizi No. - 28, Thana No. - 111, Khata No. - 38, S.Plot No. 714 (Part), Society Plot No. - 49, Registry - Danapur, Sadar Registry & Dist. - Patna, (Area - 1322 sqft) Boundary - N. - S. Plot No. - 48, South - S.Plot No. - 50, East - 20 ft. Road, West - Society Himself.	Rs. 61,61,400/- Rs. 6,16,140/- Rs. 50,000/- A/c - 8361295000001 IFSC Code - CNRB0008361

Last Date of EMD 10.02.2022 For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in [www.canarabank.com](http://www.canarabank.com)

Date : 04.01.2022 Place : Patna Authorised Officer Canara Bank

### M.J.P. Rohilkhand University, Bareilly

Advt. No.: CC-01/2022

Applications are invited under the self finance scheme for the post of Principal and Assistant Professors in various Departments of the constituent Government College Meerapur Bangar, Bijnor upto dated 24.01.2022. Detail of advertisement is available on University website [www.mjpru.ac.in](http://www.mjpru.ac.in).

Registrar

**MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY**  
(A Central University)  
Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500 032

### EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION No. 62/2022 Dated: 03.01.2022

Applications in the prescribed forms are invited for the following Teaching, Other Academic (Physical Education) and Model School Teacher Posts for various Departments/ Directorate of Distance Education/CTEs/Polytechnics/ Centres/Off-Campus at Lucknow & Model Schools:

#### TEACHING POSTS

- Professor:** Education-7, Arabic-1, Hindi-1, English-1, Women Education-1, Political Science-1, Islamic Studies-1, Computer Science & Information Technology (CS & IT)-2, History-1, DDE-3, CUCS-1,
- Professor-Director:** DDE-1, ABCSSEIP-1, CWS-1 (Tenure posts).
- Associate Professor:** Education-4, Mass Communication & Journalism-1, Social Work-1, Chemistry-1, Economics-1, Sociology-1, Persian-1, Urdu, History (DDE)-1.
- Associate Professor-cum-Deputy Director:** ABCSSEIP-2 (Tenure posts).
- Assistant Professors:** Education-13, English-2, Urdu -1, Mathematics-1, Economics-1, Education (DDE)-1, HKSCDS-1,
- Assistant Professor-cum-Assistant Director:** ABCSSEIP-2 (Tenure posts)
- Head of the Department (HoD) for Polytechnics:** Computer Science Engineering-2, Civil Engineering-3, Electronics & Communication Engineering-1, Electrical & Electronics Engineering-1, Mechanical Engineering-1.
- Lecturer for Polytechnics:** Civil Engineering-3, Mechanical Engineering-1
- Pay Scales:** Professors/Directors ₹1,44,200-2,18,200/- (Academic Level 14), Associate Professors/Deputy Directors ₹1,31,400-2,17,100/- (Academic Level 13A), Head of the Department (HoD) ₹1,31,400-2,04,700/- (Academic Level 13A1), Assistant Professors ₹57,700-1,82,400 (Academic Level 10), Lecturer-Polytechnics (with M.Tech/M.E qualifications) ₹57,700-1,82,400 (Academic Level 10), Lecturer-Polytechnic (with B.Tech/B.E qualification) ₹56,100-1,77,500/- (Level 9A).

#### OTHER ACADEMIC (PHYSICAL EDUCATION) & MODEL SCHOOL TEACHERS POSTS

- Other Academic:** Director-Physical Education -1, Assistant Director-Physical Education-1.
  - Model School Teachers:** Head Master-2 (01 - Lien Vacancy), PGT-English-1, PGT-Bio-Technology-1, TGT-English-2 (01 - Lien Vacancy), TGT-Hindi-1, TGT-Physical Education-1, Work Experience Teacher (Electrical Gadgets and Electronics)-2, Sewing, Needle Work and Embroidery-1, Yoga Teacher-1, Primary Teacher-2 (01 - Lien Vacancy).
  - Pay Scales:**  
Other Academic: Director-Physical Education- ₹1,44,200-2,18,200/- (Academic Level 14), Assistant Director- Physical Education - ₹57,700-1,82,400 (Academic Level 10);  
**Model School Teachers:** PGTs- ₹47,600-1,51,100/- (Level 8), Head Master/TGTs/WET/Yoga Teachers: ₹44,900-1,42,400/- (Level 7), Primary Teachers-₹35,400-1,12,400/- (Level 6)
- Application Forms along with Information Booklet relating to qualifications, experience, etc., can be downloaded from University website: [manuu.edu.in](http://manuu.edu.in). The last date for receipt of filled-in applications is 02<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022.

Sd/-  
Registrar I/c

**REGD.NO.D.L.-33004/99**

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Union Cabinet Minister, Women and Child Development, Govt. of India

in conversation with

**Anant Goenka**  
Executive Director  
Indian Express Group

**Vandita Mishra**  
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The Indian Express

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## भारत का गज़ette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-14122021-231850

CG-DL-E-14122021-231850

#### EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II – Section 3 – Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

रो. 4812]	नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, दिसम्बर 14, 2021 / अग्रहायण 23, 1943			
No. 4812]	NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021/AGRAHAYANA 23, 1943			
<b>MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION</b>				
New Delhi, the 14th December, 2021				
S.O. 5193(E).- In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH248A in the stretch of land from Km. 0 to Km. 27.32 (Rajeev chowk to Raipur Section) in the district of Gurugram in the state of HARYANA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.				
Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said Act.				
Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, District Revenue Officer Gurugram in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.				
Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.				
The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.				
SCHEDULE				
Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling NH248A in the stretch of land from km. 0 to km. 27.32 (Rajeev chowk to Raipur Section) in the district of Gurugram in the State of HARYANA				
State: HARYANA District: Gurugram				
Sl. No.	Survey/ Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)



## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## BE ON GUARD

There must be no compromise on Covid-appropriate behaviour, especially in election rallies. Don't forget last year's lessons

**L**AST WEEK, INDIA'S Covid case count went up by nearly 1.3 lakh, a three-fold surge compared to the previous week's tally of about 46,000. The uptick has sharpened in the first week of the New Year with the country registering close to one lakh cases in the last four days. Many epidemiologists believe that the third wave of the pandemic is already upon India and have advised caution and strict adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour. This public health message must now be owned and disseminated by the country's political authorities. While several state governments have imposed curbs on the movement of people and restricted economic activities, there has scarcely been any attempt to enforce physical distancing norms in political rallies in the states, including Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Goa, where assembly polls are around the corner. Though election dates have not yet been announced, pre-election activity has assumed fever pitch, and, by all accounts, Covid-appropriate electioneering is conspicuously missing at roadshows and political gatherings.

According to the Union Health Ministry's data, last year, the country's Covid curve started showing an upward trend around late February. Around this time, crowded political gatherings, attended mostly by mask-less men and women, were held in West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Assam. This went on till April 22, when, forced by the uncontrollable surge in the country's caseload, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, till then in the thick of campaigning in West Bengal, cancelled a rally in the state. It was only an hour after the PM announced his decision that the Election Commission banned public gatherings of over 500 people. The timely conduct of elections is, of course, indispensable for the country's democratic polity. But the EC's action invited serious questioning of the poll monitor's resolve to assert its independence from the political executive and conduct the polls safely in the face of a public health crisis. The turn of events last year should have led to serious thinking on a plan to ensure that the fervour of electioneering does not bring with it a dropping of guard against the virus.

In his address to the nation on December 25, PM Modi urged people to be vigilant against the virus. A day later, in his last "Mann Ki Baat" of 2021, he assured people that scientists were "trying to find ways to check the highly transmissible Omicron variant". But the PM's message of caution seems to have been lost on some of his party colleagues. In poll-bound UP, for example, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reportedly described Omicron as "a common viral fever" and said that Covid was on its way out, though he did ask people to remain alert. The second wave should be lesson enough for political leaders to desist from doing anything that could breed complacency amongst people. Caution must be the name of the game as the country enters a crucial phase in its continuing fight against the virus.

## VP SPEAK

Vice President Naidu's censure of hate speech breaks a loud silence. Others holding power, and in office, must speak up

**S**PEAKING AT THE 150th death anniversary of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, a seminal renaissance figure of 19th century Kerala on Monday, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu said that "hate speech and writings are against the (country's) culture, heritage, tradition and constitutional rights and ethos". And that "every person has the right to practise and preach his or her faith in the country". Naidu also expressed disapproval of "attempts to ridicule other religions and create dissensions in society". The Vice President's intervention is welcome. It comes in the sobering backdrop of a series of incidents targeting religious minorities and their places of worship across the country.

The vice president is the first person holding high office to speak out against the purveyors of hate, who have been freely and openly spewing anti-minority rhetoric, including calls for genocide. Last week, a group of public intellectuals including five retired chiefs of the armed forces wrote to the president, prime minister and others seeking action against a recent "Dharam Sansad" in Haridwar, where individuals in saffron robes goaded a gathering to take a pledge to do violence in order to establish a "Hindu Rashtra". Seventy-six lawyers have petitioned the Supreme Court to take suo motu action against those who poured venom on stage at the Haridwar conclave and pointed out that state authorities were failing to act against hate speech against Muslims. The Uttarakhand government has announced an SIT to probe the incident. Meanwhile, censure from civil society had forced BJP MP from Karnataka, Tejaswi Surya, to withdraw his inflammatory comments and minority-baiting — his statement was preceded by attacks on churches in Karnataka (and elsewhere) and the introduction of an anti-conversion law by the Bommai government. While several civil society actors and public intellectuals have criticised the open attempts to target Muslim and Christian minorities, the sepulchral silence in the higher echelons of the ruling establishment is disturbing. Vice President Naidu's words should prod others holding high office to condemn the purveyors of hate and the vigilantes, and ensure that they are brought to book.

Even as the law must take its due course, however, the problem needs to be addressed politically. The perception that anti-Muslim, anti-Christian campaigns and vigilantism have the sanction of the powerful needs to be broken. For that, those in power, those who hold high office, need to speak out — like the vice president did.

## HER PLACE IN THE SUN

Controversy over a statue commemorating a 17th-century woman scholar raises an important question about remembering

**T**HE HISTORIES OF nations and institutions are filled with injustice: Women couldn't vote for very long; "divine right" was seen as a genuine basis of political legitimacy; slavery, untouchability and colonialism were deemed acceptable. In contemporary times, the desire to do something to correct some of these injustices in public life and spaces, is understandable. In Italy, a debate is raging around a proposed statue in the country's largest public square.

In 1678, Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia received a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Padua, the first woman to achieve this feat. Yet, she was not included among the list of 88 scholars and luminaries whose honour statues were erected in Padua square in the 18th century. Local leaders want to correct this error and erect a statue in her honour on an empty pedestal — some structures in the square were destroyed during Napoleon's invasion of Italy.

The arguments against the statue from other locals are familiar: There is already a statue of Piscopia at the university; "playing" with culturally-significant sites is dangerous; it is more important to place the exclusion in historical context and learn from it. A new statue, of a woman, among her 17th-century contemporaries is indeed out of place. Or perhaps that is why, in 2022, it is much-needed. This is not to say that there shouldn't be information about why Piscopia was denied, thus far, her place in the Venetian sun — the context that is needed is not for her presence but her absence for all these centuries. Is it necessary to preserve history in all its authenticity, or is it more important to recognise that it is being made and re-made every day, is the question.



REKHA SHARMA

IN THE HOLY land of Haridwar, some people robed in saffron professing to be holy men held a "Dharam Sansad" between December 17 and 20, 2021, where they reportedly spewed venom against Muslims, and gave a call for genocide. They saw in Muslims a threat to the existence of Hindus, and advocated arming Hindus with sophisticated weapons. They also reportedly said that Muslims should be chased away like Rohingya were chased from Myanmar, thereby establishing a "Hindu Rashtra". One of them allegedly said that he would shot a former prime minister for having said that minorities have the first right to India's resources.

The aforementioned utterances of the so-called "dharam gurus" constituted a frontal challenge to the unity and integrity of the country, and fly in the face of the very "idea of India" as enshrined in the preamble to the Constitution of India which declares India to be a "secular democratic republic". The preamble also resolves to secure to all its citizens liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. However, despite such naked incitement to violence and ethnic cleansing of a religious community, no one from the ruling political class at the Centre or at the state level has deemed it fit to condemn such vile and outrageous statements, let alone take action under the stringent provisions of law against such hate-mongers. If what they are reported to have said is true, then it has the potential to create social disturbance. Incidentally, none of the "dharam gurus" has denied what has been attributed to them. It is only when the videos of their deliberations became viral on social media and some saner voices raised the issue that a case under Section 153-A of IPC was registered against them. However, no arrest has been made till date.

