

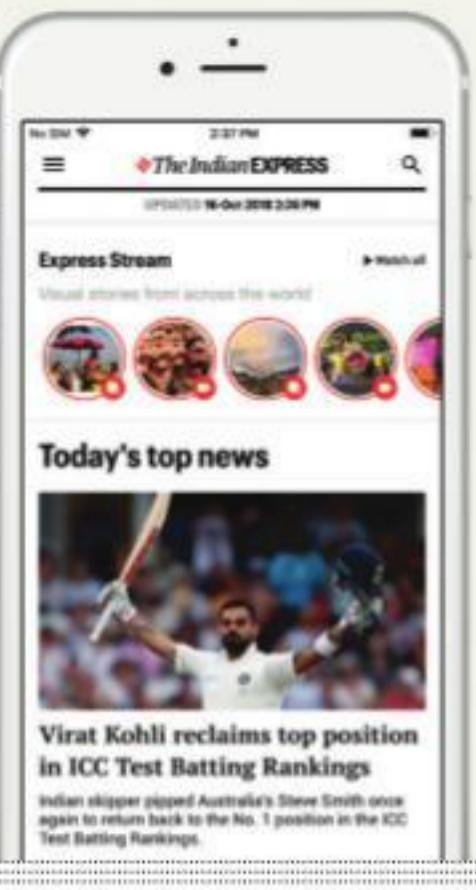
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EXPLAINED: JINNAH IN POLITICAL DISCOURSE — THE FATHER OF PAKISTAN WHO CONTINUES TO CAUSE CONTROVERSY IN INDIA

Jinnah has surfaced in Indian political discourse several times in the past, especially at the time of elections. To the votaries of Hindutva, Jinnah has always stood as the man who must be blamed for the partition.

ENTERTAINMENT



SHAKUN BATRA INTERVIEW

Gehraiyaan director gets intimate about his process

TECH



A CLOSER LOOK AT DARK WEB

In Tech InDepth, we decode dark web and deep web

EXPRESS AUDIO

Can Mayawati be the kingmaker in UP?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Liz Mathew joins host Snigdha Sharma to discuss the role BSP chief could play in the upcoming assembly elections despite her party becoming a fringe force over the last few years

FROM PAGE ONE

PM on capex

incurs such a huge expenditure, it will bring more investment, expand modern infrastructure, and create a positive impact among iron and cement producers... It will create many job opportunities as well."

He said the government's decision to spend so much will eventually provide relief to the common man, making his life easier and better. Elaborating the step up in capex for the workers, he said, "You try and understand this government's work. In 2014, there were 90,000 km of national highways — these were built over 70 years; but in the last seven years, we built 50,000 km national highways... the highways not only result in better connectivity between villages and cities, but also bring new industries, in every sector, creating lakhs of new jobs."

In the early days, Modi pointed out, villages came to life along river belts; but people now move to areas where there are highways, infrastructure and internet. "With logistics support, farmers are able to sell fruits and vegetables in markets more easily. Four multimodal logistics parks over the next four years, 100 Gati Shakti cargo terminals over the next three years will ensure higher exports. This means higher production and more jobs," he said.

Listing initiatives including plans to roll out 5G technology and schemes for farmers, the Prime Minister said the fundamentals of the economy were strong and the nation was moving in the right direction. The Budget, he said, has allocated Rs 48,000 crore to build 80 lakh houses for the poor, which would turn them into "lakhpatis".

Modi said the digital rupee will open up new opportunities for the FinTech sector. "Digital payments will be regulated, much like standard currency is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)... Such payments are more secure, efficient, and safe, and go a long way towards paving the way for a global digital payments' infrastructure," he said.

Rahul Gandhi

debate over the motion of thanks to the President's address touched upon a range of issues: from the silence over jobs in the Budget speech to what he called the decimation of the small and medium industry to the concentration of capital in the hands of "AA", (a ref-

erence to Ambani and Adani); the "capture" of institutions, to the Centre refusing to listen to states.

"There are two competing visions of India... If you read the Constitution, you will find that India is described as a Union of States, India is not described as a nation, it is described as a Union of States," he said. He said this means that people from all states should have the same rights.

"You think that you can support the (states') languages, cultures, histories. You have no idea of history, no idea of what you are dealing with," he said. Citing an example, he said, "the people of Tamil Nadu have the idea of Tamil Nadu, the idea of Tamil language in their heart, and then also the idea of India".

"There are two visions: one is a Union of States, of languages, of cultures, a bouquet of beautiful flowers that can challenge any power in the world... There is another vision: a centralising vision, the vision of a king, the idea of a king which the Congress removed in 1947... The idea of a king has come back, that there is a king, a sheshshah, a ruler of rulers, a master of masters," he said.

"As a result of this flawed vision, the instruments of conversation between our states, between our peoples, what we call the institutions of our country, are being attacked and captured by one India... Only the king has a voice," he said.

It is this "confused understanding" of the nation that is "playing havoc", Gandhi said. "The judiciary, Election Commission, Pegasus — these are all instruments... the voice of the Union of States," he said. "When you apply Pegasus on an Indian politician... when the... personally goes to Israel and authorises the use of Pegasus in India, he is attacking the people of Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala, West Bengal," he said.

"My fear is that this attack that you are carrying out on the institutional framework is going to get a response from the Union of States... My great grandfather (Nehru) was in jail for 15 years, my grandmother (Indira Gandhi) was shot in the chest 32 times, my father (Rajiv Gandhi) was blown into pieces. I know what it is... You are fiddling with something very dangerous," he said.

Gandhi began his speech by saying that the President's address left out some "fundamental issues". He said: "There is now no

longer one India. One India is for the extremely rich, for those who have immense wealth, immense power, for those who don't need water or electricity connections, but control the heartbeat of the country." He said there was another India for the poor, where "there are no rights". "There are two Indias. One, an India of rich; and the other, an India of poor. And, the gap between these two Indias is widening," he said.

He said 3 crore youths had lost their jobs in 2021 — the highest in 50 years.

Indian institutes

provisions for opening of offshore campuses" by March 17.

The committee members include directors of seven IITs — Mumbai, Delhi, Kharagpur, Madras, Kanpur, Guwahati, Dhanbad — and the vice-chancellors of Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Banaras Hindu University, University of Hyderabad, and the Director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. Its mandate includes drawing up the administrative, financial, and legal framework of the proposed overseas campuses.

The proposals, including that of IIT Delhi, will be placed before the committee. Among the highlights of IIT Delhi's proposed overseas campuses are four-year undergraduate courses, annual intake of up to 240 students in four branches based on SAT scores, and campuses spread over 100 acres that are close to major cities with good air connectivity.

The premier engineering school's proposal marks its second attempt to expand abroad. Its previous attempt to set up a research academy in Mauritius under an agreement with the Mauritius Research Council had run into a controversy in 2014 following objections raised by then Human Resources Development Minister Smriti Irani.

The operational safeguard required for insulating the parent-institute vis-a-vis its offshore campuses from liabilities as per law of foreign country" is also among the terms of references of the Radhakrishnan committee.

A senior Education Ministry official said the committee has so far met once where discussions were held on whether the IITs should collectively start one campus abroad or should each IIT compete individually abroad.

"And why just IITs? Many other central universities have the necessary expertise to launch offshore campuses. The committee will provide a roadmap. IIT Delhi is an institute of eminence and has an autonomous decision-making structure. But any proposal that involves funds will require the ministry's approval," the official added.

"People had to migrate for work during Congress rule. When the BJP came to power, this continued," she said.

She said that while criminals

flourished during the SP government, the Congress did not work for the benefit of backward classes.

"People had to migrate for work during Congress rule. When the BJP came to power, this continued," she said.

While Covid restrictions limit the number of people at such gatherings to 1,000, BSP supporters turned up in significant numbers at the party's show of strength.

According to the structure outlined by IIT-D, the proposed campuses — which will be headed by directors appointed by the chairman of Board of Governors of the Delhi centre — in Saudi Arabia and Egypt will have to be financially supported by stakeholders based in those countries, including their governments, the industry or philanthropic donors.

"An alternate model would be to set up the KSA campus [Kingdom of Saudi Arabia] as a for-profit entity. This would have the advantage of attracting potential investors who could provide the capital needed to set up the campus. However, IIT Delhi has no experience in working with such a model and while it might be willing to explore the possibility this would not be its priority," it said in the draft proposal.

Mayawati

last Assembly polls, with the BSP candidates coming second in seven constituencies.

"I personally supervised the ticket distribution. I met and interviewed each candidate... to ensure that we don't feel betrayed like last time," Mayawati said, in a reference to those who left the party.

Targeting all three parties — BJP, SP and Congress — Mayawati asked her supporters to ensure her party's return to power. The BSP last won the elections in 2007. In 2017, it managed to win just 19 of the total 403 seats in the Assembly, with a 22.3 per cent vote share.

"The BJP has caused harm to people from all castes, including Dalits and backwards. Their wrong economic policies have caused problems. The cost of diesel, petrol and rising inflation has troubled everyone," she said.

"In the name of religion, an environment of fear and tension has been perpetuated. There have been crimes against Dalits, but the media usually hides the figure," she said.

Saying that people have been jailed just for protesting, Mayawati said if voted to power, her government would review such cases.

"Many parties, prior to elections, try to create an atmosphere about themselves through opinion polls. In 2007, the opinion polls gave us third position, but we were first. All such opinion polls will be proved wrong," she said.

She said that while criminals

flourished during the SP government, the Congress did not work for the benefit of backward classes.

"People had to migrate for work during Congress rule. When the BJP came to power, this continued," she said.

While Covid restrictions limit the number of people at such gatherings to 1,000, BSP supporters turned up in significant numbers at the party's show of strength.

CBDT chief

Act from 2005-06, the Budget clarified that cess and surcharge will not be allowed to be claimed as deductions in the form of expenditure. Citing court rulings, the tax department said the retrospective amendment is being done to correct the anomaly of cess and surcharge not being seen as a part of tax.

"...there is retrospectivity in the Bill but one has to read the context in which the retrospective provision has been kicked in here. The department strongly feels at the time of the presentation of the Bill that cess can never be part of an allowed expenditure. That's the reason the conviction in this case is unanimous — cess could never have been allowed as an expenditure... We will get a considered view after the discussions are over.

But this retrospectivity in Section 40 is very different contextually from the retrospectivity in section 9," Mohapatra said.

The change is being brought from AY 2005-06 as education cess was introduced by the Finance Act, 2004. "This amendment will take effect retrospectively from 1st April, 2005 and will accordingly apply in relation to the assessment year 2005-06 and subsequent assessment years," the Budget documents stated.

Officials noted that even though the amendment has been worded as retrospective, its mainly aimed at clarifying the legislative intent, and will impact a handful of taxpayers and companies who are in dispute with the tax department.

"It is not retrospective, it's just a clarity. This is there in dispute. Already the assessing officers have told them (taxpayers) that they have to pay tax on it. In few cases, it has gone to the Courts. This can never be the intention that the tax payable can itself be expenditure," Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said.

"If this thing comes out, it's a huge amount, 4 per cent (cess as percentage)," he noted.

The court rulings differentiated between income tax and education cess on income tax, and in absence of a specific disallowance for 'education cess', courts had taken a view beneficial for taxpayers in many cases. In order to nullify the effect of such Court rulings and consider such rulings against the intention of law, a clarificatory amendment has been introduced in income tax law, providing that any surcharge or education cess on income tax shall not be allowed as business expenditure.