Contrast this with what happened to 30-year-old Munawar Faruqui, a stand-up comedian who had to remain in jail for more than a month for allegedly hurting religious sentiments of a community for a show in which he was only preparing to perform. Similarly, 22-year-old Disha Ravi, a climate

SC can take suo motu cognisance of hate speech and blatant incitement to violence against a community

change activist, had to remain in custody for 10 days for sharing a toolkit relating to farmers' protests with environmental activist Greta Thunberg on charges of sedition and for promoting enmity. Siddique Kappan, a Kerala-based journalist, is in prison since October 2020 for only trying to report the Hathras gangrape. He, too, has been charged with sedition and under UAPA. These are just a few of the many examples.

As if Haridwar was not enough, another "Dharam Sansad" was held in Chhattisgarh where one Kalicharan allegedly abused Mahatma Gandhi and eulogised Nathuram Godse who killed him. This also has not evoked any response from the top leaders of the ruling dispensation. They are maintaining a deafening silence. Kalicharan has since been arrested by Chhattisgarh Police, but there are voices that are asking for his release.

In the above scenario, when the government is turning a blind eye to this continuous illness, and because of its inaction, it is seen to be conniving with those who are advocating tyranny and have no respect for the constitution and the law, 76 citizens have turned to the Supreme Court, and requested the Chief Justice of India to take suo-motu cognisance of what transpired at Haridwar and Chhattisgarh.

The role of the judiciary is not only to administer the laws of the land, but also to protect the rights of every citizen, nay every person, as per law and the Constitution. This is why we saw a bench presided over by the Chief Justice of India appointing a commission headed by an eminent retired judge of the Supreme Court on the Pegasus matter. The chief justice's bench also took a pro-citizen approach in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident where four farmers were mowed down by an SUV, in which the chargesheet has just been filed, and the son of a minister in the Union cabinet faces charges including murder and attempt to murder. In that case, too, the state of UP was seen to be dragging its feet and trying to give it a burial by forming an SIT comprising of junior-level police officials functioning under its thumb. This

prompted the Supreme Court to reconstitute the SIT to include senior officers. It also appointed a retired high court judge, and that too not from UP, to oversee the functioning of the SIT.

The findings of the SIT in the Lakhimpur Kheri case clearly bring out how the state and the law enforcement machinery can trample over the law of the land to protect the high and mighty. Had an independent SIT not been set up, the truth would most probably have remained under wraps. What happened in Haridwar is worse. Each word, each syllable spoken there was violent. Now that the Supreme Court has reopened after the winter break, it is hoped that the chief justice in his wisdom will take a call on the request made to him by 76 citizens. Incidentally, it is not that the burden lies on the shoulders of the chief justice alone.

Each judge of the Supreme Court enjoys equal constitutional power and authority, and hence each one of them is under an obligation to protect the constitutional and fundamental rights of the people. Hence, any one of them could take cognisance of the blatant incitement to violence against a particular community, though after having taken cognisance the concerned judge is expected to, and in fact should, refer the matter to the chief justice for allocating the same to an appropriate bench.

If a judge can give unsolicited advice for postponement of the assembly elections, if the Supreme Court can get disturbed over the alleged inconvenience faced by a commuter traveling from the UP border to Delhi on account of farmers' protests, it is expected to feel disturbed over what happened in Haridwar. If this fire of hate goes unchecked, the day is not far when it will spread across India.

The Supreme Court, it is hoped, will not only step in but will also ensure that an independent investigation free from any influence is conducted and the culprits are brought to book.

The writer is a former judge of the Delhi High Court



VIJU P DEVASSY AND ALBERT ABRAHAM

HISTORY OFTEN fails to do justice to social reformers who have also been religious leaders. Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, who triggered a renaissance in Kerala in the 19th century, was one such reformer who was also a man of faith. The 150th death anniversary of this saint-reformer — which was commemorated on January 3 — is an occasion to revisit his life and works.

Saint Chavara was a social reformer, an educationist, a social entrepreneur, and a prolific poet. He deserves a place in the pantheon of socio-religious reformers that includes Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Vivekananda, Jyotirao Phule, Swami Dayananda Saraswati and Sree Narayana Guru. Millions, irrespective of caste and creed, benefited from his work, which triggered a social, cultural and intellectual awakening in Kerala.

Saint Chavara was a pioneer of education reforms. When education was the privilege of the social elites, his Pallikkoodam movement (setting up schools in church premises) enabled universal access to education. As the Vicar General of Syro-Malabar Christians, he ordered that schools be set up on all church premises and threatened to close down those that failed to comply. He also started free mid-day meals and provided clothes and books to reduce drop-outs among the poor and Dalit students. For this purpose, he mobilised resources by collecting *pidiyan* (a handful of rice) and tithe from well-off families. The practice initiated by Saint Chavara in Christian schools influenced the diwan of Travancore, C P Ramaswamy Iyer, to plan mid-day meals in government

## A TRUE KARMA YOGI

Saint Chavara's work in the 19th century laid the foundation for Kerala's renaissance

schools in 1936. In 1846, Saint Chavara established a Sanskrit school in Mannanam in Kerala, that enabled ordinary people to study the sacred Hindu literature in Sanskrit.

The first indigenous Catholic religious congregation for men (CMI) he founded in 1831 supplied dedicated and highly-skilled personnel for managing the schools and institutions. The first religious congregation for women (CMC-CTC) he founded in 1866 established schools to promote education for women with boarding facilities. It was a starting point for women's empowerment in Kerala. These congregations continue to pursue Saint Chavara's vision of universal and affordable education, by running hundreds of educational institutions across the country. In the words of former President R Venkataraman, Saint Chavara "represented a major manifestation of the Indian renaissance, which was to raise our underprivileged, to alleviate distress and infuse our people with a sense of pride in themselves".

In 1846, with the permission of Swathi Thirunal, the maharajah of Travancore, Saint Chavara founded a printing press in Mannanam, and published educational materials and books to promote social harmony. He was convinced that the print media was a powerful medium to further learning. This venture not only contributed to the expansion of knowledge in Malayalam, but also effectively resisted the monopoly of colonial interests in the publishing domain. Deepika, the oldest Malayalam newspaper now in circulation, was started from this press in 1887.

As a mark of his exceptional altruism, Chavara founded a House of Charity in 1869

in Kainakari, his native village, for the aged, the abandoned and the sick. Saint Chavara raised resources for his educational and social interventions through paddy cultivation and small contributions from the local community.

Well-versed in Malayalam, Sanskrit, Latin and Syriac, Saint Chavara wrote extensively. His poem *Anasthasiyade Rakthasakshyam* (The Martyrdom of Anastasia, 1862) is considered the first minor epic in Malayalam. *Atmanutapam* (Computation of Heart) reveals the yogic poet in him exploring the ruminations of the inner self. *Oru Nalla Appante Chavarul* (Testament of a Loving Father) is a treatise on the upbringing of children, settling family disputes and the importance of writing wills. His correspondence with the Church authorities in Rome and letters to the public are of great literary and documentary value — they throw light on the socio-cultural background of 19th century Kerala.

He was an apostle of peace and religious harmony. In his autobiography, *Nalagamam* (Chronicles), Saint Chavara vividly narrates how Hindus, Muslims and Christians together toiled hard to establish his monastery in Mannanam. He realised that God's glory rests on the greatness of humans. He was a true karma yogi, contemplative in action and working tirelessly to liberate people from the tyrannies of ignorance, poverty, and sickness.

Devassy is Director and Dean of CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR Campus, and Abraham teaches Media Studies



## JANUARY 5, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

## ARRESTS IN ASSAM

OVER 300 PEOPLE, including the entire executive of the All Assam Students Union and most of the executive members of the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad, were arrested for defying prohibitory orders. Shops and business establishments remained closed in most parts of the Brahmaputra Valley barring some places in Nowrangpur and Goalpara districts. Lights went out in the evening on January 4 practically over all parts of the Brahmaputra Valley and roads were deserted in response to the Assam agitators' call to protest the police action during the *rasta roko* campaign last week. In Gauhati, AASU and AAGSP leaders assem-

bled to march to Dimapur to submit a memorandum to R V Subramaniam, senior adviser to the governor.

## ANXIETY FOR ANTULAY

THE MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER A R Antulay, accompanied by two of his lieutenants, Finance Minister Ramrao Adib and Planning Minister N M Tidke, is leaving for Delhi on an urgent political mission. The apparent reason for the mission is that the CM is leading the team for discussion with the Planning Commission. The trip is coming close on the heels of the meeting on January 3 of some of the state MPs in the council hall, where

Antulay's style of functioning was criticised. Though attended by only eight of the 53 Congress (I) MPs in the state, it has sent shock waves to the Antulay camp.

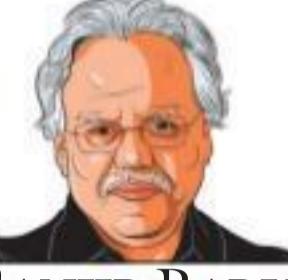
## PM ON UP

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi has ruled out any change in Uttar Pradesh following the recent incidents of violence against Scheduled Caste communities in Deoli and Sadhopur. She described the incident as sad and tragic. "Some had occurred due to quarrel and some vendetta. A part of the problem is that people who are privileged in society don't want others to come up," she said.

# THE IDEAS PAGE

# Spectres of Great Replacement

A year after the siege of the Capitol, the ideas that underpinned the attack on US democracy continue to have purchase among many white Americans



SANJIB BARUAH

JANUARY 6 WILL mark a year since the deadly siege of the US Capitol by a partially-armed and whimsically-dressed mob made of supporters of then President Donald Trump. The attack on the Capitol — a complex that is widely seen as a symbol of American democracy — was unprecedented. The only other forcible breach had occurred more than 200 years earlier when British troops set fire to it in August 1814. That the January 6 assault was perpetrated by flag-waving patriots instigated by a sitting president making false claims of a stolen election — and refusing to acknowledge his electoral defeat — only underscores the political danger it portends. Accepting electoral defeat is, after all, fundamental to the functioning of any democracy.

Yet what happened that day has become a matter of political and ideological contestation. Going by dictionary and legal definitions, it would be apt to call the siege and the events leading to it an insurrection. Indeed, the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the US Army found it wise to send a message to American troops that the "actions inside the Capitol building... were inconsistent with the rule of law" and that "the rights of freedom of speech and assembly do not give anyone the right to resort to violence, sedition and insurrection". In order not to leave any room for doubt among the armed forces, the statement added that Joe Biden will take office on the constitutionally mandated Inauguration Day and "will become our 46th Commander in Chief".

But despite the serious nature of what occurred, attempts by the US Congress to create a bipartisan commission to investigate it — on the lines of the 9/11 Commission — failed because of objections from the Republican Party that has embraced Trump's unsubstantiated claims of a fraudulent election, partly because it wants to hold on to its loyal political base. The House of Representatives has formed a select committee to investigate the assault, but it does not have the support of most Republican members.

Many Republican leaders have refused to condemn the siege; they accuse the Democrats of wildly exaggerating its gravity and of overreacting. Some lawmakers call the 727 people arrested and charged with crimes stemming from the attack, political prisoners. The most ideologically committed of the detainees describe themselves as the Patriot Wing, and they have developed a fan base outside prison.

*Patriot Purge*, a three-part faux documentary by Tucker Carlson, a top-rated host of the Fox News Channel, and broadcast on its subscription streaming service, offers a revisionist account of the events. According to the fact-checking website PolitiFact, it whitewashes the facts of the insurrection and contrives "a dystopian, alternative explanation" by invoking conspiracy theories to suggest that left-wing instigators and agent provocateurs were behind it and that the insurrectionists may have fallen into a trap set by domestic intelligence agencies intent on purging American society of its best patriots.



CR Sasikumar

What explains this bizarre turn of events? A demographic database of about 600 of those arrested offers an entry point to addressing the question. The data was gathered by a team of researchers at the University of Chicago led by political scientist Robert A. Pape.

The insurrectionists are overwhelmingly white, but they do not fall into the demographics of people stereotypically associated with far-right extremist violence. Only a small minority are members of right-wing militias. Very few of them are marginalised young, unemployed men. Many are well-to-do middle-aged people in occupations including business owners, doctors, lawyers, information technology professionals and accountants. There is a significant number of women. The insurrectionists are not all from rural areas where Trump has a loyal base. Many are from big cities that voted for Biden.

They have a common denominator that is significant: They are mostly from counties — counties in the US are comparable to Indian districts — that have seen the white population shrink fast and the non-white population grow rapidly. This remains true even after controlling for travelling distance to Washington D.C., population size, unemployment rate, and the rural or urban nature of the county.

This finding is important because it points to a racialised fear, often expressed in fringe right-wing circles, that non-white immigrants and racial minorities could overwhelm and dominate the United States through immigration, high birth rates, and the control of political power. In Europe, controversial French writer Renaud Camus captures this idea in the concept of the "Great Replacement". Native white Europeans, he says in his book of the same name, are being

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reverse colonised by black and brown immigrants.