The Budget has also made changes to the I-T law making space for questioning by the tax department to explain the source of funds at the hands of the creditor. This could have an impact on funding of businesses, especially startups, if the creditor is not a vendor.

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800 juveniles temporarily in jails for adults, HC takes note

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

TAKING NOTE of the fact that an "alarming number" of juveniles – more than 800 – were initially put in adult jails and subsequently transferred to juvenile homes during the past five years in the city, the Delhi High Court is set to consider deployment of paralegal volunteers in police stations to ensure that the arrestees are apprised of their legal rights.

The division bench of Justice Siddharth Mridul and Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani will, next week, also consider addition of certain entries in police's arrest memo to ensure verified age of an arrestee is recorded. The court will consider if more measures need to be put in place to ensure due application and compliance of Juvenile Justice Act by magistrates so the arrestee, whose claim of being 'juvenile' is being enquired into, is housed in a place of safety in intervening period.

"The question, therefore, is as to whether, and if so what, further directions are required from this court to streamline process of assessing age of an arrestee, at the very step when the person is brought to a police station," the court said in an order. Under the National Legal Services Authority scheme for Para-Legal Volunteers, they can visit a police station on receiving information about arrest of a person in the locality and ensure arrested person gets legal assistance in case of requirement. While hearing a matter related to juveniles and implementation of the Act, Delhi government submitted data disclosing that 837 children from 2016 were received from adult jails at Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli. Those aged between 18-21 are mandatorily required to be put in a segregated manner in adult jails, while enquiry into age is on. In December 2021, court had sought data and details regarding children who had ended up in adult jails.

Women's panel asks Delhi Police to give protection to Shahdara rape-assault survivor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

THE DELHI Commission for Women has issued summons to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) to provide protection to the woman who was abducted, allegedly gangraped and paraded by the accused in Shahdara last week.

Police Wednesday said they have arrested 13 persons and ap-

prehended three minors.

"Based on the victim's complaint, we arrested eight women and a man and apprehended three boys. We have now arrested four more women. They are all related and live in the same locality," said DCP (Shahdara) R Sathyasundaram.

The Commission said it is looking for an immediate plan to protect the survivor and her family as the accused have a criminal background. On Wednesday, the

DCW issued a statement: "The Delhi Police is yet to provide the DCW with details of measures being taken for protection of the survivor and her family. Moreover, CCTV footage of the incident has not been provided yet. DCW chief Swati Malwal met the victim who has expressed fear for her life given the criminal background of accused. Her younger sister was also harassed and a separate FIR has been registered."

Police have been asked to pro-

duce copy of FIRs, details of arrested accused, arrangements to be made for a safehouse and details of complaints regarding illegal trade of liquor and drugs. "They have been given 48 hours to appear before the DCW with a detailed report of measures being undertaken," said a DCW official. Police officers said they have increased deployment in the area. The woman is at a safehouse, and her sister has been provided adequate security, police said.

DAKSHIN BIHAR GRAMIN BANK

Regional Office: Patna

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) [Rule 8(1)]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice/s/ date of receipt of the said notice(s). The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank for the amounts and interest thereon

Sl. No.	Name of the Branch	Borrower Name	Name of the borrower (Owner of the Property)	Description of the Property Mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on the date of demand notice
1	Karbigaiya	M/s. Buzz Inc. Prop-Mr. Manish kumar s/o- Late Ram Nageshwar PD. Yadav	Smt. Mithlesh Rani W/o late Ram Nageshwar Prasad Yadav	Land bearing Deed No.- 6051 Dated 17.09.1990.Property belongs to Smt. Mithlesh Rani W/O Late Ram Nageshwar Prasad Yadav, Area of land- 600 sq. ft. Eastern side of the Sub-Plot No. 1 of the Chhin Mastika Sahkari Gruh Nirman Samiti Ltd. Situated at Mauza- Mustafapur, P.S- Danapur, District- Patna, Bearing Thana No.- 36, Khatu No-167, Keshra No- 89 Boundary:- North-Plot No- 89, South- Samiti Road, East- Sub-Plot No-9, West- Guarantor(Mithlesh Rani)	18.08.2021	27.01.2022	Rs. 16,98,107.80 (as on 31.03.2021) + Int. & Other Charges
2	Phulwari sharif	M/s Anubala sales corp. Prop. Mr. Ravindra Kumar s/o- Sri Jagdish Singh	Mr. Jagdish Singh, S/o- Sri Mangru Singh	Reg. Mortgage of Land bearing deed no. 6455,dated 01.10.2019, Mauza-Navipurgars , Thana No.-35,Touzi No. -16816, Khatu No.-894, khesra no. 99, Area- 05 dhrut/ built on house the name of Mr. Jagdish singh s/o- Mangru singh . Boundary:- North- Sri Rajendra Singh(Patidar), South- sadak . East- House of Badri singh ,West- house of Mahima sharan rai.	06.11.2021	27.01.2022	Rs. 48,51,710.72 (as on 30.09.2021) + Int. & Other Charges
3	Maharaj Ganj	M/s K. Mohan & sons Pro. Mr. Krishna Mohan Mishra S/o- Sri Uma Kant Mishra	Smt. Kiran Devi W/O Sri Krishna Mohan Mishra	Equitable Mortgage of Land bearing deed no 718 Dated 25.09.1997, Thana No. - 16, Survey Plot No- 651(Part), Khata No.- 112, Circle-Patna City, Area- 1184 sqft. In the Name of Smt. Kiran Devi W/O Sri Krishna Mohan Mishra. Boundary- North 10 ft. Rasta, South- Sri Mahavir Prasad Swarnkar, East- Sri Mahavir Prasad Swarnkar, in Plot no-652, west- Smt. Chandrakanta Devi.	18.11.2021	27.01.2022	Rs. 42,45,609.00 (as on 30.09.2021) + Int. & Other Charges
4	Ashiyana Nagar	M/s City Furniture Prop Smt. Rimpjhim Kumari w/o - Ritesh Kumar	Chandrika Prasad S/o- Sri Jagdish Prasad & Mr. Ritesh Kumar S/o/Sri Chandrika Prasad	Registered Mortgage of Flat No.102, Block B/ area1025 Sq feet, Boundary:- North-Flat no. 102, South- Lift, East- Corridor -West- lift & Flat no. 105,Block "A" (Area 1060 Sq feet) Boundary:- North-Corridor, South-Balcony, East- Road, West- Flat No- 106, Plot No- 106, Sundari Enclave, Thana No.-16, Khatu No- 363 & 364, Plot no- 1813,1814,1815, Mauza- dhirachak, Ps- Gardanibagh, Patna, in the name of Mr. Chandrika Prasad S/o- Sri Jagdish Prasad & Mr. Ritesh Kumar S/o Sri Chandrika Prasad.	15.11.2021	28.01.2022	Rs. 93,65,923.00 (as on 30.09.2021) + Int. & Other Charges
5	Ashiyana Nagar	Mrs. Alakhmuni Devi W/o Mr. Siddhnath Mishra & Mr. Mithlesh Kumar Mishra S/o- Mr. Siddhnath Mishra	Mrs. Alakhmuni Devi W/o- Mr. Siddhnath Mishra	Equitable Mortgage of Land bearing Deed No.- 7717 Dated 19.09.2000 and Rectification Deed No. 7114 Dated 07.07.2004, Thana No.-30, Circle- Patna Sadar, Survey Plot No.- 27, Khatu No.- 29, Area- 08 Dhur & built on house in the name of Mrs. Alakhmuni Devi W/o- Mr. Siddhnath Mishra Address- A1- Dashratha, Road no.-3, P.O. - New Anisabad Pakri, PS- Beur, Dist- Patna, Bihar- 800002 Boundary:- North- Bikram Rai, South- 4 Feet Rasta, East- Dinesh, West- Ramdarh Pandey	15.11.2021	28.01.2022	Rs. 10,47,575.00 (as on 30.09.2021) + Int. & Other Charges

Place: Patna

Date: 02.02.2022

Authorised Officer

Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank

GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA

गुरु घासिदास विश्वविद्यालय

(A Central University established by the Central Universities Act, 2009, No. 2009, KONI, BILASPUR-495 009 (C.G.) INDIA, कोनी बिलासपुर 495 009 (छ.ग.) भारत

Tel. +91-7752-260017,260435, 260209, Fax: +91-7752- 260154, 260148, website -www.ggu.ac.in

Ref. No. 14/Rec/Admin/22 WALK-IN-INTERVIEW Bilaspur Date- 02-02-2022

Eligible and interested candidates are invited for Walk-in-Interview at the Administrative Building of the University for Appointment as Temporary Teachers (Purely on Temporary Basis initially for six months or till regular appointment whichever is earlier) for the remaining period of Academic Session 2021-22 for the programme of Hotel Management, with an application on plain paper giving their bio-data and attested copies of Marksheets/Certificates/Degrees of academic qualifications and experiences along with originals for verification on the dates mentioned on the University website. The University reserves the right not to fill any post and also to alter the nature and number of vacancies/appointments if the circumstances so warrant. Selected candidates shall be entitled to a consolidated salary 25000/- per month. For more details and regular updates of eligibility criteria, number of positions (which may vary according to need) interview schedule and general instructions please log on to www.ggu.ac.in.

Registrar

3

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

ZONAL OFFICE, PATNA ZONE

1st Floor, Chanakya Place, R-Block, Patna-800001

(Tel.2220640-643, Fax: 0612-2223178)

APPENDIX - IV, Rule 8(1)

Possession Notice (for Immovable Property)

Whereas,
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the BANK OF INDIA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed in the table hereunder written calling upon the below mentioned borrowers to repay the amount shown in the respective notices mentioned against their names in the table, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers/guarantors mentioned below having failed to repay the amount shown in the respective notices issued u/s 13(2) within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the aforementioned borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the properties (Secured Assets) described in the table given below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the date(s) mentioned against the respective property.

The aforesaid borrowers/guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in the table hereunder written and any dealings with the said properties will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF INDIA for the amount shown in the respective column of the table and interest thereon.