The "Great Replacement" phrase now appears in white nationalist manifestos in Europe, North America and Australasia. The New Zealand bomber who murdered 51 people at two mosques in March 2019, and the American gunman who killed 21 people in El Paso, Texas in August 2019 made explicit references to it. Major right-wing public figures subscribe to the idea. For instance, Carlson, the maker of *Patriot Purge*, accuses Democrats of trying to "flood the nation with loyal foreigners in order to retain political power, and in the process destroy America". He made this argument while criticising President Biden for not doing enough to stop Haitian refugees from entering the United States. "In political terms", said Carlson, "this policy is called the 'great replacement,' the replacement of legacy Americans with more obedient people from faraway countries".

In this ideological climate, it is hardly surprising that some white Americans would view the attempt to overturn the constitutional process of electing the president as an act of high patriotism. The Republican Party's ambivalence towards the insurrection is largely because of its mainstream provenance and because the ideas and values underpinning it have purchase among many white Americans.

Pape describes the insurrectionists as mostly middle-class and upper-middle-class whites anxious about status decline at a time of escalating social change. "When you're accustomed to privilege," as the saying goes, "equality feels like oppression."

The writer is professor of Political Studies at Bard College, New York

## The road to net zero

Private sector is crucial to the transition to sustainable development



BHUPENDER YADAV

IF THE WORLD continues to move on the current path, global warming will be significantly more than 2°C by the end of the century. At a time when our planet faces an existential crisis, there is little doubt that we need innovative, scientific and urgent steps to secure humanity's future.

We need to act decisively to reach global net-zero, restricting future cumulative emissions to the remaining carbon budget — as COP26 noted — if the rise in temperature is to remain within the limits of the Paris Agreement. It is in this spirit that, at COP26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India's enhanced climate commitments — the "Panchamrit", including a commitment to reach net-zero by 2070. India's announcement of its net-zero goal is a major step considering that our country is not the cause of global warming. Its historical cumulative emissions are a mere 4.37 per cent of the world's total. At COP26 and other multilateral platforms, we have urged that developed countries must genuinely lead in mitigation, with their high capacities, their overwhelming contribution to historical cumulative emissions, and their current high per capita annual emissions.

India's renewable energy targets have steadily become more ambitious, from the 175 GW by 2022 declared at Paris, to 450 GW by 2030 at the UN Climate Summit, and now 500 GW by 2030, announced at COP26. India has also announced the target of 50 per cent installed power generation capacity from non-

fossil energy sources by 2030, raising the existing target of 40 per cent, which has already been almost achieved. India will not lag in terms of new cutting-edge renewable technologies and has already announced a Hydrogen Energy Mission for grey and green hydrogen. In energy efficiency, the market-based scheme of Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) has avoided 92 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions during its first and second cycles.

India is accelerating its e-mobility transition with the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles Scheme to support the electric vehicle market development and enable its manufacturing ecosystem to achieve self-sustenance. The government has also announced a slew of incentives for customers and companies to promote e-vehicles. India leapfrogged from Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) emission norms by April 1, 2020, the latter being originally scheduled for adoption in 2024. A voluntary vehicle scrapping policy to phase out old and unfit vehicles now complements these schemes. Indian Railways is charging ahead, targeting the full electrification of all broad-gauge routes by 2023.

In a striking global example in the deployment of clean energy, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has benefitted 88 million households with LPG connections. More than 367 million LED bulbs have been distributed under the UJALA scheme, leading to energy

savings of more than 47 billion units of electricity per year and a reduction of 38.6 million tonnes of CO2 per year. With these and many other initiatives, India has already achieved a reduction of 24 per cent in the emission intensity of its GDP between 2005 and 2016, and is on track to meet its target of 33 to 35 per cent by 2030. This target has now been enhanced to 45 per cent.

The role of the private sector is crucial to India's journey along a credible pathway of low-carbon development to eventual net zero. Since industries also contribute to GHG emissions, any climate action will need to reduce or offset emissions that emerge from industrial and commercial activity. The public and private sectors in India are already playing a key role in meeting the climate challenge, helped by growing customer and investor awareness, as well as increasing regulatory and disclosure requirements. An increasing number of companies have announced sharply increased ambitions over the last year.

Enterprises are well-positioned to not just adapt to but also gain from the low-carbon transition. This is especially true for enterprises that offer "green" solutions and those which assist communities in building resilience to the physical effects of climate change. Higher capital is expected to be directed toward companies at the forefront of the climate transition.

Such a transition is relatively easier for companies operating in the services sector. With efficient use of energy across all their opera-

tions, expanding the use of renewable energy, and working with supply chain partners, service companies will be able to reduce emissions. Service companies can become carbon neutral by sourcing 50 per cent of their electricity from renewable sources.

The low-carbon transition challenge is bigger for companies that are largely coal-powered and contribute more than half of our country's emissions. The business fraternity must make the best possible use of this opportunity to invest in climate technologies and expand the use of renewable energy sources.

The Indian cement industry has taken pioneering measures and achieved one of the biggest sectoral low carbon milestones worldwide. Indian industry partners have already undertaken ambitious actions. There is greater synergy of India's climate policy with the actions and commitments of its private sector.

India's journey on the low-carbon pathway towards net-zero requires the active participation of all stakeholders. Sustainable lifestyles and climate justice are at the core of this journey. With cooperation from the private sector, India will be able to responsibly use its fair share of the global carbon space and contribute to reaching the global net-zero goal to build a more environmentally sustainable planet.

The writer is Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Labour & Employment. His book, *The Rise of the BJP*, will be released in January

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"In terms of the global Covid-19 fight, China has always practised the idea of 'putting people and lives first' and adhered to the dynamic zero-case policy."

— GLOBAL TIMES

# We, the many

Indians must not allow their multiple identities to be used to serve a divisive political agenda



KAPIL SIBAL

IT IS TIME to reflect on the years gone by. We need to assess where our nation stands today and what lies ahead with the dawn of the new year. The nature of politics today feeds on our stratified social structures. Our relatively young population is aspirational yet frustrated. The middle class dreams of a better life, which at present is beyond its grasp. The elderly worry about the challenges of ageing. This makes our country one of the most complex to govern. The manner in which the political establishment has tried to grapple with all these issues has made the task even more daunting.

The fundamental complexity that confronts us as a nation is that as citizens of this country, we clothe ourselves with multiple identities. An upper-class Hindu does not necessarily identify himself with backward or most backward Hindus. Competitive backwardness divides rather than unites each backward caste and sub-caste group looking for state largesse. This tokenism does not lead to substantial uplift of their backwardness, yet its symbolic value is a powerful political weapon. Punjabi Hindus, who speak Punjabi, live happily with the Sikh community which speaks the same language, yet they have different cultural identities. Within them, there are those who are part of the Scheduled Castes. Such multiple identities of individuals are spread all across India. Each has attributes that differ from state to state.

The Yadavs, whose identity is subsumed by the nature of their backwardness, may at times, hold the reins of power. They have no common identity with the Brahmins or the Thakurs or those who belong to the forward castes. They also do not share a common identity with other backward communities in Uttar Pradesh like the Kurmis, Mauryas, Kashyaps, Nishads, Rajbhrs, Binds, Sahus, and Prajapatis among others. The Scheduled Castes in the state have their own unique identity. Similarly, in Madhya Pradesh, Bhumihars and Yadavs along with Kurmis, Kushwahas and Lodhis have their own separate identities. Within these two states, there is also a large segment of Muslim minorities who have their own special identities and castes. The Muslims themselves have two separate identities in the form of Shias and Sunnis.

A tribal culture belonging to a different race within the cauldron of the Northeast serves multiple identities. States like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland are inhabited prominently by tribals. They, in turn, have their own diversities. States like Assam, Manipur, Tripura and Sikkim have people of various religious denominations like Hindus, Christians and Muslims and a combination of local tribes and communities. The Bengali and non-Bengali speaking Hindus within Assam have their own

identities. Similarly, Nagas, Manipuris, Assamese, Muslims and others all live together with different languages and cultures, seeking to protect their identities and cater to their distinct yet separate aspirations, both cultural and territorial.

In south India, social groups in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Kerala have their own cultural identities and aspire to be part of the political structure to satisfy their multiple aspirations. In Tamil Nadu, the intermediate castes like the Vellalars, Chettiyars, Mudaliyars, Naidus, Gounders, Thevars and Vanmiyars, among others, seek to play an important role in electoral outcomes. In Karnataka, the Vokkaligas and Lingayats along with Muslims and OBCs have their own cultural and electoral identities. In Andhra Pradesh, the two politically dominant communities are the Reddys and Kammars.

A nation with multiple individual identities needs to search for solutions to take India forward. However, the ruling political class seeks to exploit these identities for political power. We, therefore, see the spectacle of shifting alliances when individuals with multiple identities feel disenchanted with the power structures for the failure to recognise their needs and aspirations. This shifting of alliances is opportunistic, unrelated to any cohesive national agenda. Coupled with this, majoritarian groups take sustenance with Hindus of multiple identities being fed on propaganda that seeks to divide, while the power structure they have established continues to reap electoral dividends. They forget that the 200 million Muslims within the country, unlike minorities in other nations, cannot possibly be subjugated into obedience.

There is also a big divide that is taking place between the rich and the poor. The poor too have multiple identities. They are also not bound together by either a political idiom or a lingua franca or by caste or creed. They react in different ways in the context of their own identity and, therefore, political outcomes are difficult to predict. That is why Chanakyas reap electoral benefits without providing good governance. The nation may regress while "jugaad" in politics may, for the time being, succeed.

The last few years have shown that the Hindutva experiment of nation-building may, in the short run, pay political dividends but in the long run, will take the nation away from the path of progress. We need to address issues of national concerns, not through divisive agendas or by opportunistic alliances, which cater to a conflict of identities. Such a path will be hazardous for our nation's future.

Without peace at home, there can be no progress. The multiple identities of individuals must never be manipulated to cater to divisiveness which tears asunder the social fabric of the country. We must not allow this policy of divide and rule to become a tsunami. In the new year, we need to reassess our nation's journey. The only way forward is to address our core national concerns to build just, inclusive and egalitarian societal structures. For that, the present establishment must not be given another lease of life in 2024.

The writer, a senior Congress leader, is a former Union minister

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### IMPUNITY FOR BIGOTS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Track them down' (IE, January 4). The virtual "auction" of Muslim women for the second time speaks volumes about the culture of impunity. Unfortunately, online harassment of women who speak out is common — when it comes to Muslim women, however, no holds are barred. While hatred for minorities is already normalised, combined with the recent attacks and open calls for genocide, the government's lack of action is telling. Urgent action must be taken by the state against the wrongdoers.

Ila Railkar, Mumbai

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Track them down' (IE, January 4). The impunity with which the minority haters act in the country is possible only when they are sure that they will get away with their actions. No serious attempts have been made to arrest such criminals in the past, which explains their growing boldness. The government must apprehend the criminals and punish them quickly. The largest democracy in the world cannot remain silent on the repeated assaults on its citizens.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

### VIRUS COMPLACENCY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'No time to lose' (IE, January 4). As expected,

Covid-19 and its new variant have started spreading rapidly, moving from metro cities to smaller towns, with children also falling prey to it. Initial reports of the new variant being highly infectious but not fatal must not lead us to complacency. However, this is exactly what is happening as the under-utilisation of Covid funds makes clear. It is only now that there seems to be an urgency in the matter. Children's vaccinations have started. Testing and contact tracing are being resorted to. But, God forbid, if the health centres start getting flooded with patients, are we prepared to handle the crisis? Sadly, the answer is not a very reassuring one.

Vijai Pant, Hapur

### A VISIONARY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Indomitable fighter' (IE, January 4). The demise of Richard Leakey, the world-renowned paleoanthropologist-turned-conservationist, is sadening. He was a visionary whose great contributions to human origins and wildlife conservation will never be forgotten. He briefly entered Kenyan politics, forming a new political party, and in the late 1990s took up the post of head of Kenya's civil service. At the time of his death, Leakey was serving as chairman of the Turkana Basin Institute at Stony Brook University in New York.