Name of Borrower/ Guarantor	i. Branch, ii. Date & Amount as per Notice u/s 13(2)	Details of property	Date of Possession of Assets
Co-Borrower Sangeeta Srivastava W/o Late Ajit Kumar and Legal Heirs of Late Ajit Kumar, 1. Mr. Shivang Aryan S/o Late Ajit Kumar, 2. Mrs. Muskan D/o Late Ajit Kumar	(i) Jamal Road Branch (ii) Demand Notice Date : 24.08.2021, ₹ 59,26,607.45 + interest from 30.03.2021 and other charges (i) Jamal Road Branch (ii) Demand Notice Date : 24.08.2021, ₹ 26,00,252- + interest from 30.03.2021 and other charges	All that piece and parcel of the land and building bearing with Account No. 441575110000036. (a) Registered Mortgage of Land and Building in the name of Late Ajit Kumar, Mauza: Mainpura, PS: Patliputra, Survey Plot No. 1451, Khata No. 494, Tauzi No. 5239, Thana No. 02, Area: 1.50 Katha being Bounded : North: Chandi Sao, South: Part Plot No. 1451 G.S. Choudhary, East: Part Plot No. 1451 Parmanand Singh and Bhushan Singh, West: 20' Wide Road.	29.01.2022
M/s Shivang Petro Point Guarantor Sangeeta Srivastava W/o Late Ajit Kumar, Legal Heirs of Late Ajit Kumar, 1. Mr. Shivang Aryan S/o Late Ajit Kumar, 2. Mrs. Muskan D/o Late Ajit Kumar	(i) Jamal Road Branch (ii) Demand Notice Date : 24.08.2021, ₹ 4,49,82,190.37 + interest from 22.03.2021 and other charges	All that piece and parcel of the land and building bearing with Account No. 441575110000035. (a) Equitable Mortgage of Flat No. 302 (3rd Floor), Hira Enclave, New Dak Bunglow Road in the name of Late Ajit Kumar, Ward No. 18, Thana No. 137, Tauzi No. 655, Survey Plot No. 112, Mauza: Muhamarrampur, P.S.: Kotwali, Dist: Patna, Area: 1175 sqft. being Bounded : North: Set Back of Flat No. 302, South: Corridor of Flat No. 303, West: Set Back of Flat No. 302. (b) Extension of Registered Mortgage of Land and Building in the name of Late Ajit Kumar, Mauza: Mainpura, PS: Patliputra, Survey Plot No. 1451, Khata No. 494, Tauzi No. 5239, Thana No. 02, Area: 1.50 Katha being Bounded : North: Chandi Sao, South: Part Plot No. 1451 G.S. Choudhary, East: Part Plot No. 1451 Parmanand Singh and Bhushan Singh, West: 20' Wide Road. (c) Mortgage Property in the name of Late Ajit Kumar, Municipal Survey Plot No. 1112 & 1113 (P), Khata No. 231, Tauzi No. 236, Thana No. 37, Mauza: Nagla, P.S.: Malsalami, Patnacity, Patna, Deed No. 3593 dt. 20.08.2005, Area: 4 Katha being Bounded : North: Khasra No. 1105 Shyam Narayan Prasad and Others, South: Part Plot No. Sewage, East: Khasra No. 1111, West: Khasra No. 1113 Shyam Narayan Prasad, (d) Mortgage Property in the name of Late Ajit Kumar, Municipal Survey Plot No. 1113 (P), Khata No. 184 & 231, Tauzi No. 236, Thana No. 37, Mauza: Nagla, P.S.: Malsalami, Patnacity, Patna, Deed No. 3593 dt. 20.08.2005, Area: 4 Katha being Bounded : North: Khasra No. 1105 & 1106 Shyam Narayan Prasad and Others, South: Part Plot No. Sewage, East: Part of Khasra No. 1113, West: Khasra No. 1114 Shyam Narayan Prasad.	29.01.2022

* With further interest at applicable rate till repayment.

Date: 02.02.2022

Place: Patna

Authorized Officer

Bank of India

Continued Momentum

Kamdhenu Limited continues to build its growth momentum driven by cost efficiencies, product development, strong brand equity, large distribution network and diversified product portfolio across both paints and steel business. The Company is on track to enhance its stakeholder value-creation journey.

KAMDHENU PAS10000

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2021

S. No.	Particulars	(Rs in Lakhs except earning per share)					
Standalone		Consolidated		Standalone		Consolidated	
Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Nine Month Ended	Nine Month Ended	31.12.2021	31.12.2021		

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GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

PEDESTRIANS, MOTORCYCLISTS and cyclists are the most unsafe on Delhi roads, data on fatal accidents shared by the Delhi Transport Department from 2020 shows. These first two categories, in fact, account for 85% of all road accident deaths in the city.

Between 2020 and 2021, the number of fatal accidents increased by 13.50 percent. As per the data, in 2020, a total of 4,178 accidents occurred in Delhi of which 1,163 were fatal. A total of 3,992 people were injured and 1,196 persons died on spot or on the way to the hospital.

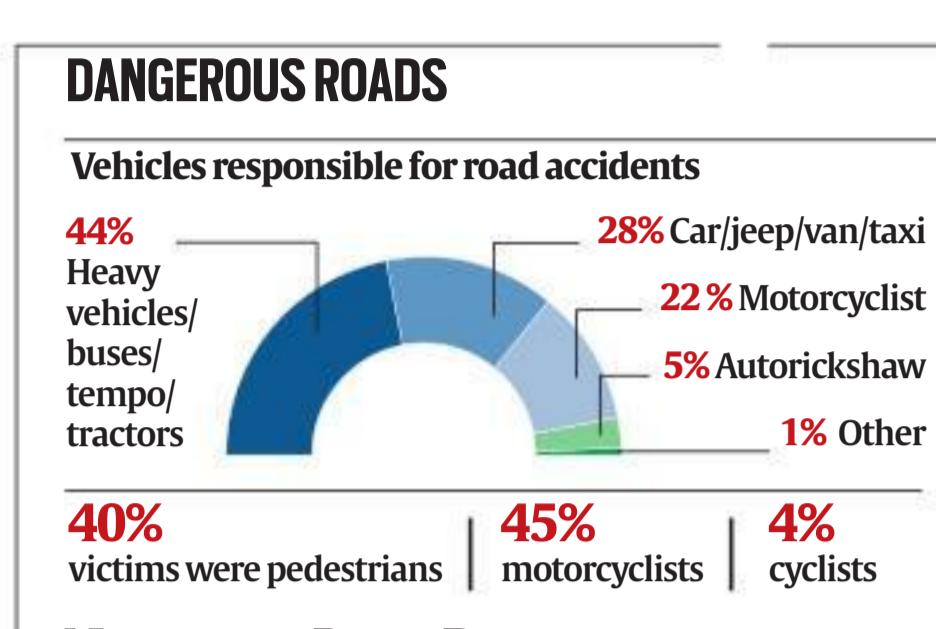
Last year the city recorded 4,720 accidents, 1,239 fatalities and 4,273 injuries.

Cases in 2020 had declined in comparison to 2019, ostensibly because of a lockdown due to Covid. Data shows that pedestrians (40%) and motorcyclists (45%)

are the most vulnerable road users and account for 85% of all deaths. Along with cyclists (4%), about 89% of road accident deaths occurred among these vulnerable road users, which is higher than the national average of 57%.

And, 90 percent of all victims were men. Of the women and girls who were killed, 83% were pedestrians or pillion riders, which indicates that the women are more at risk while walking and on two-wheelers, where most pillion riders do not wear helmets, reads the report analysis prepared by the lead agency of Road Safety Branch, Transport Department.

The largest proportion of deaths occurred among male adults aged between 20 and 39 years. Among women, road traffic fatality risk was highest over the age of 60. Heavy vehicles are responsible for 44% of road crashes, followed by light motor vehicles such as cars and two-wheelers. The vehicles could not be identified in 51% of fatal acci-



dents, which were recorded as hit and run fatal crashes. A total of 605 fatal hit and run deaths were recorded in 2020 and of all the

Cars, jeeps, taxis and heavy vehicles were largely to blame for deaths of pedestrians and motorcyclists, the report found. Further, weekends seem like a more dangerous time, with accident fatalities peaking on Saturdays and Sundays. A large number of fatalities were recorded on Sundays between midnight and 2 am.

"The high number of unknown cases indicates lack of enforcement in high risk areas where hit and run cases took place. The aim behind preparing the data is to curb accidents and improve road engineering. It will be shared with all agencies concerned like PWD, Delhi Traffic Police and those that look after roads. Through this report, the department will inform and provide guidance to all stakeholders for action on motorcycle helmets, seatbelts, enhanced enforcement during high risk times and safer streets for motorcyclists and pedestrians," said a senior transport official.

PROSECUTION IN UAPA RIOTS CASE

'Main conspirators of riots deflected blame on Kapil Mishra, Bhim Army'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2



The SPP was opposing the bail applications of former JNU student Umar Khalid and six others

a protected witness who was present in a meeting attended by the accused on February 16 and 17, 2020, to state that this meeting was not connected to any "so-called peaceful protest", and added, "If you are doing peaceful protests, then why are you stocking up on acid? The purpose was to create violence."

Reading out messages from a WhatsApp group, Delhi Protests Support Group (DPSG), he stressed how a participant wrote that the locals will not support the group's proposal to incite violence. "There is no mincing of words... local people have evidence. And these people have now come up to support the case of prosecution... it is not that I am reading from my chargesheet. I am reading from their document, pulling out paper from their own book. There is a conspiracy of silence. I will address it separately, how you are masking, covering up and deflecting. I'll show from each chat."

Prasad, accusing the applicants of deflecting blame to BJP leader Kapil Mishra and the Bhim Army, submitted: "What is important is that on one side we have seen you now say that after a call of (Bharat bandh) by Bhim Army there is escalation. Then complaint against Kapil Mishra. This is a message from Khalid Saifi. The first front Bhim Army and second front you are opening is against Kapil Mishra... There is neither Bhim Army, I will show from Kapil Mishra also what is the connect they bring in. I have also shown there is no local participation. When no local women are there, what is the option? Importing from somewhere."

Arguing that the applicants resorted to a narrative building, the SPP said, "On one side you say police are absent. On another side, you say police are lathi charging. So the absent police are lathi charging? Do you talk about the need for ambulances? You block the roads. You paralyse the system. You don't let the ambulances pass. This is allenerative building."

Prasad read the statement of

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Carbon monoxide leak from geyser kills 13-yr-old

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

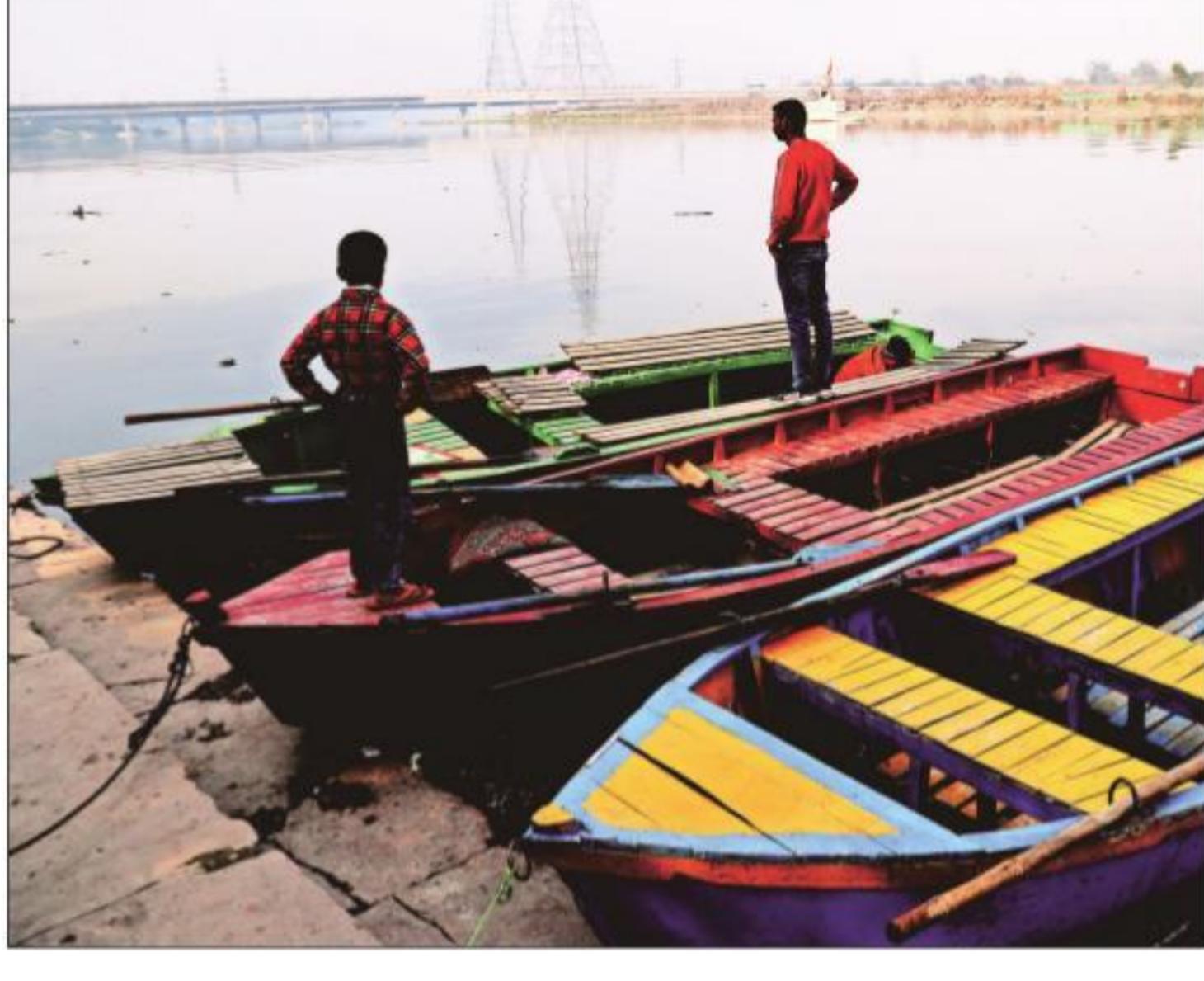
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

The family alleged the geyser, purchased a month ago from an electronics shop at Najafgarh, had a one-year warranty

found so far," he said.

The girl's father Neeraj Ahlawat told *The Indian Express* that his daughter, a class VII student, went for a bath after finishing her online class. "She went for a shower around 2.30 pm. Since she had not come out even after an hour, we broke open the door. She was found lying unconscious, and we immediately took her to hospital," he said.

Ahlawat runs a small business and has two children. "We suspect she fell unconscious and died after a few minutes," he said.



WINTER SUN

View on a sunny winter afternoon in the capital. The minimum temperature was recorded at 11.2 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal. Amit Mehra

Two die after inhaling gas while cleaning sewage tank in Faridabad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 2

TWO LABOURERS died while cleaning a sewage tank in Faridabad on Wednesday evening. Police said a preliminary probe has found that they died after allegedly inhaling poisonous gas that had built up underneath the tank.

The victims were not equipped with protective gear such as masks, safety belts and boots, said police.

The deceased have been identified as Balbir, 50, and Pradeep, 40, both from Padam Nagar, Tigaon road in Faridabad. Police said the men worked as private sewage tank cleaners and were hired by a restaurant owner.

According to the police, the incident was reported at

5.15 pm when Balbir and Pradeep were cleaning the tank and fainted.

"While they were at work in Sector 14, Huda market, their employer asked them to clean the bottom of the tank, which had a depth of more than 10 feet. First, one of them went inside and fainted after inhaling the gases. Then, the second went in to rescue him and he too fainted. The other workers present pulled the duo out of the tank.

The workers were not provided with safety equipment," said a police officer, requesting anonymity.

Sube Singh, spokesperson, Faridabad police, said: "A team from Sector 14 police post rushed to the spot and found the two men lying unconscious. They were rushed to a government hospital, where doctors declared them dead on arrival."

Police said the two bodies have been kept in the mortuary at a government hospital for a post-mortem.

"The victims' families have been informed. Appropriate action will be taken as and when a complaint is filed against the contractor or employer," said Singh.

Naresh Kumar, the state president of the Municipal Employees Union in Haryana, said, "Workers continue to die despite a ban on manual scavenging by the Supreme Court.

Sanitation workers employed by private contractors do not have any legal protection. No steps are being taken by the district administration to provide them with safety equipment. Strict action should be taken against the accused and compensation should be given to the families."

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champions. There will be parking space for food trucks with outdoor seating to promote inexpensive authentic Indian street food. It will give people a feel-good experience."

Besides honouring the champions, the government aims to inspire the youth to take up sports as a vocation and as a habitat to stay fit. "It will encourage youngsters to take part in sports and follow their dreams, and commuters will be inspired to take up sports activities to stay fit," said the official.

Apart from street furniture, walkways, fountains and water

KILOMETRE-LONG STRETCH BEING DEVELOPED BY PWD

Statues of Neeraj Chopra, PV Sindhu to find place in 'Olympic Boulevard'

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

TO CELEBRATE India's success at the Olympics and Paralympics 2021, the Public Works Department (PWD) is going to dedicate a nearly one-kilometre-long stretch in North Delhi to Olympic champions such as Neeraj Chopra, PV Sindhu and Ravi Dahiya.

The stretch will be named 'Olympic Vithi' or 'Olympic Boulevard'. The estimated length is 900 metres, and it will be redeveloped on road number 51

from Mukundpur Chowk to the MCD colony near Model Town. The sports-themed stretch will be redeveloped and redesigned as one of nine sample stretches under the Delhi government's streetscaping project.

"Currently, the road is uneven with poor geometry and bottlenecks. Under this project, all bottlenecks will be removed, and the stretch will be made safer for pedestrians. It will also help reduce accidents," said a senior PWD official.

Road engineering, geometry, kerbs and footpaths will be redeveloped to provide a safe and

secure pathway for pedestrians, he said.

The stretch will have sculptures and statues of Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra throwing a javelin, badminton player PV Sindhu, boxer Lovlina Borgohain, wrestlers Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia, weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, among others. The statues will be around 15 to 20 feet in height with an integrated lighting system to give an aesthetic look.

Further, water-harvesting, drainage and sewer on this stretch will be redeveloped, and 'selfie points' will also be created.

The stretch will also have a separate synthetic fibre-made cycle track, open gyms with cross trainers, squat pushing, bi-

cycle and other equipment. It will also have a play area for children. The official said, "The cycle track can be used by residents of neighbouring colonies for cycling as well as people commuting to work."

He added, "The stretch has good space so we are utilising the areas to create a safe path as well as a playing and workout area. It will also have four-seater benches where people can sit and play board games. There will be a separate parking area, toilets, kiosks and food trucks where people can enjoy the view and learn about the Olympic

bodies will also be added to improve the aesthetic appeal of the area and an arc-shaped entrance will be made for the road.

The tenders for the project have been floated and consultants have been appointed. The estimated cost is Rs 19.30 crore, of which Rs 13.28 crore is for construction work, Rs 3.8 crore for electrical and Rs 2.15 crore for horticulture development work. The official said the tender process will take about a month, and the work is expected to start by March-April, with the stretch expected to be redeveloped by August.



Olympic medalists Neeraj Chopra and P V Sindhu

A NEW CHAPTER OF GANDHI'S VISION NYAY DELIVERED TO LAST MILE

Inaugurating in the August Presence of
Hon'ble Member of Parliament

Shri Rahul Gandhi

On 3rd February, 2022



Nyay Brings New Hope

Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhoomihin Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana

Transfer of First Installment to More than 3.5 lakh Beneficiaries
₹6000 per Person, ₹212 cr per Annum



Centre to Foster
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Sewagram Ashram in Naya Raipur

**Foundation Stone
Laying Ceremony**



Nurturing Young Leadership in the State

Rajiv Yuva Mitan Club Inauguration Ceremony



Eternal Flame
Honoring the Sacrifices of
Martyred Soldiers

Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti

**Foundation Stone
Laying Ceremony**



CHHATTISGARH MODEL

NYAY & EMPOWERMENT

Shri Bhupesh Baghel
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh



HOMEGROUND CONTEST

Minister vs 'our boy': For Karhal, choice is easy



Jakhar with former CM Amarinder Singh. File

Jhakhar stirs the pot: MLAs wanted me, high command made Channi CM

KANCHAN VASDEV &
RAAKHI JAGGA
CHANDIGARH, LUDHIANA,
FEBRUARY 2

FORMER PUNJAB Congress chief Sunil Jakhar says he is not in the race to be party's CM face.

Congress's currently underway tele-survey to pick its CM candidate does not include his name either.

But then barely few days before Punjab votes, Jakhar, who is not even in the poll fray, has said that back in September last year, 42 out of 79 incumbent Congress MLAs had backed him to CM, while just 2 had named Charanjit Singh Channi.

Rimple Midha, a spokesperson of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC), however, defended her party's decision. She told *The Indian Express* that Channi had been made CM in view of the Assembly elections this year.

"It is the party's prerogative to decide the CM. No doubt calling all 79 MLAs to know their choice was one of the methods adopted by the party. But that was not the only method. Later, the party unanimously decided on Charanjit Singh Channi looking at the coming Vidhan Sabha elections...and everyone had agreed to it," Midha said.

Interestingly, Jakhar's name is not a part of party's tele-survey that seeks to know whether the Congress should name Channi or Sidhu or it should not name its CM candidate at all.

Jakhar's address to workers has, however, put a question mark on Congress going with the tele-survey's outcome.

"If Congress did not honour opinion of its MLAs at that time, how would it honour anyone else's opinion?" asked a leader.

Meanwhile, Jakhar on Wednesday supported Channi's candidature for CM's post if Congress wins the current polls.

Jakhar also said that the video of his Abhivar address cannot be considered as him throwing his hat in the ring for the CM's post.

"I am not even contesting elections. Let alone being in the race for the CM's candidate," he said.

The Opposition, meanwhile, has already launched an attack on Congress with SAD spokesperson Dr Daljit Singh Cheema demanding resignation from AICC chief Sonia Gandhi for the alleged "fraud" committed with the people of Punjab.

"Rahul Gandhi called me and asked why I was not keen on becoming deputy CM of Punjab. I told him it was more than enough that people took my name as a popular choice as CM face. I didn't want anything else. Otherwise, what was I at that time, I was not even an MLA," Jakhar said.

Even among non-Yadavs, and despite appeal of PM ration scheme, SP chief stands tall in bastion

ASAD REHMAN
KARHAL (MAINPURI),
FEBRUARY 2

THE BJP may have sprung a surprise by fielding Union Minister of State S P Singh Baghel from Karhal against Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav. But that's where the surprise ends, as per voters of this Yadav bastion. "Local boy" Akhilesh, they say, is up for a huge win.

Karhal is located just 4 km from SP patron Mulayam Singh Yadav's village Saifai which, with its wide roads, multi-specialty hospital and colleges, is a shining example of what being a political titan's home can mean.