SS Paul, Noida

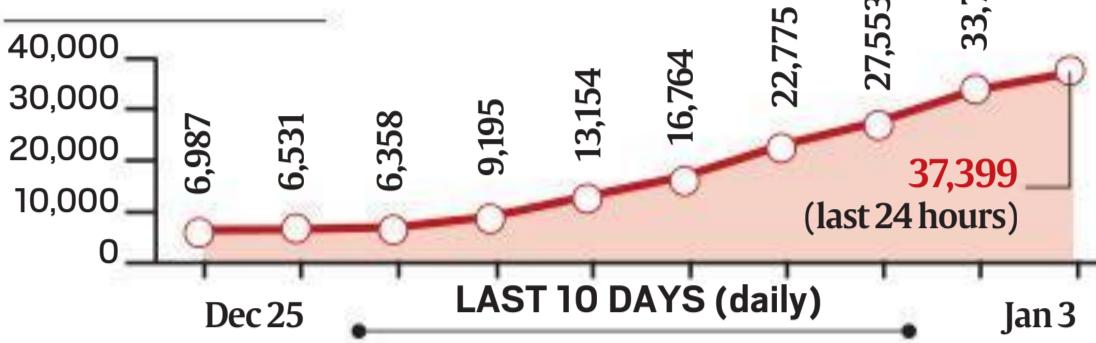


## TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

## DASHBOARD, AS ON JAN 3

673 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN	New cases <b>37,399</b>	Active cases <b>1,71,850</b>	Deaths <b>124</b>
Weekly CFR: 3.56%   Overall CFR: 1.39%   Total deaths: 4,82,017			

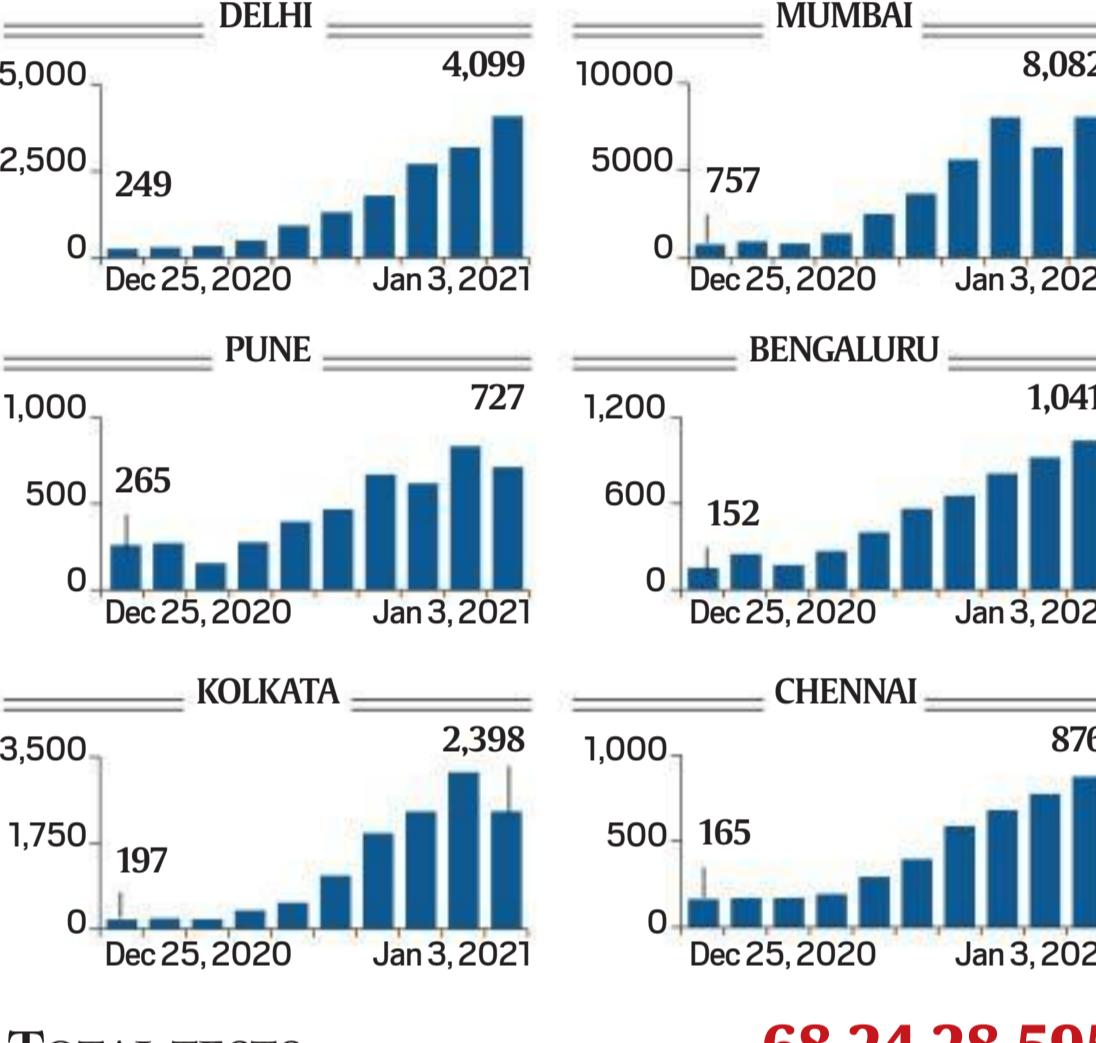
## NEW CASES



## SURGE IN THE STATES

State	ON JANUARY 3			Weekly positivity
	New Cases	Active Cases	Deaths	
Maharashtra	12,160	56,117	11	6.42%
West Bengal	6,078	20,186	13	9.49%
Delhi	4,099	10,986	1	3.00%
Kerala	2,560	20,053	71	4.55%
Tamil Nadu	1,728	10,364	6	1.13%

## SURGE IN THE CITIES: LAST 10 DAYS

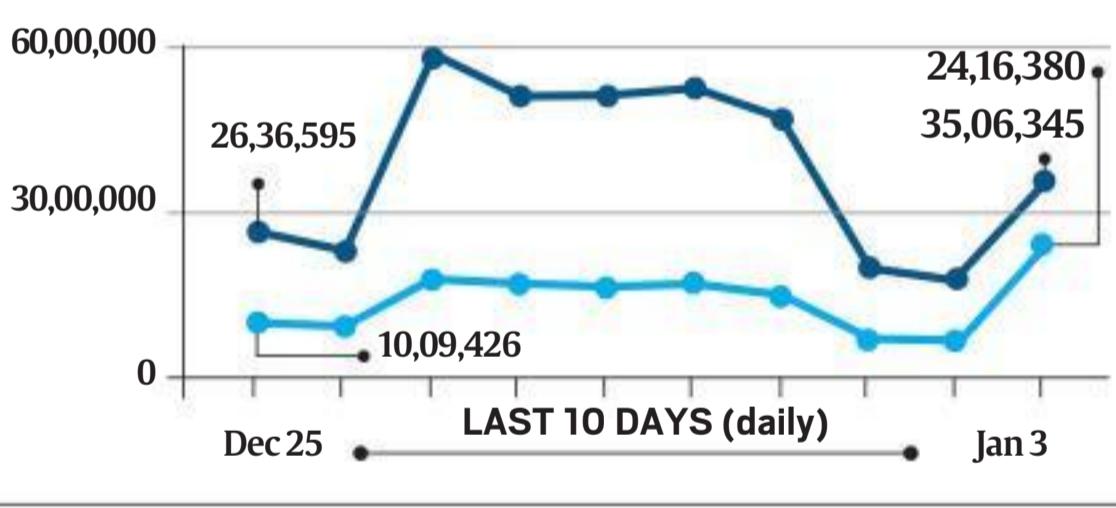


## TOTAL TESTS

TESTS ON JAN 3	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	OVERALL POSITIVITY
<b>14,78,119</b>	<b>1.92%</b>	<b>5.12%</b>

## INDIA TOTAL DOSES

(1st DOSE: 84,86,95,319; 2nd: 61,41,16,712)



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## In Theranos case, focus on Silicon Valley culture of hype and greed

NAVMI KRISHNA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

A CALIFORNIA jury has convicted former billionaire and Silicon Valley celebrity Elizabeth Holmes, founder of the failed start-up Theranos Inc., for investor fraud and conspiracy.

It's a rare conviction for a high-flying tech executive, and a warning for go-getting start-ups that are often accused of following a cynical "fake it till you make it" philosophy to attract eye-popping valuations.

The 37-year-old Holmes has been found guilty on three counts of wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, each of which carries a jail term up to 20 years. She is yet to be sentenced, and will likely appeal the conviction or sentencing or both.

## The 'female Steve Jobs'

Elizabeth Anne Holmes was raised in Washington DC and California in a wealthy family with a medical and entrepreneurial background. In his 2018 book *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup*, John Carreyrou, the Pulitzer-winning jour-nalist who exposed the fraud at Theranos in an investigation published in *The Wall Street Journal* in late 2015, described Holmes as an ambitious child who "set out to design a time machine", and who spoke of wanting to be a billionaire early in life.

Holmes began studying chemical engineering at Stanford in 2002 and started Theranos the following year. In March 2004, she dropped out of university, and Theranos was incorporated soon afterward. Holmes, who went on to be hailed as the "female Steve Jobs" for her vision, dynamism, and her penchant for black turtlenecks, was 19 years old at the time.

The start-up attracted hundreds of millions of dollars from a galaxy of international investors. In 2014, the company was valued at \$9 billion, and the following year, before the reports by Carreyrou appeared, *Forbes* put Holmes at the top of its list of America's Richest Self-Made Women, with a net worth of \$4.5 billion.

## The 'magic' blood test

The promise of Theranos was simple and dazzling: Holmes claimed to have developed

tests that could identify dozens of ailments ranging from high cholesterol and high blood sugar to liver dysfunction and cancer from just a couple of drops of blood drawn from a finger prick at any ordinary pharmacy.

The minimal amount of blood collected in "nanotainer" tubes would be analysed in a Theranos ("therapy" + "diagnosis") lab on a portable analysis machine named Edison (after the inventor best known for commercially popularising the incandescent bulb).

Carreyrou described Theranos co-founder Shauna Roy demonstrating the technology: "Shauna would prick his finger and milk a few drops of blood from it. Then he would transfer the blood to a white plastic cartridge the size of a credit card. The cartridge would slot into a rectangular box the size of a toaster. The box was called a reader. It extracted a data signal from the cartridge and beamed it wirelessly to a server that analysed the data and beamed back a result."

The innovation promised to revolutionise medical diagnostics – it could slash costs and provide unprecedented flexibility (a 2014 report in *The New Yorker* said while a typical cholesterol test could cost upwards of \$50, a

Theranos test would be just \$2.99), and Holmes hard-sold the advantages of early diagnosis and treatment evocatively: "We see a world in which no one ever has to say, 'If only I'd known sooner.' A world in which no one ever has to say goodbye too soon."

## Investors and fame

The pitch worked spectacularly. Investors included media mogul Rupert Murdoch, Donald Trump's Secretary of Defense William Perry, Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State George Shultz, Gen Jim Mattis, who went on to serve as Trump's Secretary of Defense, and former Senate majority leader Bill Frist.

On the company's board of directors were former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Bill Clinton's Secretary of Defense William Perry, Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State George Shultz, Gen Jim Mattis, who went on to serve as Trump's Secretary of Defense, and former Senate majority leader Bill Frist.

As Vice President, Joe Biden visited a Theranos lab in 2015 and described Holmes's work as "amazing" and "an inspiration".

## Suspicious and fall

Even as Theranos was hailed as a health-

tech breakthrough, suspicion was brewing in the medical community due to the lack of transparency around its technology, and the absence of peer review in science journals.

After Carreyrou's reports alleged that the company was diluting blood samples and putting them to traditional tests instead of using the promised "Edison" machines, many stories emerged of the company defrauding customers, and of issues with the US Food and Drug Administration, which had never entirely approved the tests.

In 2016, *Forbes* lowered its estimate of Holmes's net worth to "nothing". In March 2018, the US markets regulator Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), charged Theranos, Holmes, and the company's former president Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani with "raising more than \$700 million from investors through an elaborate, years-long fraud in which they exaggerated or made false statements about the company's technology, business, and financial performance".

Holmes was fined \$500,000. Her indictment for fraud was announced in June, and Theranos was dissolved in September 2018.

Holmes's trial was delayed by the Covid-

19 pandemic, and began only in September 2021. Balwani is also accused of fraud, but he is yet to go on trial.

## Lesson from the case

In its 2018 statement, the SEC had said "the Theranos story is an important lesson for Silicon Valley... Innovators who seek to... disrupt... must tell investors the truth about what their technology can do today, not just what they hope it might do someday."

*The New York Times* wrote that the case "came to symbolize the pitfalls of Silicon Valley's culture of hustle, hype and greed"."...Tales of start-up chicanery, from the bungled initial public offering of WeWork to the aggressive boundary-pushing tactics of Uber, have not slowed the flow of money toward charismatic founders spinning tales of business success," *The NYT* said.The trial, said *The Washington Post*, "opened a window into the secretive world of Silicon Valley start-ups... where CEOs rarely stand for trial and companies often skirt regulatory consequences".LONGER VERSION ON  
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

## SIMPLY PUT QUESTION &amp; ANSWER

## EWS, as defined by govt panel

A committee has examined the criteria for determining who is to be included as EWS, and its report is part of the Centre's affidavit before the SC. What changes has it recommended, and what stays unchanged?