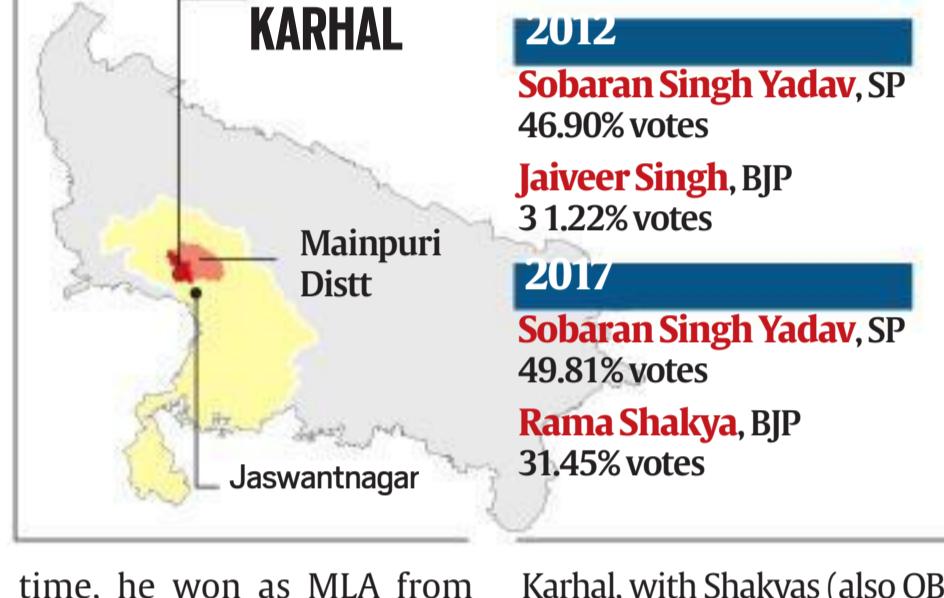
SP flags are fluttering at Jain Inter College in Karhal, where "Netaji" (as Mulayam is called) studied and briefly taught.

Among a group of Class 12 students playing cricket there is Sanjay Yadav. Waiting for his turn to bat, the 18-year-old says: "Who knows Baghel here? Even a child here will tell you their leader is Akhilesh. Bhaiya's popularity is unmatched. Yogi Baba (Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath) too would lose from here."

Mulayam was appointed as an assistant teacher at the inter college in 1963. Around the same



Akhilesh, on his way to file the nomination paper, Monday.



time, he won as MLA from neighbouring Jaswant Nagar, which like Karhal and nearby areas has a sizeable Yadav majority. Since then, this has remained a Mulayam family fiefdom.

While Mulayam is the MP from Mainpuri, his brother Shivpal Yadav, who is back in the family fold, is contesting from Jaswant Nagar on the SP symbol.

There are 1.40 lakh Yadavs in

Karhal, with Shakyas (also OBC) making up around 60,000, besides 25,000 Brahmins and Thakurs each, 40,000 Dalits and 15,000 Muslims. On paper, should the non-Yadav OBCs, upper castes and Dalits vote together (which is what the BJP is counting on), Karhal could be anybody's game.

However, even in villages such as Nagaria, with barely any Yadav voters, Akhilesh is ahead,

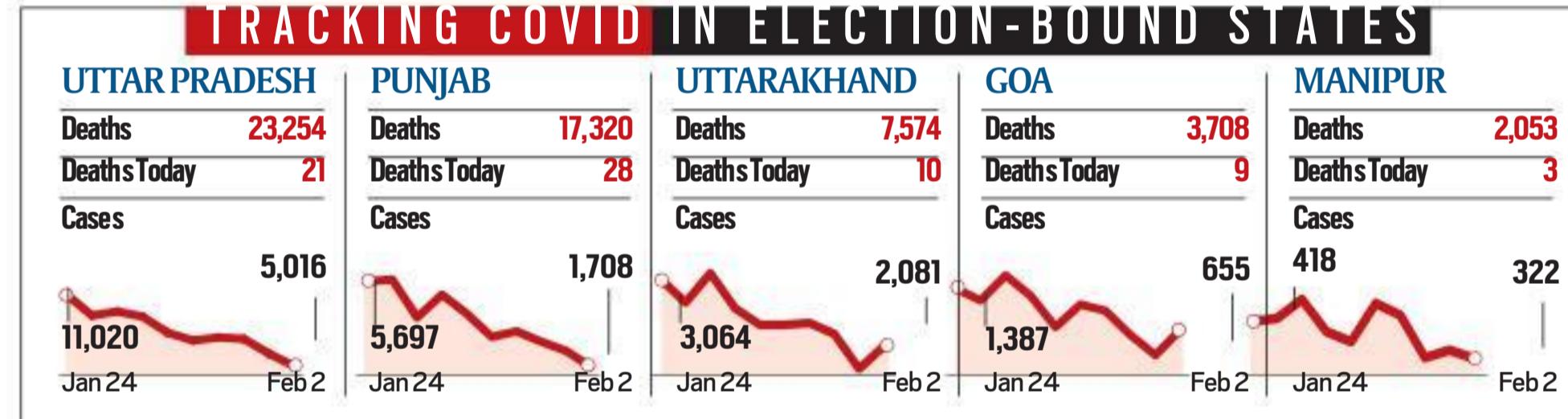
despite the lingering Modi wave and the popularity of the Prime Minister's Garib Kalyan Yojana that has meant free rations since the Covid pandemic began.

Besides, the SP has got its maths right, with alliances that could bring it votes of non-Yadav OBCs who, apart from Shakyas, include Sainis, Kushwhahas, Pal and Prajapatis. Akhilesh as candidate from Karhal is expected to boost

SP in entire Yadav belt comprising Etah, Etawah, Mainpuri, and Kannauj districts, and 20 seats.

Ram Murti, 60, a Nagaria resident who belongs to its dominant Shakya community, says, she is happy with BJP government, primarily because of ration scheme. However, she says she will vote for Akhilesh. "He is our local."

Heera Lal, 70, a Jatav voter and a farmer, says he will also back



SP pits Anupriya's sister against Dy CM Maurya

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 2

THE SAMAJWADI Party (SP) on Wednesday fielded Union minister Anupriya Patel's elder sister Pallavi Patel from Sirathu in Kaushambi district against Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, and said former state minister Swami Prasad Maurya would contest from Fazilnagar in Kushinagar district.

Patel is among the 15 candidates whose names the SP announced during the day. Though she is from the Apna Dal (Kamerawadi), which her mother Krishna Patel formed a few years ago following differences with Anupriya, she will contest using ally SP's symbol.

Anupriya's Apna Dal (Sonelai) is in alliance with the BJP, and has fielded eight candidates till now.

Considering the presence of a sizeable number of Patel (Kurmi caste) voters, Pallavi is expected to give a tough fight to Maurya.

However, sources in the SP said local cadre were unhappy with Pallavi's candidature since the district unit wanted the ticket to go to Anand Mohan Patel who had lost the seat to Keshav Prasad Maurya in the 2012 election. At the time, Anand Mohan was in the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). He joined the SP a few years ago and was preparing to contest from the

constituency.

Meanwhile, Swami Prasad Maurya, who switched over from the BJP last month, will not contest from his traditional seat Padrauna in Kushinagar, and has been moved to Fazilnagar. So far, the SP has not given a ticket to his son Utkrist Maurya, who lost the last election from Unchahar on a BJP ticket.

The SP has also fielded former minister Abhishek Mishra from Sarojini Nagar in Lucknow.

HASHTAG POLITICS



The Goa loyalty test

Changing political loyalty in Goa is rather common. Perhaps mindful of this trend, AAP's CM candidate Amit Palekar took a pledge. He tweeted, "Today in the presence of

@ArvindKejriwal ji, along with all candidates of @AAPGoa have signed a legal affidavit and took a pledge to remain loyal to Aam Aadmi Party and the voters of Goa." Retweeting Palekar, party chief Arvind Kejriwal wrote, "Aam Aadmi Party will never break the trust of the people of Goa."

• Sidhu's temple run



Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu went on a visit to Mata Vaishno Devi temple in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. "On my way to Mata Vaishno Devi.. The eternal grace of the divine mother has always protected me on this path of Dharma. At her lotus

feet for blessings... *Dushaan da vinaash kr, Punjab da Kalyaan kar.. Sach Dhaman di sathapana kr.*" he tweeted along with a picture.

Temple coming up, but Ayodhya not a cakewalk for saffron party

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 2

WITH THE Ram temple coming up in the heart of Ayodhya, the ruling BJP's key plank in this high-profile constituency in its campaign for the coming Assembly polls is expectedly the temple issue.

Elections might be a new field, but Kaur might not have it very tough. While the case against Majithia was an effort by the Channi government to counter the charge that Congress and Akalis were together over the drug racket, the Congress challenge in Majithia seat is badly splintered.

Congress sources said the party had wanted to field Amritsar MP Gurjeet Singh Ajlaja from Majithia, to give Majithia a challenge, but the plan failed.

On the Akali side, there is no visible dent in loyalty to Majithia. In 2017, his 65,803 votes were more than the total votes polled by the Congress (42,919) and AAP (10,252) candidates. That was when the Akalis had their worst showing in the state.

"Even till two days ago, my wife did now know that it (her name as a candidate) could happen."

But if the Majithias have been at the heart of Punjab's political history, Kaur comes from an illustrious family too, and is said to be a close relative of Dera Radha Swami Beas head Baba Gurinder Singh. The visit of Baba Gurinder Singh to CM Charanjit Singh Channi's house after registration of the case against Majithia had raised many eyebrows. Defending Majithia at a press conference recently, Akali Dal president and his brother-in-law Sukhbir Singh Badal described him and Kaur as "very religious people".

From 2005-09, Kaur was



BJP says raising other issues besides temples. Uni

voting day it is likely to turn into a Hindu-Muslim issue as had happened in 2017 polls."

He said during their door-to-door canvassing the party leaders, besides the Ram temple, were also highlighting free ration for poor, Kisan Samman Nidhi and development works like electricity supply, road widening and beautification of river ghats.

"Till last polls, Ram temple was our long-pending commitment. But now the temple's construction has begun, which has instilled people's trust in BJP and raised our confidence," he said.

Still, taking a lesson from 2012, the party does not want to be "overconfident" and has planned visits of leaders from the remaining caste groups to woo voters.

In 2017, Gupta had won the seat after getting 49.56 percent of the votes polled. Until 2012, BJP's vote share had dipped consistently since 1991, when the BJP, at the peak of Ram Janmabhoomi campaign, had won the seat by garnering 51.30 percent votes.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Gupta said, "I am reaching out to people and highlighting development done in Ayodhya in five

years."

Gupta called the Ram temple issue a "matter of faith", pointing out that its construction started after the Supreme Court's judgment and PM Narendra Modi's subsequent bid to perform "bhumi pujan". Prior to that, Yogi ji after becoming CM had launched various schemes for Ayodhya's development as a tourism town," he said.

On his campaign, SP candidate Tej Narayan Pandey said, "Adityanath government wants to run bulldozers on properties of 'praja' of Lord Ram in the name of development of roads and airports in Ayodhya. We are opposing it. If SP forms government, we will waive water and house taxes in Ayodhya municipal area. We have promised free electricity."

Pandey claimed Ram temple issue would not help BJP. "Am I against Ram temple? I also recite Hanuman Chalisa at Hanuman Garhi. No one is opposing Ram temple. BJP is speaking about Mandir, kabristan and shamsian. But our issues are employment, education and health. BJP has failed on these issues," he said.