SHYAMILAL YADAV  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

A COMMITTEE constituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, which examined the income criteria for determining who are to be included among the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), submitted its report recently. The government has accepted the report and filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court. The next hearing is on Thursday.

## What was the mandate of the committee?

On November 30, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced the committee to "revisit the criteria for determining the economically weaker sections" in terms of the provisions of the explanation to Article 15 of the Constitution. It comprised former finance secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Indian Council for Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) member secretary V K Malhotra, and Principal Economic Advisor to the Government of India Sanjeev Sanyal. The committee held eight meetings between December 7 and December 31 before it submitted its report last week.

## Why was it set up?

It followed the Supreme Court's observation that the income criterion for determining EWS was "arbitrary". The Supreme Court is hearing a number of petitions, including a special leave petition filed by the Centre against a Madras High Court order on EWS and OBC reservation in the all-India quota under the NEET entrance exam for postgraduate medical and dental admissions. On July 29 last year, the Centre had issued a notification for implementing 10% reservation for EWS along with 27% for OBC within these courses. Following the petitions, the Supreme Court has stayed counselling for admission until the matter is decided.

The NEET notification followed the same criteria for determining EWS as mentioned in a notification from the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) dated January 31, 2019. The criteria include a Rs 8 lakh income ceiling for inclusion in EWS – which is the same as the criterion for deciding the "creamy layer" among the OBCs (those who are not in government). The notification said income shall include income from all sources i.e. salary, agriculture, business, profession, etc for the financial year prior to the year of application. Another criterion is that a per-



NEET candidates after the undergraduate entrance exam in Chandigarh last September. Counselling for postgraduate courses has been held up until the Supreme Court ruled on EWS. Express Archive

son whose family owns or possesses 5 acres of agricultural land or more will be excluded from EWS.

After the court raised questions, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on November 25 submitted that the Centre would revisit the criteria. The committee was set up after that.

## What has the panel recommended?

The committee's 70-page report, which is now part of an affidavit filed by Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary R Subrahmanyam, says that the "threshold of Rs 8 lakh of annual family income, in the current situation, seems reasonable for determining EWS". It recommends: "The current gross annual family income limit for EWS of Rs 8 lakh or less may be retained."

The committee has recommended, "EWS may, however exclude, irrespective of income, a person whose family has 5 acres of agricultural land and above."

While it has retained this, the committee has removed criteria that excluded some categories from EWS: owners of residential properties of 1,000 sq ft and above; residential plots of 100 sq yards and above in notified municipalities; and residential plots of 200 sq yards and above in areas other than the notified municipalities. "The residential asset criteria may altogether be removed," the committee said.

## How does it address the questions raised by the Supreme Court?

On October 21, the Supreme Court had observed: "The income limit in the criteria for the determination of the creamy layer of the OBC category and the EWS category is the same, namely, Rs 8 lakhs. While the creamy layer in the OBC category is identified for excluding a section of the community that has 'economically progressed' to such an extent that the social backwardness of the community diminishes, the EWS category is identified to include the segment which is 'poorer' when compared to the rest of the community... In these circumstances, would it be arbitrary to provide the same income limit both for the OBC and EWS categories?"

The committee's report now states "the two sets of criteria are significantly different despite both using the Rs 8 lakh cut-off and that the criteria for the EWS are much more stringent than those for the OBC creamy layer." The report justifies this income limit, stating that "Rs 8 lakh cut off also has a link with the income tax exemption limit... It would, therefore, be logical to use the income tax exemption limit to determine the threshold for EWS."

The Supreme Court had also questioned "on what basis has the asset exception been arrived at and was any exercise undertaken for that purpose; whether municipalities as

required under the exception have been notified; The reason why the residential flat criterion does not differentiate between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas."

As mentioned earlier, the committee has retained the 5-acre criterion for exclusion from the EWS category, but done away with the residential assets criteria.

## From when will the new criteria be implemented?

For ongoing admission processes, the existing criteria will continue. "The Committee... recommends that the existing and ongoing criteria in every on-going process where EWS reservation is available, be continued and the criteria recommended in this Report may be made applicable from next advertisement / admission cycle," the report says.

"When the existing system is ongoing since 2019, no serious prejudice would be caused if it continues for this year as well. Changing the criteria midway is also bound to result in spite of litigations in various courts across the country by the people/persons whose eligibility would change suddenly."

## How has the EWS quota been implemented so far?

EWS reservation was granted based on the recommendations of a commission headed by Major General (retd) S R Sahoo. The Commission for Economically Backward Classes was constituted by the then UPA government in 2005, and submitted its report in July 2010. To implement this, a Cabinet Note dated January 6, 2010 was prepared by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Based on this, the Cabinet in January 2010 decided to amend the Constitution (103rd Amendment) to provide reservation to EWS.

With months to go for that year's Lok Sabha polls, the government rushed the legislation through. The Bill was tabled and passed in Lok Sabha on January 8, 2010 and in Rajya Sabha the next day. Under the 2010 notification, persons not covered under reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs, and whose family has a gross annual income below Rs

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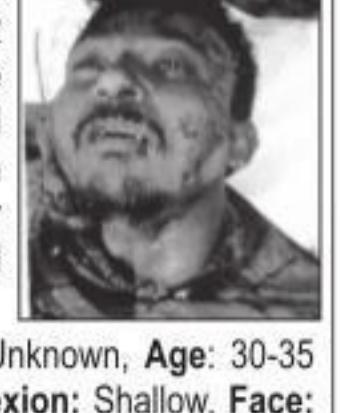
E-TENDER NOTICE: TN-06(RVU2122A1584)

Online tenders are invited for Annual Rate Contract for year 2021-22 for supply of High Speed Diesel (HSD) various Power Project of RVUN (KTPS, Kota/STPS-O&M, Suratgarh/STPS-SC, Suratgarh/CTPP-O&M, Chhahra/CTPP-SC, Chhahra/KATP, Jhalawar). Tender details are available on websites <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> (for tender), [www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvun/](http://www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvun/) & [www.sppr.rajasthan.gov.in/](http://www.sppr.rajasthan.gov.in/).

RajSamad/C/21/10163 RVUN/PR-3613 Superintending Engineer (Fuel)

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at KM Pole No. 7/32 & 7/33 between Near Railway GZB Side Main Railway Track Delhi. In this regard DD No. 28A Dated 29.12.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under:



**Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 30-35 years **Height:** About 5'8" Feet, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Grey Woolen Coat & Black Shirt & Blue Jeans & White Blue Shoes.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O  
DP/434/RLY/2022 P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-22145601/02, 8750871314, 8860741035

## परिचयमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि

अल्पकालीन इं-निवाद संख्या:- 130/2021-22/विभ.म./मेरठ, अंथोज्ञा अधिवन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, मेरठ के विभागीय कार्यों के सम्पादन हेतु 01 नं डीजल चलित कर मय ड्राइवर (दिनांक 01.04.2022 से 31.03.2023) रखने हेतु इं-निवाद आमंत्रित की गयी है। सर्वधनित निवाद हेतु धोरहर राशि रुपये 3000.00 है। अंलाइन निवाद भरने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 18.01.2022 (12:00 बजे तक) है। अल्पकालीन इं-निवाद संख्या:- 132/2021-22/विभ.म./मेरठ, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड प्रथम मेरठ के अन्तर्गत उपखण्ड अधिकारी प्रयत्न, परापत गोर्ख के विभागीय कार्यों के सम्पादन हेतु 01 नं डीजल चलित वाहन मय ड्राइवर (दिनांक 01.04.2022 से 31.03.2023) रखने हेतु इं-निवाद आमंत्रित की गयी है। सर्वधनित निवाद हेतु धोरहर राशि रुपये 3000.00 है। अंलाइन निवाद भरने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 18.01.2022 (12:00 बजे तक) है। अल्पकालीन इं-निवाद संख्या:- 133/2021-22/विभ.म./मेरठ, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड प्रथम मेरठ के अन्तर्गत उपखण्ड अधिकारी द्वितीय, परापत गोर्ख के विभागीय कार्यों के सम्पादन हेतु 01 नं डीजल चलित वाहन मय ड्राइवर (दिनांक 01.04.2022 से 31.03.2023) रखने हेतु इं-निवाद आमंत्रित की गयी है। सर्वधनित निवाद हेतु धोरहर राशि रुपये 3000.00 है। अंलाइन निवाद भरने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 18.01.2022 (12:00 बजे तक) है। कार्य की भूल मात्रा, निवाद विशेषज्ञता व अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें इं-निवाद पोर्टल पर उल्लिखित हैं। अंथोज्ञा अधिवन्तों को विना कारण बाबती अल्पकालीन इं-निवाद निरस्त करने की अधिकार होगा। निराधार तिथि के विस्तार तथा शुद्धि पत्र से सम्बन्धित सूचना यदि कोई हो तो नियमित देखें। 'राष्ट्र हिंद में विली बचाव' विद्युत चीजों की सूचना 1800-180-3002 पर है। अधीक्षण अधिवन्त विद्युत वितरण मण्डल-मेरठ। पत्रक संख्या 39 विभ.म./मेरठ दिनांक 03/01/2022



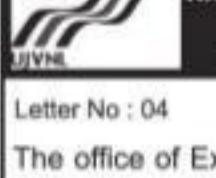
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### TENDER NOTICE Date: 03/01/2022

The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bihari Stage-II, Chinalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below:

Tender No: NIT-78/EE(M)/MB/II-21/22

**Name of work :** Repair and Overhauling of Tail Race Channel Gantry Crane of Capacity 40 Ton at Dharasu Power House

**Estimated cost:** Rs 715000/- Only (Taxes extra)

**Date of availability of bid document or website:** 04.01.2022

**Last date for submission of tender :** 25.01.2022 up to 11:00 Hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

Executive Engineer (Maintenance)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

## NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Open tender Notice Number : NCR-PRYJOCOMM Date: 30.12.2021 (MISC)/7/2021/38618

### TENDER NOTICE

Following open tenders in sealed covers on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Sr. Divl. Commercial Manager of Divisional Railway Manager's/Commercial, North Central Railway, Prayagraj on behalf of President of India.

Tender No 226-2021 to 256-2021

**Details of work including place**  
Installation of 31 ATMs at 19 Railway Stations. Chunar (1), Mirzapur (2), Vindhya (1), Prayagraj Chhoki (1), Manipur (1), Prayagraj (6), Subedarganj (4), Bamrauli (1), Fatehpur (2), Phaphund (1), Etawah (2), Firozabad (1), Shikohabad (1), Tundla (1), Hathras (1), Aligarh (2), Somma (1), Khurja (1), Dadri (1)

**Approximate cost in Rs.** 00

**Cost of Tender Form in Rs.** 1180.00

**Office address from where the tender information can be obtained.** Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Prayagraj of North Central Railway, Prayagraj Division.

**Earnest Money to be deposited in Rs.** 0.00 (Zero)

**Period of Contract** Five years

**I. Date & time for dropping the tender form** i. Form date of publishing of tender notice in newspaper to 28.01.2022 upto 13 hrs.

ii. At 15 hrs. on 28.01.2022

**Place for submission of tender/Bid** Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Office of Divisional Railway Manager, North Central Railway, Civil Lines, Nawab Yusuf Road, Prayagraj - 211001

**Website & Notice board where the full detail of tender can be seen** Tender details (Tender documents, terms & conditions) shall be available & downloaded on [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) upto 13:00 hrs. on 28.01.2022 i.e. date of opening of the tender.

North central railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @CPNRNCR 1372/21 (SP)

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala  
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
e-Tendering Website: [https://eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in)  
(Contact Number: 96461-61158)

**Tender Enquiry No. 01/CE/P&M/2022 Dated: 03.01.2022**

CE/P&M, PSPCL, SCADA Building, H Block, Near Nav Durga Mata Mandir, Gurudwara road, Srbha Nagar, Ludhiana-141001 invites e-Tender for the procurement of 5500 Kg Silica Gel Blue of size 6 to 12mm for Transformer Breathers. Material should be conforming to IS 3401-1992 (with latest amendments) and as per PSPCL specifications.

For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to [https://eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in) from 07.01.2022 at 10.00 A.M. onward.

**NOTE:** Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at [https://eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in).

C-03/22 12117/Pb



**King George Medical University U.P., Lucknow**

Ref No. GEM/2022/B/182501 Date: 04.01.2022

### Custom BOQ bid Inviting Notice

Custom BOQ bid on Gem portal is invited under 02 bid system (Technical & Financial) for the supply, Installation, testing and commissioning & 3 year Comprehensive Annual Maintenance of Passenger Lift and its related work Atal Bilhari Vaipayee convention Center King George Medical and their authorized Indian Agency can apply on the terms and conditions as per custom BOQ bid documents. Short details can be viewed at [kgmu.org](http://kgmu.org) & detailed will be available on GeM portal.

(Executive Engineer)

(Electrical/Mechanical Department)

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at GTB Hospital, Delhi on 19.11.2020. In this regard a DD. No. 23A, Date: 19.11.2020 has been lodged at P.S. GTB Enclave, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under:

**Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 60 years, **Height:** 5'6"

**Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** White Colour Shirt & Green Jarsi and Black Pant

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O

P.S. GTB Enclave, Delhi Ph.: 011-22580947

DP/682/SHD/2022

7065036031, 9873322997

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 949 (2021-22)

Sd/- A.C.E.(P)-4 STOP CORONA, WEAR FACE MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 949 (2021-22)

Sd/- A.C.E.(P)-4 STOP CORONA - (i) Wear Mask, (ii) Wash your Hand, (iii) Maintain Social Distance.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 949 (2021-22)

Sd/- (NARESH KUMAR) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (RPC)

765-SP-22 Follow us at [www.NWRailways.com](http://www.NWRailways.com) [www.NWRailways](http://www.NWRailways.com)

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SENSEX: 59,855.93 ▲ 672.71 (1.14%) NIFTY: 17,805.25 ▲ 179.55 (1.02%) NIKKEI: 29,301.79 ▲ 510.08 HANG SENG: 23,289.84 ▲ 15.09 FTSE: 7,481.39 ▲ 96.85 DAX: 16,143.53 ▲ 122.80



GOLD

₹46,814



RUPEE

₹74.58



OIL

\$77.08



SILVER

₹60,625

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi's spot market; gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of January 3

International market data till 1900 IST

## SECTOR WATCH

### AUTO

## Munjal vs Munjal: What is the legal tiff among 'Hero' promoters about?

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

The promoters of Hero Electric have approached the Delhi High Court, seeking an injunction against Hero Motocorp using the 'Hero' brand name for the upcoming launch of the latter's electric scooter, according to reports. The court is likely to hear the case on Wednesday.

**What objection does Hero Electric have against Hero Motocorp using the brand name?**

Hero Electric, which is among the largest electric scooter and bike makers in India, has contended before the Delhi High Court that when the extended Munjal families decided to go their separate ways in 2010, the father-son duo of Vijay and Naveen Munjal were given ownership of Hero Electric, along with rights to use the Hero brand to sell electric vehicles

within the larger Hero brand.

**What happens if the High Court rules in favour of Hero Electric?**

Since Hero Electric has the right to sell electric vehicles in India and across the globe, it is most likely that Hero Motocorp will have to choose a different brand name for its upcoming electric scooter launch, if the court rules in favour of the former.

While reports have indicated that the company has registered the brand name 'Vida' for use on its electric scooters and bikes, Hero Motocorp would like to try and retain the possibility of using the brand name 'Hero'. Hero Motocorp sells petrol bikes and scooters under that brand name, and has established itself as one of the market leaders in the segment.

With Hero Motocorp preparing for the launch of its own range of electric bikes and scooters, the company may want to continue using the Hero brand to avoid the large cost of building a brand name from scratch, along with the associated advertisement costs.

Apart from that, Hero Electric, which has built a wide range of electric products, would also want to protect its brand image and ensure that the same is not subsumed

## BRIEFLY

### RBI Retail Direct

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday notified the market making scheme to promote retail participation in G-secs by providing prices/quotes to retail direct, gilt account holders enabling them to buy and sell securities under the RBI Retail Direct Scheme.

### Airtel Payments

**New Delhi:** Airtel Payments Bank said it has been categorised as a scheduled bank by RBI. Meanwhile, Bharti Airtel said the scheme for a new corporate structure it had announced on April 14, 2021, has been "withdrawn".

### SBI IMPS charge

**New Delhi:** State Bank of India (SBI) will not levy any service charge on IMPS (immediate payment service) transactions up to Rs 5 lakh, done through internet banking/mobile banking. PTI

### Toyota US sales

**Washington:** Toyota outsold General Motors in the US in 2021. The Japanese automaker sold 2.332 million vehicles in 2021, against GM's 2.218 million.

### Google buy

**Toronto:** Google said its cloud division had acquired Israeli cybersecurity startup Siemplify, with a source saying Google paid \$500 million in cash. REUTERS

### AIRIA president

**Mumbai:** Sawar Dhanania of D.S. Engineers & Consultants, Kolkata, was elected president of All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA) for 2021-22. Shashi Kumar Singh (Mumbai) and Vipan Mehta (Ghaziabad) are the vice presidents. ENS

## THE BACK STORY

■ Hero Electric has contended before the Delhi High Court that when the extended Munjal families decided to go their separate ways in 2010, the father-son duo of Vijay and Naveen Munjal were given ownership of Hero Electric, along with rights to use the Hero brand to sell electric vehicles

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 4

INSURANCE COMPANIES can launch the much-anticipated surety bonds now, assuring payments in the event of default, giving a big push to infrastructure projects in the country.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has unveiled the final guidelines, facilitating the launch of various types of surety bonds in the country. The move has come after the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways last year requested Irdai to examine the possibility of offering surety bonds by general insurance companies. The government has planned investment worth Rs 7 trillion for infrastructure projects to be spent over the next 2-3 years.

A surety bond is provided by the insurance company on behalf of the contractor to the entity which is awarding the project. When a principal breaks a bond's terms, the harmed party can make a claim on the bond to recover losses.

## Classifieds

## PERSONAL

I Divya Rana D/o Vishavjeet Singh R/o House no 533, dda Lig Flats, ptk - 13 Near Palam Metro, Palam Village West Delhi have changed my name to Divya 0040598239-1

I DigIn Devasia S/o-Kerekechera Mathai Devasia R/o-House No.32-B, Block-MU, Near City Park Hotel, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to DigIn Mathai Devasia for all purposes. 0040598236-1

T,NEETHU HARISH,W/O HARISH KUMAR V.G.R./O G-4,CAMERO-COMPLEX SUBROTO-PARK,NEW DELHI-110010,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM NEETHU HARISH TO NEETHU GOPALAKRISHNAN K,VIDE-AFFIDAVIT DATED-04/01/2022, BEFORE NCT-DELHI. 0040598272-5

T,KAPIL S/O KRISHNALAL,C-25 RAGHUBIR ENCLAVE, NAJAFGARH SOUTH WEST DELHI-110043, changed my name to KAPIL POPLI, permanently. 0040598268-7

IT IS GENERAL INFORMATION THAT, ABDUL QAIYUM son of LATE HAIDER ALI resident of C-1/1003, CHOTI MASJID WALI GARI, MADANGIR, NEW DELHI-110062, declare that the name has been wrongly written as MD. QUAYUM MIYAN in my son school records and the actual and exact name of my is ABDUL QAIYUM respectfully which may be amended accordingly in my son all school records. 0040598212-1

I,km.Sahila Parveen,W/O-Nazim Khan,H.No-121,Gali.No-4,New-F Block-Near-Guru Gobind Singh-Hospital Raghbir-nagar,Tageore-Gardan,Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Swalika Khan. 40598263-10

I,Varinder Sethi W/O Sh. Gurpreet Singh Sethi,R/o W/Z 106-141,2nd Floor, Rajouri Garden Extension,Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Varinder Kaur Sethi for all future purpose. 0040598268-8

I,VIVAN KRISHNA SETHI,S/o JAYINSH SETHI,ADD-D-105, FIRST FLOOR, DEFENCE COLONY,NEW DELHI 110024, changed my name to VIVAAN KRISHNA SETHI. 0040598263-9

I,VIMLA w/o RAJU DIWAKAR residing at C-550,J.I.COLONY, KHYALA PARK HOSPITAL, TILAK-NAGAR,DELHI-110018, have changed my name to BIMLA DIWAKAR,permanently. 0040598271-3

I,Suman Kapoor D/o Late Sita Ram Kapoor W/o Late Bimal Dhall,R/o SD-226,Pitampura Delhi-110034,have changed my name after-marriage to Suman Dhall. 0040598263-4

I,Shashi Balu Shukla W/o Dinesh Kumar Shukla,R/o Flat-No.1808, Tower No.7, Jaypee Aman, Sector-151, Noida, UP have changed my name to Shashi Balu. 0040598271-5

I,Asha Devi W/o Ram Sagar Mishra R/o C-31/3E, Gali No.5, Bapuji, New Usmanpur, Delhi-110053 have change my name to Asha Mishra. 0070767613-1

I,Satwant Kaur,W/o Iqbal Singh R/o A-117, Narang-Colony, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Satwant Kour. 0040598263-9

I,SUMIT KALRA,S/o JAGDISH CHAND NAGPAL R/o 1020, Shastri-Nagar, Sector-2, LLMR Medical College,Meerut (UP)-250004,have changed my name to SUMIT NAGPAL. 0040598263-1

I,SRIVIDHYA SESHADRI W/O SESHADRI R/o A-1504, Sayo Zenith,Ahinsa Khand-2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad,UP, have changed my name to SRIVIDHYA. 0040598263-2

I,SESHADRI SANTHANAM S/O SANTHANAM R/o Flat-506, Antriksh Greens Apartment, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad,UP, have changed my name to SESHADRI. 0040598263-3

I,SANDEEP KUMARI SHARMA, R/O VISHWA DEEPAK SHARMA, R/O SUHAG-APARTMENT HOUSE NO.53, SADH-NAGAR PART-2, PALAM, DELHI-110045, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SANDEEP KUMARI SHARMA TO SANDEEP KUMARI, VIDE-AFFIDAVIT DATED-04/01/2022, BEFORE NCT-DELHI. 0040598272-4

I,SACHIT ANAND BANSAL,S/O MADHU SUDAN R/o B-28, GEETANJALI ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI-110017, have changed my name to SACHIT BANSAL. 0040598272-7

I,Ravinder S/o Surrender Singh, R/o 326/2, Near-Dev Cinema, Mehrauli Road, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Ravinder Kumar. 0040598268-6

I,Kesavapattabhu Anand Rao S/o K Srivinas Rao R/o of Tower 3, Flat No 101, Parsvnath Green Villa, Sector 48, Sohna Road, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my minor daughter's name from Kesavapattabhu Muskan Rao to Muskan Rao for all future purposes. 0020432144-1

I,Raj Narayan,S/o Radhey Shyam Gupta,R/o WZ-30B, Chaukhandi-Village, Tilak-Nagar,Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Raj Narayan Gupta. 0040598272-3

I,Rabeeya Khatoon Ansari,W/o M Gulati r/o flat no.-483, Windsor Green F-28, Sector-50, NOIDA, UP-201301 have changed my name to Parul Sachdeva. 0040598268-1

I,TRANJEET SINGH S/O MOHAN SINGH R/O 5D/44, GALINO.9, VISHNU-GARDEN, DELHI-110018, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RANJIT SINGH FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040598271-1

I,Prilyanka Dhingra W/o,Kartik Dhingra R/o-R-576, New-Rajinder Nagar,Delhi-110060, have changed my minor son's Krishang K Dhingra to Krishang Kartik Dhingra. D.O.B.-22.01.2008. 0040598271-6

I,Pallavi Anand,D/o-(L)-Sh.Ravinder Nath Bhargava, R/o-G-69,Uday-Vihar,Nilothi Extension,Delhi-41,changed my name to Pallavi-Bhargava also changed my minor son's name,from Aabhaas Anand to Aabhaas Bhargava, permanently. 0040598263-7

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I,Anjali Verma, D/o Raj Kishor Verma, R/o 569/4A, Prem Nagar, Alambagh, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226005, have changed my name to Anjali. 0070767608-1

I,Deepika, W/o Sanjay Chhikara, R/o J-901, Vivek Vihar, Sec-82, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110063 Have Changed my name to Deepika Chhikara. 0070767592-1

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I,Abhinandan Gupta, S/o Manohar Lal, R/O- House No. B-401 Top Floor, Meera Bagh, Paschim Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi-110063 Have Changed my name to Abhinandan Jindal for all purpose. 0070767593-1

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I,Deepika, W/o Sanjay Chhikara, R/o J-901, Vivek Vihar, Sec

## Osaka opens season with win over Cornet

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MELBOURNE, JANUARY 4

NAOMI OSAKA is back in a place where she's won two of her four Grand Slam singles titles and she's feeling good vibes after some time off trying to rediscover her love for the game.

The Australian Open champion opened her 2022 season with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win over Alize Cornet on Tuesday in one of the Summer Set of tournaments in Melbourne.

Osaka was returning to Rod Laver Arena for the first time since winning the Australian Open title in February. It was also her first tour-level match since a third-round loss to Leylah Fernandez at the U.S. Open in September.

After that loss, Osaka said: "I honestly don't know when I'm going to play my next tennis match."