FULL REPORT
www.indianexpress.com

SURPRISE CALL

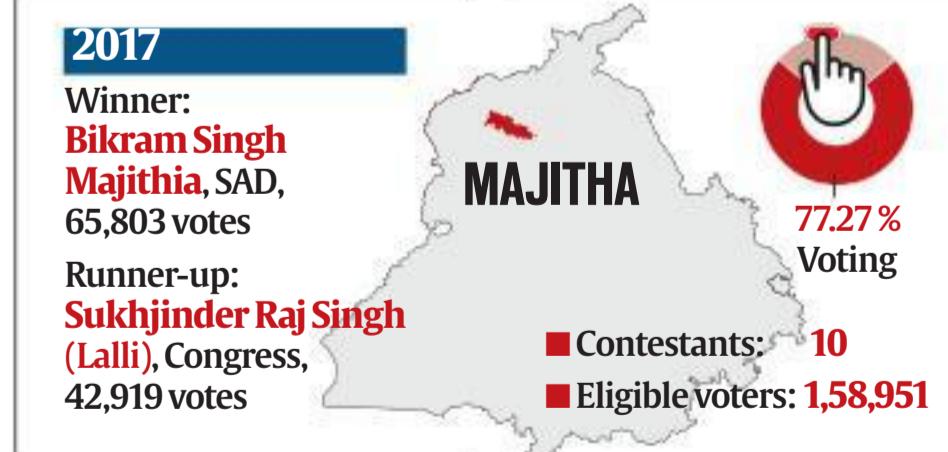
Going, going, gone: With ticket, Majithia wife leaps from auction house to poll stage

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, FEBRUARY 2

HER HUSBAND Bikram Singh Majithia is one of Punjab's most controversial politicians, his family one of the state's most prominent. Ganieve Kaur though was virtually unknown in his constituency Majithia in Amritsar, till, that is, she emerged literally out of his shadows, into the glare of the poll contest two days ago.

Kaur, 46, was given the Shiromani Akali Dal ticket from Majithia after Majithia shifted to Amritsar East – in true "Jarnail of Majha" bluster taking up the challenge thrown by state Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu to contest against him.

Kaur hit the campaign trail on Wednesday, and the voters who have elected Majithia since 2007 said it was their first glimpse of her. Over the years, the art aficionado stayed away from her husband's campaigns, as well as his many controversies. Booked recently in a case with alleged links to the state's drug racket, Majithia has got anticipatory bail.



Ganieve Kaur

Majithia and Kaur got married in 2009, and have two children. Speaking to reporters Wednesday, Kaur said when Majithia first asked her to contest from Majithia for the February 20 polls, she thought he was joking. She resolved to try her best for the seat. "I will take care of the Majithia constituency the way I look after my children," she said. On Tuesday, Majithia had said:

Christie's Representative in India. Uma Nair, an art critic and curator, said: "The time Ganieve was in Christie's was an important one for the Indian art market. Her knowledge was not restricted to Indian art, and she also knew South East Asian art."

Elections might be a new field, but Kaur might not have it very tough. While the case against Majithia was an effort by the Channi government to counter the charge that Congress and Akalis were together over the drug racket, the Congress challenge in Majithia seat is badly splintered.

Congress sources said the party had wanted to field Amritsar MP Gurjeet Singh Ajlaja from Majithia, to give Majithia a challenge, but the plan failed.

On the Akali side, there is no visible dent in loyalty to Majithia. In 2017, his 65,803 votes were more than the total votes polled by the Congress (42,919) and AAP (10,252) candidates. That was when the Akalis had their worst showing in the state.

"Even till two days ago, my wife did now know that it (her name as a candidate) could happen."

But if the Majithias have been at the heart of Punjab's political history, Kaur comes from an illustrious family too, and is said to be a close relative of Dera Radha Swami Beas head Baba Gurinder Singh. The visit of Baba Gurinder Singh to CM Charanjit Singh Channi's house after registration of the case against Majithia had raised many eyebrows. Defending Majithia at a press conference recently, Akali Dal president and his brother-in-law Sukhbir Singh Badal described him and Kaur as "very religious people".

From 2005-09, Kaur was

IN PARLIAMENT

BUDGET SESSION

FROM THE GALLERY

FROM THE CHAIR

"In this historic year, the need of the hour is for the 5,000 MPs, MLAs and MLCs to resolve to return to the people the favour they have been relentlessly doing by nurturing our democracy. The only way of doing so is to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the trust the citizens still have in our parliamentary democracy"

RAJYA SABHA CHAIRMAN
M VENKAIAH NAIDU

LOK SABHA

"Would you run the House? Running the House is my responsibility and I will say who should reply the question and who shouldn't"

SPEAKER OM BIRLA,
when Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury asked Union Minister Piyush Goyal to reply the question.

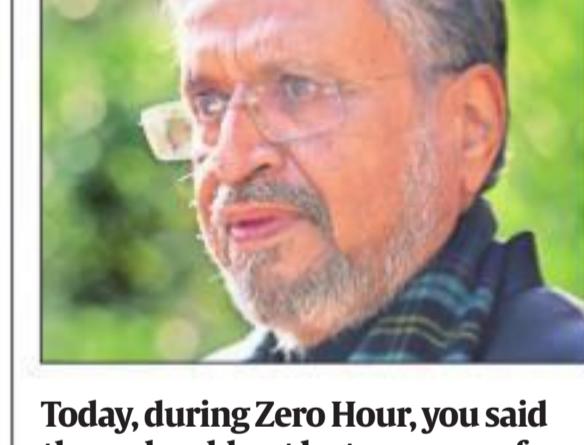
QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There is another vision. The centralizing vision. The vision of a king. The idea of a king, which the Congress removed in 1947. We smashed that idea of a king. Now that idea of a king has come back."

RAHUL GANDHI, Congress MP participating in debate over Motion of Thanks to the Presidential Address in Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

5 QUESTIONS

BJP MP SUSHIL KUMAR MODI TALKED TO MANOJ CG



Today, during Zero Hour, you said there should not be two exams for recruitment in the Group D category in Railways. Why?

When in 2019, the examination was announced for Group D, the category had the highest numbers of vacancies, at that time they had said there would be only one exam. Somewhere it was mentioned they may consider holding two exams, but it was in vague terms. And all of a sudden on January 24, when the NTPC controversy and agitation was on... a circular was issued that there will be two exams. There was a huge reaction. Because the youngsters were preparing for only one exam...

But how else do you screen 1 crore candidates?

My point is if you had to hold two exams, then you should have announced it earlier...

In the case of NTPC, the exam rules were notified beforehand

Regarding NTPC, there was no irregularity in the results... They had said they would announce results for 20 times the number of vacancies... The discrepancy was that there were five different groups. And there were instances of one person qualifying in three groups. So, the students were saying that there should be one student, one result so that more students get a chance to appear for the exam. I support that.

What about the violence?

The students have been preparing for four years... The results of NTPC came on January 18. And students took to social media. There were more than 90 lakh tweets and retweets... and the railway Group D announcement fueled the fire.

Are you happy with steps Railways has taken to address the issue?

Yes, I have spoken to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw... The demands of the students are not unreasonable. I hope a solution will emerge.

Weakened foundations, brought Pak, China together: Rahul accuses govt



Rahul Gandhi at Parliament House on Wednesday. Anil Sharma

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

ACCUSING IT of weakening the country and putting it at a "huge risk", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the Narendra Modi government has brought Pakistan and China together, which is the "biggest crime" against the people of India.

Participating in the debate in Lok Sabha on the motion of thanks to the President's address, Rahul said, "The RSS and BJP are playing with the foundations of our country and they are weakening the foundations of our country. They are weakening the links between our people... They have further weakened the country by ensuring that not a single youngster gets a job. So, today, unlike a decade ago, 15 years ago, India is weak."

"Ask yourself why you are not able to get a guest on Republic Day. Ask yourself that question... What is happening is that India is today completely isolated... We are surrounded in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Burma, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, everywhere we are surrounded and our opponents understand our position," he said, requesting members of the treasury benches not to interrupt him.

"We have been weakened. The conversation between our people is not taking place. Our institutions are under attack. And, we are completely surrounded," the Wayanad MP said.

"The Chinese have a very clear vision of what they want to do. The single biggest strategic goal of India's foreign policy has been to keep Pakistan and China separate. This is fundamental for India. What have you done? You have brought them together," Rahul said.

"Today, do not be under any illusion. Don't underestimate the force that is standing in front of you... You have brought Pakistan and China together. This is the single biggest crime that you could commit

against the people of India."

"I can clearly see without any confusion in my mind that China has a plan... We are all nationalists. So, let us discuss properly. I can see that China has a clear-cut plan. The foundations of their plan have been put in place in Doklam and Ladakh. Do not underestimate what we are facing. This is a very serious threat to the Indian nation... We have made huge strategic mistakes in J&K. We have made huge strategic mistakes in our foreign policy..."

"It is very clear that the Chinese and the Pakistanis are planning. Look at the weapons they are buying. Look at their activities. Look at the way they are talking. Look at who they are speaking to. I am clearly stating in the House of the Parliament that we have made a massive blunder. We need to make sure that we can defend ourselves against the Chinese," he said.

"Please remember what I am saying because the Chinese will act... Remember that you will be responsible for anything that happens. That is why it is important that as a nation we start this conversation. It is important as a nation you listen to what we say because we have experience. We have understanding. You might not think so but we have people on this side who understand these things," Rahul said.

"The nation is at risk. The nation is at risk from outside. The nation is at risk from inside. And, that is a very dangerous place to be and I don't like it," he said. "I am very uncomfortable with my nation, with my beloved country standing where it is standing - completely isolated on the outside, fighting on the inside."

"Institutions captured; states not able to speak to each other. This worries me... Remember what I said, you are putting this nation, this wonderful nation and its people at huge risk. Stop," he said at the end of his 44-minute speech.

Later, in a tweet, Joshi said, "Is this ignorance or wilful blindness of Rahul Gandhi? China and Pakistan have been thick together, thanks to the policies of Congress soon after country's independence."

Joshi said former President late Pranab Mukherjee had in his memoir "written how Congress committed blunders by gifting territories to Pakistan and China and is responsible for India ceding crucial territories to both these countries".

For how long will the Gandhi scion act ignorant about his party being hand in gloves with China. Does he forget how Congress sacrificed the national interest by accepting do-

Jaishankar leads counterattack, cites 'history lessons'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

TOP UNION ministers and BJP leaders, led by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, on Wednesday launched a blistering attack on Congress MP Rahul Gandhi after he accused the government of bringing China and Pakistan together and making a "huge strategic mistake" in Ladakh.

Taking to Twitter, Jaishankar said, "Rahul Gandhi alleged in Lok Sabha that it is this Government which brought Pakistan and China together. Perhaps, some history lessons are in order: In 1963, Pakistan illegally handed over the Shaksam valley to China. - China built the Karakoram highway through PoK in the 1970s."

"From the 1970s, the two countries also had close nuclear collaboration. In 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor started. So, ask yourself: were China and Pakistan distant then?" he tweeted.

Responding to Rahul's remark that the government could not bring a guest on Republic Day, Jaishankar said, "In Lok Sabha, @RahulGandhi said we could not get a foreign guest for Republic Day. Those who live in India know we were in the midst of a corona wave. The 5 Central Asian Presidents, who were to come, did hold a virtual summit on Jan 27. Did Rahul Gandhi miss that as well?"



In Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi said we could not get a foreign guest for Republic Day. Those who live in India know we were in the midst of a corona wave. The 5 Central Asian Presidents, who were to come, did hold a virtual summit on Jan 27. Did Rahul Gandhi miss that as well?