She also took time off earlier last year, a mental health break that began when she withdrew from the French Open before her second-round match. She also sat out Wimbledon, then returned for the Tokyo Olympics, where she lit the cauldron during the opening ceremony.

After her opening win in Melbourne, Osaka said she'd set herself one major goal for this year: to enjoy the game.

"I'm the type of person that cared a little bit too much about the results and the rankings and I need to find a way to enjoy the game again because that's the reason I played the game in the first place," she said.

After taking time to hang out with friends and family, she said she slowly started to regain the feeling of love for the game.

"It's not like it ever completely went away but it got overshadowed by a lot of emotions that I was feeling just by constantly playing year after year," Osaka said.



I'm the type of person that cared a little bit too much about the results and the rankings and I need to find a way to enjoy the game again because that's the reason I played the game in the first place."

NAOMI OSAKA, 2021 AUS OPEN CHAMPION

## Vaccine wildcard for Novak

World No. 1 granted 'exemption permission' to compete at Australian Open

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MELBOURNE, JANUARY 4

NOVAK DJOKOVIC will get a chance to defend his Australian Open title after receiving a medical exemption to travel to Melbourne, ending months of uncertainty about his participation because of the strict COVID-19 vaccination requirements in place for the tournament.

The top-ranked Djokovic wrote on Instagram on Tuesday he has "an exemption permission." Djokovic, who is seeking a record 21st Grand Slam singles title, has continually refused to reveal if he is vaccinated against the coronavirus. The Victoria state government has mandated that all players, staff and fans attending the Australian Open must be fully vaccinated unless there is a genuine reason why an exemption should be granted.

Australian Open organizers issued a statement later Tuesday to confirm Djokovic will be allowed to compete at the tournament, which starts on Jan. 17, and is on his way to Australia. He earlier withdrew from Serbia's team for the ATP Cup, which started last weekend in Sydney.

"Djokovic applied for a medical exemption which was granted following a rigorous review process involving two separate independent panels of medical experts," the statement said. "One of those was the Independent Medical Exemption Review Panel appointed by the Victorian Department of Health. They assessed all applications to see if they met the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation guidelines." Tennis Australia said the process included the redaction of personal information to ensure privacy for all applicants. That means Djokovic was not obliged to make his exemption public.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley said "fair and independent protocols were established for assessing medical exemption applications that will enable us to ensure Australian Open 2022 is safe and enjoyable for everyone." Central to this process was that the decisions were made by independent medical experts and that every applicant was given due consideration," Tiley said.

Victoria state Deputy Premier James Merlino last month said the medical exemptions were "not a loophole for privileged tennis players." "It is a medical exemption in exceptional circumstances if you have an acute medical condition," Merlino said at a news conference.

The decision announced Tuesday will be widely debated in a city which endured months of strict lockdowns and harsh travel restrictions at the height of the pandemic.

Reaction on social media quickly turned to questions about the grounds for Djokovic's exemption, and what quarantine conditions



Novak Djokovic will be bidding for a 10th Australian Open title and 21st Grand Slam crown in all. Reuters

### What do the rules say?

ACCORDING TO Tennis Australia, Novak Djokovic's exemption applications was approved on basis of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) guidelines.

According to ATAGI's rules, valid reasons for a temporary exception include:

■ "Acute major medical condition (e.g. undergoing major surgery or hospital admission for a serious illness),

**EXPLAINED**

■ A Covid-19 diagnosis where "vaccination can be deferred until 6 months after the infection".

■ Any serious adverse event attributed to a previous dose of a Covid vaccine, and

■ "If the vaccinee is a risk to themselves or others during the vaccination process" which can include "a range of individuals with underlying developmental or mental health disorders".

he will have to meet on arrival in Australia.

Last year, all foreign players had to spend two weeks in hotel quarantine before the Australian Open, pushing the year's first major back from its usual mid-January start. There were also strict caps on crowd numbers, and days when fans weren't allowed into Melbourne Park as coronavirus cases surged.

The 34-year-old Djokovic has won nine of his 20 major titles at the Australian Open. He shares the men's record for most majors with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic hasn't played at tour level since the Davis Cup Finals in early December, and has recently been practising in Spain. His

posts on social media announcing his plans to travel to Australia were accompanied by a photo of Djokovic leaning on a tennis bag at an airport.

The exemption was questioned by British doubles player Jamie Murray, who said that he was unlikely to get one if he were in Djokovic's place.

"I think if it was me that wasn't vaccinated I wouldn't be getting an exemption... but well done to him for getting clear to come to Australia and compete," he said after the doubles rubber against Canada in the ATP Cup.

"At the end of the day you kind of have to trust that he does have a valid reason for the medical exemption."

## Ranji Trophy postponed due to rising Covid cases

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
KOLKATA, JANUARY 4

THE BCCI on Tuesday postponed the Ranji Trophy for this season in the wake of rising Covid cases. After the cancellation of the tournament last term, the postponement would cast doubt on the prospects of the premier domestic first-class competition for the 2021-22 season as well. The Ranji Trophy was supposed to start on January 13. But the cricket board has prioritised players' health, receiving support from India all-rounder Shardul Thakur and state association officials for the decision.

After his seven-for at the Wanderers, when Shardul came to the post-day press conference, he was asked about the Ranji Trophy postponement and how it would impact domestic cricketers. "I feel for them. But you also have to look at the Covid scenario in the country. With the cases rising and we have so many domestic teams playing, it might not be easy to manage all the teams and to have a tab on each and everyone. So, I think right now whatever the Board has decided must be right. That's why they have taken the decision," Shardul Thakur, India bowler on the postponement

I feel for them. But you also have to look at the Covid scenario in the country. With the cases rising and we have so many domestic teams playing, it might not be easy to manage all the teams and to have a tab on each and everyone. So, I think right now whatever the Board has decided must be right. That's why they have taken the decision."

SHARDUL THAKUR, INDIA BOWLER ON THE POSTPONEMENT

Ganguly is currently in home isolation. On Tuesday, Cricket Association of Bengal president Avishek Dalmiya was admitted to a hospital "as a precaution" after contracting Covid. He is said to be stable. Saurashtra Cricket Association president (SCA) Jaydev Shah informed that one player in the Ranji squad had tested positive "after coming back from the IPL trials".

A steep rise in the number of Covid cases in India and globally has coincided with the spread of the Omicron variant of the virus. Shah backed the BCCI's decision for postponement.

"I feel that the decision taken by (BCCI secretary) Jay bhai (Shah) and president Sourav Ganguly is a very good decision. Health is the most important part of life and cricket and money come after that. A lot of Covid cases are coming up and this is the right time to do it," he told The Indian Express.

"The Ranji Trophy & Col CK Nayudu Trophy were scheduled to begin this month while the Senior Women's T20 League was scheduled to commence in February."

Addressing the health concerns, the statement added: "BCCI does not want to compromise the safety of the players, support staff, match officials and other participants involved and hence, has decided to put the three tournaments on hold till further notice. The BCCI will continue to assess the situation and take a call on the start of the tournaments accordingly."

### Virus on the loose

The decision comes on the heels of a Covid outbreak in the Bengal Ranji squad, with several players testing positive. A few days ago, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly had to be hospitalised as a precautionary measure after testing positive for the virus.

### DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

#### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

In many respects you fare better than most at the moment, mainly because the Sun is offering you its support and protection. It's time to come to terms with the underlying situation, as well as with certain undercurrents which only you can recognise.

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Now you must prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are in control at home and that you are, at heart, an individual of energy and action. The Moon will now keep your emotions calm and steady, encouraging you to push an initiative you had on the back burner for some time.

#### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Nobody is asking you to change or alter the habits of a lifetime, but if there's one thing you've learnt over the last few days, it's that without a little willingness to bend, you may compromise your future security. And if you've got a spare moment, tell someone just how you feel about them.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

You're far from reckless and irresponsible. What's more, you are blessed with a number of unique creative talents which people are currently in the habit of mistaking for an obstinate refusal to compromise, or indeed to make any concession at all.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Perhaps it's all you've been through that makes you seem particularly shrewd at the moment. One thing is clear; if you continue on your present course in personal matters, all the different strands will eventually fall into place, with exceedingly pleasant results.

#### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

It should be possible to prove that you have been treated unfairly and even unjustly. However, the road is long and you must gather your evidence before rushing in and expecting people to apologise. By the way, it's an ideal moment for making a few shrewd purchases.

#### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Your very personal affairs seem to be going through a slightly calmer period. If anything, it's routine chores and mundane commitments which seem to be the focus of concern and attention right now. And that, I think, is good enough reason for pressing ahead as fast as you can.

#### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The Moon is not in a particularly jokey mood. In fact, the situation seems rather serious. Perhaps it's finances that are the cause of current disputes and differences? In any event, please don't be complacent, especially if a partner is relying on you.

#### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Tired and exhausted though you may be, you will soon find that your efforts have been well-spent. In fact, you will shortly begin to see that many apparently unconnected events are part of a greater pattern. And that, that you should be happy to hear, is a reassuring thought.

#### MARIN (June 22 - July 23)

Nobody is asking you to change or alter the habits of a lifetime, but if there's one thing you've learnt over the last few days, it's that without a little willingness to bend, you may compromise your future security. And if you've got a spare moment, tell someone just how you feel about them.

#### CANCER (July 24 - Aug 23)

Passions will run high this afternoon, but the end result depends on the situation. If you are meeting obstacles you may find it difficult to restrain your anger. If, on the other hand, circumstances are in your favour, you will charge along with renewed vigour.

#### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 19)

Travel plans are in the pipeline, but short trips seem to be a more reasonable option than long journeys. The best policy is to aim for something unusual, perhaps in the nature of a voyage of personal discovery. You have the advantage on all romantic relationships, so do your best.

### OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



### CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



### MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



### SUDOKU 4705

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

9	4	6				5		
			3			7		
6				4	2			
7	3	8						
9				4				

### SOLUTION SUDOKU 4704

9	7	6	5	2	4	3	8	1
5	3	2	6	1	8	4	7	9
4	1	8	7	3	9	6	5	2
8	6	1	3	9	5	2	4	7
3	9	5	4	7	2	1	6	8
2	4	7	1	8	6	5	9	3
1	5	9	8	6	3	7	2	4
6	2	3	9	4	7	8	1	5
7	8	4	2	5	1</			

# Deficit overcome, a lead building, India stay on track at Wanderers

**ABHISHEK PUROHIT**  
JANUARY 4

THE SECOND ball of the second day of the Wanderers Test from Mohammed Shami leaped at Dean Elgar, who fended it safely to point. The last ball of the day from Keshav Maharaj spun and bounced at Cheteshwar Pujara, who edged it softly past slip for his seventh four and took India's lead to 58 with eight wickets standing.

What ensued in between those two deliveries was not only utterly absorbing cricket, but also the build-up of several narratives that are hurtling towards one grand denouement at the Bullring. The headline story of the day was, of course, how Shardul Thakur transformed his golden arm into a goldmine extracting one precious wicket after another.

Before Thakur ripped through the South African batting line-up, the morning had been about the craft and threat of Shami and Jasprit Bumrah pitted against the grit of Elgar

and the elegant promise of Keegan Petersen.

It was also about a stand-in captain trying to limit the opposition without the cushion of too many runs to defend and with his third seamer reduced to bowling wicket-to-wicket medium pace. Mohammed Siraj was unable to summon his familiar frenetic energy after having done his hamstring on the second evening, and operated in the late 120s to early 130s, about half the bowler he usually is.

Skipper KL Rahul also had the punchy counter-attack of Temba Bavuma to contend with, and the resoluteness down the order of Marco Jansen and Keshav Maharaj, who earned a useful little first-innings lead of 27 for South Africa.

India had just wiped out the deficit and started to build a lead of their own when they lost both their in-form openers Rahul and Mayank Agarwal.

Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane came together in the middle now. Fighting to keep their team in the match, fighting to give their bowlers a chance to go for India's first series win in South Africa. And of course,



Cheteshwar Pujara, who remained unbeaten, counter-attacked with 35 off 42 as India finished at 85 for 2.

**Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane came together in the middle now. Fighting to keep their team in the match, fighting to give their bowlers a chance to go for India's first series win in South Africa. And of course, fighting to keep their spots in the team.**

fighting to keep their spots in the team.

As they went about trying to accomplish all of these weighty tasks, it was hard to tell at times which was which, as if the styles had been switched. Rahane on the hop, taking snorters on the top glove, fending them past short leg, trying to play straight. Pujara hooking and driving as if this was a chase to be completed by stumps.

Looking to dislodge the veterans short on

runs, South Africa overpitched too often, and Pujara, in particular, and of all batsmen, did not hold back even once.

In the 8.2 overs the pair was at the crease until stumps, India added 41 runs, and Pujara strode back on 35 off 42, at a very uncharacteristic strike-rate of 83.