— S JAISHANKAR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

nations from China. Why did the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation take money from China every year?" he added.

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said the Congress MP should issue an unconditional apology for his remarks on the judiciary and Election Commission.

Referring to Rahul's speech, in which he said the judiciary, the Election Commission and Pegasus are "instruments of destroying the voice of the union of states", Rijiju tweeted, "Not only as India's Law Minister but also as an ordinary citizen, I condemn what Mr. Rahul Gandhi has said about India's judiciary and EC. These are vital institutions of our democracy. Mr. Rahul Gandhi should immediately apologise to the people, judiciary and EC."

Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the Congress leader had "Dunning-Kruger" effect, a type of cognitive bias in which people believe they are more capable than they really are. "I was amongst others who had no option (bcz i was on roster duty in Loksabha), but to listen to great Cong intellectual Rahul - n if ur scratching ur head on why he babbles this way - thn understanding #DunningKruger effect may explain why," he tweeted.

In the case of IMPRINT, the utilisation percentage is higher. Rs 53 crore was set aside for the scheme in 2019-20, of which Rs 47.2 crore was utilised; in 2018-19, Rs 46.30 crore of Rs 50 crore allotted was utilised; and in 2017-18, Rs 75.71 crore of Rs 85 crore was used.

The grants released by the UGC under minor and major research projects (science and humanities) have also been falling, the government response showed. It came down from Rs 42.70 crore in 2016-17 to Rs 38.60 crore in 2017-18, Rs 13.26 crore in 2018-19, Rs 5.75 crore in 2019-20 and Rs 38 lakh in 2020-21.

In LS, Opp tries to corner govt on Covid, price rise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

THE OPPOSITION on Tuesday sought to corner the government in Lok Sabha on what it called is the government's failure to provide adequate support to the economy after Covid-19 pandemic, amid growing unemployment, rising prices and unabated communalism.

The issues were raised during a debate on the President's Address to the House.

Opposing the Motion of Thanks, Trinamool MP Sougata Roy said, "There is nothing new unfortunately in the President's Address, but there are many things which are not mentioned in the President's speech.... Why was Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate extinguished?"

Srinivas Vinayak Raut argued that the President's Address did not mention a road map for development after the pandemic. "During the pandemic, there was an attempt to do injustice with Opposition-led states," he claimed. "The idea was to let Covid-19 spread in those states, so that those governments fall and BJP governments could be installed."

NCP member Arnol Kolhe said, "It appears that in this Amrit Kaal, the youth of this country are being incapacitated by feeding the poison of communalism and hate speech. This is not good for integrity of the nation..."

Criticising the government for pitting its back on Covid-19 management, BSP's Ritesh Pandey said, "What is the government so proud of? When they were holding election rallies in West Bengal, people were getting admitted to hospital. In UP, the Ganga had become a transporter of bodies. When the government was asked, why was there a paucity of oxygen?"

Defending the government, BJP MP Jagdambika Pal said India has become the "fastest-growing economy in the world" due to the government's policies.

BJP's Satna MP Ganesh Singh said contrary to Rahul Gandhi's claims, the government is not that of a king, but rather of a true servant of the people.

MOTION OF THANKS TO PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Govt fields speakers from UP, Punjab; Kharge says sounds like poll speeches

MANOJ CG

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

AS LEADER of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, took the lead in targeting the government during the discussion on Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, other Opposition leaders too raised issues like inequality, the government's alleged use of Pegasus spyware, black money and states' rights.

Trinamool Congress MP Sukhendu Sekhar Ray accused the government of carrying out a "surgical attack" on federalism, and said the Centre had issued a "fatwa" to amend the All-India Services Cadre rules, allowing it more powers in the appointment of civil servants. He called it "arbitrary" and a "veiled attempt" to centralise executive powers of the states. He also attacked the Union Home Ministry for extending the jurisdiction of the border security force from 15 km to 50 km in the states bordering Bangladesh and Pakistan without having any discussion with the concerned states.

"This unilateral decision on the part of the Central government is an attempt of coercion upon the elected state governments having international borders", he said.

He also said that the inequality in the country had risen in the past few years.

On the issue of black money, Ray asked the Centre to publish a document about what it has done to tackle the problem. He also said that the government believes only it is telling the truth and globally everyone else is lying when it comes to allegations about the use of the Pegasus spyware.

The CPI(M)'s Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya said that the President had not spoken about the basic realities of the country, which he said were "completely different than the rosy picture which has been sought to be projected by the deliberations of the honourable President". He also said the government did not believe in Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's ideology of respecting and giving equal share to the minorities, even as his statue is being built at the canopy at India Gate.

He targeted the government, raising issues of unemployment, incidents of attacks on Christians, price rise, atrocities on scheduled castes, agrarian distress, farmers' issues, disinvestment of what he called profit-making PSUs, Chinese aggression, "unprecedented" economic inequality and objectionable changes in labour laws.

The second speaker of the BJP was Shwai



Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi speaks in House on Wednesday. PTI

s in 2014 when Modi government came to power". He spoke about opening of the Kartarpur corridor and counted institutions, including IIM and AIIMS, and projects that the Modi government had sanctioned for Punjab.

Incidentally, he was not critical of the state government. Amarinder Singh, who was the Chief Minister of Punjab for four and a half years, is now an alliance partner of the BJP.

Geeta alias Chandraprabha said the people are repeatedly giving a clear mandate to the NDA because it is making efforts to bring social equality through welfare of the SCs, STs, backward classes and oppressed and deprived sections. She said as many as 27 ministers in the Union Council of Ministers are from backward classes while 20 belong to SC and ST communities and 11 are women. She said Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is ensuring that every central scheme is implemented fully in the state.

For instance, she said about 1.75 crore houses have been built under the Pradhan

Mantri Awas Yojana. In UP, 20 lakh houses

have been built in urban areas and 25 lakh

in rural areas. She counted every single

scheme of the Modi government, prompt-

ing Kharge to rebut that the speeches of the MPs sounded like election speeches.

In his speech, Kharge reminded the Prime Minister of his two crore jobs a year promise.

"And in the Budget yesterday you are promising to give 60 lakh jobs over five years. While seeking votes... you spoke about two crore jobs. The youngsters were clapping... hoping they will get jobs. But today so many people are jobless," he said.

"In the last 7 years, you have earned Rs 25 lakh crore in excise duties alone on petrol and diesel... the prices of fuel and cooking gas are increasing almost every day. Unemployment is on the rise. And you are still saying that we will bring acche din. Is this acche din?... where is the acche din and for whom acche din have come. Issues cannot be solved by thumping the desks here and hooting at us," he said.

Kharge reminded the Prime Minister of his statement on NREGA that the scheme was a living monument of the UPA government's failure and said the same scheme served as a lifeline for workers when they returned to their villages during the Covid crisis.

FULL REPORT ON

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Higher education: Govt responses in Parliament show consistent under-utilisation of budgeted funds

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

THE GOVERNMENT'S responses to a string of questions in Parliament about higher education have revealed that annually, a large proportion of Budget funds meant for the sector go unutilised.

The year 2021-22 is not likely to be an exception as out of Rs 93,224 crore earmarked for education in last year's Budget, only approximately Rs 56,567 crore have been utilised so far, according to a response by the Ministry of Education to a question by BJD Rajya Sabha MP Sasmit Patra.

In a response to a separate question, the government said that in 2021-22 the unspent balance (as on January 11) of central universities and centrally funded higher education institutes stood at Rs 7,143 crore. It was Rs 274 crore in 2020-21 and Rs 355 crore in 2019-20.

Mediaone TV ban: High Court extends stay, asks MHA to produce files

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
FEBRUARY 2

KERALA HIGH court on Wednesday directed the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to furnish all files related to its recommendation leading to the cancellation of the licence of Malayalam news channel Mediaone TV.

The bench of Justice N Nagaresh also extended the stay on the order of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting that barred transmission of the channel until next Monday, when the matter would come up for hearing.

On January 31, hours after the ministry barred the transmission of the channel, the latter's management moved the High Court, which, in an interim direction, deferred the implementation of the ban order.

In an affidavit submitted by Assistant Solicitor General of India S Manu, the central government said that "the Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that

Hizb militant killed in Shopian encounter: cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 2

A HIZBUL Mujahideen militant was killed in a gunfight that began on Wednesday morning in South Kashmir's Shopian district.

Police identified the militant killed in the encounter as Umar Ishfaq Malik, a resident of Bongam village in Shopian, and said he was involved in the attack on a policeman on Tuesday. According to police, he was active since 2020.

On Wednesday morning, a joint team of police, Army and paramilitary forces cordoned off Nadigam village in Shopian after receiving inputs about the presence of militants there. Police officials said that as the security team zeroed in on the target, militants hiding in the village opened fire in an attempt to escape. The security personnel retaliated, leading to a gunfight, in which one militant was killed, police said.

"He (Malik) was also instrumental in motivating gullible youth to join terror folds and other criminal activities," police said in a statement.

Court orders jailed PDP leader's medical examination

Srinagar: A special court in Srinagar has directed the government to get senior PDP leader Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra "examined by a specialist and competent doctor" after he was found unconscious in jail last Friday. He has been under detention for more than a year.

While Parra had been taken to the police hospital for examination, his family alleged he was moved back to jail despite doctors recommending some more tests such as echo scan. Parra's family members said he fell unconscious on Friday morning and when the jail authorities failed to revive him, he was taken to the police hospital. On examination, doctors found he had low blood pressure and advised certain tests such as echo scan. They alleged that while Parra regained consciousness, the jail authorities moved him back without conducting the tests. ENS



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* The name of the Acquirer is changed from Reliance New Energy Solar Limited to Reliance New Energy Limited with effect from January 19, 2022.

This post offer advertisement ("Post Offer Advertisement") is being issued by Edelweiss Financial Services Limited ("Manager to the Offer" or "Manager"), in respect of the Open Offer, for and on behalf of the Acquirer and the PACs, pursuant to and in accordance with regulation 18(12) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. This Post Offer Advertisement should be read in continuation of, and in conjunction with: (a) the Public Announcement dated October 10, 2021 ("PAC"); (b) the Detailed Public Statement that was published in all editions of "Financial Express" (English), "Indian Express" (English), "Jansatta" (Hindi) and Mumbai edition of "LokSatta" (Marathi) on October 18, 2021 ("DPS"); (c) the Letter of Offer dated December 23, 2021 along with Form of Acceptance ("LOF"); (d) the offer opening public announcement and corrigendum to the DPS that was published on December 30, 2021 in all the newspapers in which the DPS was published ("Offer Opening Public Announcement cum Corrigendum"); (e) the addendum to the LOF and Offer Opening Public Announcement cum Corrigendum that was published on January 1, 2022 in all the newspapers in which the DPS was published ("First Addendum"); and (f) the second addendum to the LOF and Offer Opening Public Announcement cum Corrigendum that was published on January 10, 2022 in all the newspapers in which the DPS was published ("Second Addendum").

This Post Offer Advertisement is being published in all the newspapers in which the DPS was published.

Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Post Offer Advertisement shall have the meaning assigned to such terms in the LOF.