Unlike Pujara and Rahane, the South African pair of the morning had resisted true to style. Elgar played and missed and ducked and weaved, shrugging matter-of-factly after surviving searching examinations from Shami and Bumrah, as if to suggest it was all an occupational hazard. Petersen, meanwhile, showed why all the fuss about him is justified. On a somewhat up-and-down surface that had quickened up further, he still had time to get behind the line. He had the balance to unfurl picture-perfect cover drives and square drives. He was alert and aware enough to move away from the line of bouncers directed at his body. Like Rahul, deliveries that had and would trouble others didn't bother him, as he played so late without committing early.

With luck not on their side, Shami and Bumrah kept running in. Bumrah would set up Petersen with four or five wide ones and slip in the nip backer, only to watch it go inches over the stumps. Shami, seam perpendicular to mother earth as always, would move it both ways from the same spot but miss the edges of the bat.

Like Shami, even Bumrah had now started to hold his face in his hands in disappointment and just change direction in his follow-through to start moving back to his mark. There is little else you can do when it is not going your way when it should. All Shami and Bumrah would get was a couple of strikes at the tail after Thakur had reaped his golden harvest.

That South Africa did not get too far in front, and that India have hacked their way to 85/2 in just 20 overs means the hosts will get increasingly edgier if they don't strike early on the third morning. Pujara and Rahane, led by Rahul junior and guided by Rahul senior, looking to save their careers and set up a historic first for India. Will it all come together in place at a ground called Wanderers?

## BRIEFLY

### Ebadot puts Bangladesh on top

**Mount Maunganui:** Ebadot Hossain bowled Bangladesh to the brink of a famous victory over World Test Champion New Zealand in a fiery spell Tuesday on the fourth day of the first cricket Test. On a pitch on which Bangladesh and New Zealand collectively amassed 786 runs in their first innings — with the tourists taking a 130-run lead — Ebadot reduced New Zealand to 147-5 at stumps, a lead of only 17 runs. After dismissing first-innings century-maker Devon Conway for 13, Ebadot removed Will Young (69), Henry Nicholls (0) and Tom Blundell (0) in the space of six balls to fortify the strong position the Bangladesh batters had created. "The first thing to know about Ebadot as a person is that he only came to cricket about five years ago," Bangladesh's West Indies-born bowling coach Ottis Gibson said. "He won a fast-bowling competition somewhere and two years later he was playing international cricket. "He's a joy to work with because he's enthusiastic and he wants to learn so much. When his confidence is high he can bowl spells like this." New Zealand was just hanging on at stumps in the face of Ebadot's aggressive swing bowling. Veteran Ross Taylor, in his penultimate test match before retirement, was 37 and allrounder Rachin Ravindra was 6. AP

**BRIEF SCORES:** New Zealand 328 & 147/5 (W Young 69, Ross Taylor batting 37; E Hossain 4/39) vs Bangladesh 458 (M Hasan Joy 78, N Hossain Shanto 64, M Haque 88; T Boult 4/85)

### Boland retains spot for fourth Test

**Sydney:** Scott Boland has retained his spot in Australia's bowling attack for the fourth Ashes Test after his starring role on debut in the series-deciding victory over England last week. Boland took six wickets for seven runs as England collapsed in the second innings to be all out for 68 in Melbourne, allowing Australia to retain the Ashes with two matches to spare. Any debate about Boland's spot in the starting XI ended when veteran pace bowler Josh Hazlewood was ruled out for a third consecutive match because of a side strain. Australia made one injury enforced change for the fourth test starting Wednesday at the SCG with Usman Khawaja replacing middle-order batter Travis Head. AP

### Lukaku back to training with Chelsea

**London:** Romelu Lukaku has been reintegrated to the Chelsea squad after being dropped for an EPL game for expressing his unhappiness at the club in a TV interview, manager Thomas Tuchel said on Tuesday. The Belgium striker could return to the team for Wednesday's first-leg game against Tottenham in the English League Cup semifinals. "He apologized and is back in the squad for today's training," Tuchel said. In an interview aired by broadcaster Sky in Italy, Lukaku said he was "not happy with the situation" at Chelsea and indicated he had issues with Tuchel's style of play. Tuchel reacted by leaving Lukaku, Chelsea's record signing, out of the 2-2 draw with Liverpool in the Premier League on Sunday. The player held talks with Tuchel on Monday and will return to training, putting him in contention to play in Wednesday's game against Tottenham. AP

## YUKI GETS DIRECT ENTRY

India's Yukti Bhamori received a direct entry into the men's singles main draw at the 4th Tata Open Maharashtra which will see some of the top players vying for honours here from January 31. PTI

# Shardul Thakur, right-arm intelligent

Smart thinking helps fast bowler to come up with game-changing spell at Johannesburg on Day Two of the second Test

**SRIRAM VEERA**  
JANUARY 4

"MANY PEOPLE have that lazy opinion about Shardul," L Balaji, Shardul Thakur's bowling coach at Chennai Super Kings, says when it's put across that Thakur has a happy knack of taking a wicket. Lazy?

"I also use it but what I am protesting against is the fact that sometimes people use it to suggest that he can get lucky with the wicket-taking balls. As if he hasn't worked intelligently through a spell. As if he hasn't bowled them deliberately. Let me tell you, he is a very intelligent bowler."

That intelligence was seen in the seven-wicket haul in a game-turning spell on day 2 at Johannesburg.

It's what he didn't do that caught the eye. A predominantly outswing bowler, he just didn't show that card to the left-handed Dean Elgar. Perhaps, that was the reason Elgar eventually reached out to one outside off and nicked it. What does Thakur usually do? Curve it back into the left-hander. But that wasn't seen much. Time and again, he kept cutting them away.

There is a bit of Australia's Ben Hilfenhaus about his bowling. As Rahual Dravid would certify post his last tour to Australia in 2012, Hilfenhaus, a largely outswing bowler, had the lovely skill of nipping it back in too.

The anglers to Elgar were also released from reasonably close to the stumps. "In the recent years, the way he uses the angles has been pretty good," says Balaji. "He can go wide and try the outswinger to the right-handers and go closer and take it away from the left-hander." Counter-intuitive, to an extent.

So Elgar kept poking inside the line but the ball that curves back in never came. And unsurprisingly he nicked one of those anglers released not too wide from the stumps.

It was a crucial spell. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Shami had been outstanding in their opening spells but wicketless. Then KL Rahul erred in perhaps carrying on a bit too long with Mohammad Siraj, who was tentative after his thigh strain and low on gas. Perhaps, Thakur could have been brought in earlier. The game was threatening to slip away when Thakur yanked it back for India.

"He is a man who loves responsibility. Not a type of a guy to keep quiet!" says Balaji. "He would ask you, why he wasn't given a bowl in the end overs. Or in the middle. Or with the new ball. Basically, any situation he thinks he hasn't been given a go, he would want an answer from you. Just to check if it's due to better option out there or he was seen as not fitting that role. And then he would work so hard to get that skill and would show you in the nets that he has it. Now, how about giving me that role?" Balaji laughs.

With Elgar packed off, he reverted to outswingers to the right-handed Keaton Petersen. He kept changing his angles of release. There was a lovely delivery from wide of the crease, that just about began to shape away from the off stump line but Petersen managed to cover the line. Encouraged, though, Thakur kept up with it and soon came an outswinger from slightly wide of the crease - wider than the nipbacker to Elgar, and Petersen ended up tricked into a loose drive, perhaps because of that angle.

More intelligence came through. If it was largely the angler for Elgar and outswinger from different points at the crease for Petersen, he started to mix them up for Rassie van der Dussen, out, and then in. To add to the troubles of van der Dussen, he got it to bounce higher as well. Inside-edge on to the pad and Pant lunged ahead to pouch it.

The three-wicket burst wasn't enough to get India on top. Thakur ended his spell, others had a go but a wicket wasn't coming. A 50-wicket partnership was strung together between Temba Bavuma and the wicketkeeper Kyle Verreyne. Once again, Rahul threw the ball to Thakur and he did the job with a full nipbacker. Stuck at the crease to a ball he should have leaned forward, Verreyne frantically stabbed at it but couldn't get any wood on leather and was trapped lbw. Not satisfied yet, the man who asks straight questions to his coaches and captains, went for his old trick

"It's not a surprise to me at all as he is a bowler who has lots of first-class experience. You learn all these things there - spells, how to bowl differently in different sessions of play, when to attack, when to defend, and when to try the bouncers to try intimidating. In his mindset, he is like the 80's West Indian pacers. He might not have the pace, but he thinks like them."

**L BALAJI**  
CSK, BOWLING COACH

from the past. The bouncer. It kicked up towards the ribcage of Bavuma, who fended at it awkwardly and it went off the edge to a diving Pant down the leg side. A five-for, and supremely deserving one at that.

### Embracing change

Balaji also points out the transformation Thakur has had to go through, which adds to his respect. "Remember, he used to be much quicker a few years ago. Loved his bouncers - he still does - and would hit the deck real hard. But the back injuries meant he had to lose out on pace, but he has comeback stronger because of his intelligence, confidence, and hard work. He is one of the more confident bowlers that I have seen. He always backs himself. You can also see that confidence in his batting, of course."

"It's not a surprise to me at all as he is a bowler who has lots of first-class experience. You learn all these things there - spells, how to bowl differently in different sessions of play, when to attack, when to defend, and when to try the bouncers to try intimidating. In his mindset, he is like the 80's West Indian pacers. He might not have the pace, but he thinks like them," Balaji says.

Thakur has retained some of that old venom from his younger days. He doesn't reach out of his bouncers as much as he used to do, but continues to hit the pitch hard for his back of length deliveries. And then he can seamlessly slip into a full length for his curvy outswingers.

These days, he has developed into a bowler who can string all these individual threads into a good thinking spell. Happy knack of picking wickets? Shardul Thakur is a lot more than that. Intelligent, relentless, a trier - not in the sense of a hard worker but someone who actively tries out different things when the usual doesn't do the job. When others can't do it, no wonder the captain throws the ball to him with more than mere hope.

### SCOREBOARD

**India 1st innings: 202 all out**

**South Africa 1st innings (overnight 35/1)**

D Elgar c Pant b Thakur 28

A Markram lbw 7

K Petersen c Agarwal b Thakur 62

vander Dussen c Pant b Thakur 1

T Bavuma c Pant b Thakur 51

K Verreyne lbw Thakur 21

M Jansen c Ashwin b Thakur 21

K Rabada c Siraj b Shami 0

K Maharaj b Bumrah 21

D Olivier Not Out 1

L Ngidi c Pant b Thakur 0

Extras (4b 4lb 3nb, 5w) 16

Total (79.4 overs) 229 all out

**Fall of Wickets:** 1-14 Markram, 2-88 Elgar,

3-101 Petersen, 4-102 van der Dussen, 5-162 Verreyne, 6-177 Bavuma, 7-179 Rabada, 8-217 Maharaj, 9-228 Jansen, 10-229 Ngidi

**Bowling:** Bumrah 21-5-49-1, M Shami 5-2-52, M Siraj 9.5-2-24-0, S Thakur 17.5-3-61-7, R Ashwin 10-1-35-0

**India 2nd innings**

KL Rahul c Markram b Jansen 8

M Agarwal lbw/Olivier 23

C Pujara batting 35

A Rahane batting 11

Extras (2b 4lb 2nb) 8

Total (20.0 overs) 85-2

**Fall of Wickets:** 1-24 Rahul, 2-44 Agarwal

**Bowling:** K Rabada 6-1-26-0, D Olivier 4-0-22-1, L Ngidi 3-1-5-0, M Jansen 6-2-18-1, K Maharaj 1-0-8-0



Medium pacer Shardul Thakur took 7 for 61 as India bowled out South Africa for 229. AP

## How chat with Zaheer put Shardul on the path to become 'Lord Shardul'

**DEVENDRA PANDEY**  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 4

DHAWAL KULKARNI still remembers the advice Zaheer Khan had for a young Shardul Thakur. The former India left-arm pacer had told Thakur that if he had ambitions of playing at a higher level, he would have to reduce his weight and get fitter.

The youngster took those words to heart. He was 83kg at that time, but had got 13kg lighter by the time he returned to the Mumbai dressing room a few months later, Kulkarni recalls.

Apart from getting much slimmer, Thakur's attitude towards the game had also changed. He became more eager and aggressive in pursuing his goal of playing for the country. "His attitude took him to a different level. The intensity with which he bowled his first over was also visible in the final session. A fast bowler needs an attitude and he should have high intensity to bowl with the same passion every time. Thakur has all that," Kulkarni says.

Zaheer, who was playing Ranji Trophy for Mumbai then, provided more advice and inputs for the upcoming bowler. He told Thakur about the different demands placed on a fast bowler in each session of play. He also taught him other little tricks of the trade - like changes in pace and the judicious use of the bouncer.