The Public Shareholders of the Target Company are requested to kindly note the following information with respect to the Open Offer:

1	Name of the Target Company	:	Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy Limited (formerly known as Sterling and Wilson Solar Limited)
2	Name of the Acquirer and PACs	:	Reliance New Energy Limited (formerly known as Reliance New Energy Solar Limited), along with Reliance Industries Limited ("PAC 1"), and Reliance Ventures Limited ("PAC 2")
3	Name of the Manager to the Offer	:	Edelweiss Financial Services Limited
4	Name of the Registrar to the Offer	:	Link Intime India Private Limited
5	Offer Details:		
5.a	Date of Opening of the Offer	:	Friday, December 31, 2021
5.b	Date of Closure of the Offer	:	Thursday, January 13, 2022
6	Date of Payment of Consideration	:	Friday, January 28, 2022
7	Details of Acquisition:		

Sr. No.	Particulars	Proposed in the LOF ⁽ⁱ⁾	Actuals ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾
7.1	Offer Price (per Equity Share)	Rs. 375.00	Rs. 375.00
7.2	Aggregate number of Equity Shares tendered in the Offer	4,91,37,420 ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	84,76,251
7.3	Aggregate number of Equity Shares accepted in the Offer	4,91,37,420 ^(iv)	84,76,251
7.4	Size of the Offer (Number of Equity Shares multiplied by Offer Price)	Rs. 18,42,65,32,500 ^(v)	Rs. 3,17,85,94,125
7.5	Shareholding of the Acquirer and PACs before agreements/ public announcement		
	• Number	Nil	Nil
	• % of Emerging Share Capital	(0.00%)	(0.00%)
7.6	Equity Shares acquired by way of agreements		
	• Number	4,77,33,333 ^(vi)	4,77,33,333
	• % of Emerging Share Capital	(25.16%) ^(vii)	(25.16%) ^(viii)
7.7	Equity Shares acquired by way of Open Offer		
	• Number	4,91,37,420 ^(ix)	84,76,251
	• % of Emerging Share Capital	(25.90%) ^(x)	(4.47%)
7.8	Equity Shares acquired after Detailed Public Statement ^(xi)		
	• Number and price of Equity Shares acquired	Nil	Nil
	• % of Emerging Share Capital		
7.9	Post Offer shareholding of the Acquirer and the PACs		
	• Number	9,68,70,753 ^(xii)	5,62,09,584 ^(xiii)
	• % of Emerging Share Capital	(51.07%) ^(xii)	(29.63%)
7.10	Pre & Post offer shareholding of the Public	Pre-Offer Post-Offer ^(xv)	Pre-Offer Post-Offer ^(xvi)
	• Number	4,91,37,420	4,91,37,420
	• % of Emerging Share Capital	(25.90%)	(21.44%)

Notes:

(1) Unless stated otherwise, percentages disclosed in the table above are computed basis the Emerging Voting Capital.

(2) Assuming full acceptance in the Open Offer.

(3) Computed assuming full acceptance in the Open Offer and, accordingly, the number denotes the acquisition of only the Subscription Shares and the Tranche 1 Sale Shares. In terms of the SPA, the Acquirer agreed to acquire the Tranche 1 Sale Shares and additionally acquire such number of the Remaining Sale Shares if required in order to ensure that the Acquirer holds 40.00% shareholding in the Emerging Voting Capital of the Target Company after considering the Subscription Shares, the Tranche 1 Sale Shares and the Equity Shares acquired in the Open Offer.

(4) The Acquirer has acquired the Subscription Shares and the Tranche 1 Sale Shares. The Acquirer will further acquire 1,96,67,750 Equity Shares as Remaining Sale Shares from the Sellers, in terms of the SPA. The Acquirer shall hold 40.00% shareholding in the Emerging Voting Capital of the Target Company after considering the Subscription Shares, the Tranche 1 Sale Shares, Equity Shares acquired in the Open Offer and the Remaining Sale Shares.

(5) Apart from the Equity Shares specified in notes 7.6 and 7.7.

(6) The Acquirer, on December 30, 2021, became a promoter of the Target Company along with the existing promoter and promoter group of the Target Company, on the consummation of the SSA and in accordance with SEBI (SAST) Regulations.

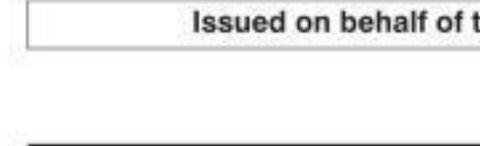
(7) Pursuant to the Open Offer, the public shareholding in the Target Company has fallen below the MPS requirement under Rule 19A of the SCRR. In terms of the SPA, the Sellers and their affiliates shall ensure to effect a sale of such number of Equity Shares to ensure that the Target Company meets the MPS requirement, within the timeframe specified for such compliance. The Target Company is also required to comply with the MPS requirements pursuant to the initial public offering of the Equity Shares of the Target Company within 3 years from the date of listing, i.e. by August 19, 2022, and the Sellers and its affiliates have confirmed that they shall ensure such compliance.

8 Other information

8.1 The Acquirer, the PACs and their directors, in their capacity as directors of the Acquirer and the PACs, accept full responsibility for the information contained in this Post Offer Advertisement and also for the obligations under the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.

8.2 A copy of this Post Offer Advertisement will be available on the websites of SEBI (www.sebi.gov.in), BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com), National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com) and at the registered office of the Target Company.

Issued on behalf of the Acquirer by the Manager to the Offer



Edelweiss Financial Services Limited

Edelweiss House, 6th Floor, Off CST Road, Kalina,

Mumbai - 400 098, Maharashtra, India

Tel. No.: +91 22 4009 4400

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Contact Person: Lokesh Shah

SEBI Registration No.: INR0000010650

Registrar to the Offer

Link Intime India Private Limited

C-101, 1st Floor, 247 Park, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg,

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Contact Person: Sumee Deshpande

SEBI Registration Number: INR0000040508

Place: Mumbai

Date: February 2, 2022

Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank
Regional Office : Patna

Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI Act, 2002

Auction Sale of immovable Property mortgaged to the Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act- 2002 read with rules 5,6,7,8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement rules,2002). Possession of the following property has been taken over by the Authorized Officer, pursuant to the Notice issued U/s 13 (2), 13 (4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act- 2002 in the borrowers accounts mentioned below with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS" AND "AS IS WHAT IS" basis for realization of the Bank's Dues on **04.03.2022 started from 11 A.M.**

S. No.	Branch	Borrower's Name / Guarantor's Name	Details Of Property (Name Of Mortgagor)	(A) Demand Notice 13(2)	(B) Reserve Price Rs.	(C) Possession Notice 13(4)	(D) EMD	(E) Balance-Rs + Future Intt & charges	(F) Incremental Bid Amount
1.	Ramjaijal Nagar	Sri Shivendra Mohan S/O- Late Manvendra Mohan (7417NC0000174 & 741799000019)	Mortgagor- Sri Shivendra Mohan S/o- Late Manvendra Mohan, Moh- naya tola, P.O+ P.S- kadamkuan,Dist- Patna Land Details-flat-no-302 on 3rd floor in annapurna complex Area 1700 sq ft.,naya tola,kadamkuan, Deed no-1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1040, 1041, 1045, 1046 sit no- 80 circle no- 29, situated at Moh-naya tola, PO + P.S-Kadamkuan, Dist-Patna, Boundary-North- FLAT NO 103 (ANNAPURNA COMPLEX), South-FLAT NO 301 (ANNAPURNA COMPLEX), East-Boundary wall (ANNAPURNA COMPLEX), West- Flat no 306 (ANNAPURNA COMPLEX).	(A) 05-03-2019	(A) ₹ 7,16,400/-	(B) 27-06-2019	(B) ₹ 7,16,100/-	(C) ₹ 90,30,208.40/- + intt & charges	(C) ₹ 10,000/-
2.	Naubatpur	M/S Sai Electronics Prop. Uma shankar Prasad S/o Late Dwarika Saw (7428870000611) Snehi Tola (Khagaul Main Road) Naubatpur, Patna</td							



TREADING GINGERLY

On both growth and revenue estimates, the Union budget has been cautious, building in buffers

THE UNION BUDGET numbers indicate that the government has once again chosen to be conservative in the assumptions it has made for estimating its fiscal position. To begin with, it has assumed a nominal GDP growth at 11.1 per cent in 2022-23. This seems cautious, considering that the Economic Survey, tabled a day earlier, had pegged real GDP growth at 8.8-5 per cent. In a similar vein, for the upcoming financial year, it has estimated tax collections to grow even lower than nominal GDP growth — gross tax revenues are pegged to grow at just 9.6 per cent. Even for the last quarter (January-December) of this year, the government appears to have been rather cautious in its estimation of revenue receipts. Based on tax collections in the first nine months of the year (April to December), and the revised estimates for the full year, it appears that the Centre has budgeted for tax collections to fall in the last quarter. If collections this year outstrip the revised estimates, it will make the task of achieving next year's targets even less challenging. These relatively safe assumptions will act as inbuilt buffers against any unforeseen events.

Next year, the government expects direct taxes to grow at 13.6 per cent, while indirect taxes are pegged to grow at a mere 5.7 per cent. Slower growth of the latter is largely on account of excise collections estimated to fall from the levels observed in the current year, presumably due to the cuts in fuel taxes. Under non-tax revenue, the government expects lower dividends from public sector enterprises, as well as transfers from the RBI. Telcos are expected to fork out Rs 52,806 crore mainly on account of licence fees and spectrum usage charges, with a part likely to accrue from the proceeds of the 5G spectrum auctions. The disinvestment target too has been cut down to Rs 65,000 crore in 2022-23, down from expectations of garnering Rs 78,000 crore in 2021-22.

On the expenditure side, even as the Centre's capital expenditure has been budgeted to grow at 24.4 per cent (more has been allocated for housing, railways and roads), its revenue expenditure is projected to grow barely by 1 per cent. As a consequence, spending on items has been restricted. The subsidy bill has been pruned, and allocations to schemes such as MGNREGA have been cut. And while education has seen an uptick, the health expenditure remains at almost the same level. What has increased is interest payments. With the Centre's borrowings having risen sharply, so has its interest outgo — interest payments now account for 23.8 per cent of total expenditure, up from 19.4 per cent in 2020-21. Considering that the general government debt is around 90 per cent of GDP, it is disconcerting that not much attention has been given to the medium-term fiscal roadmap.

TALK IT OUT

Move in Maldives to outlaw protests against government's foreign policy is ill-advised. MDP should engage with protesters

THE MALDIVIAN DEMOCRATIC Party, the ruling party in the Indian Ocean atoll nation, wants to outlaw protests against the government's foreign policy on grounds that these endanger national security. It has drafted a bill prescribing fines and jail sentences as penalties against violators. The bill is clearly aimed at protests ongoing for about two years against the MDP government's perceived proximity to India. The "India Out movement" believes that India has a large military footprint on Maldivian soil. This belief became further entrenched after the two countries signed an agreement in February 2021 for the development of a coast guard base for the Maldivian National Defence Force in the Uthuru Thilafalhu atoll. The campaign gathered steam following the release from house arrest of former president Abdulla Yameen in December, after a court overturned his conviction in an embezzlement case. During his presidency, Yameen brought in a pronounced pro-China tilt to his government's foreign policy, much to Delhi's dismay. When Ibrahim Mohamed Solih was elected in 2017, the new government declared an "India First" policy. India is now building a \$500 million infrastructure project, the Greater Male Connectivity Project, billed as the biggest ever in the Maldives. A draft of the bill that targets protests that "negatively affect relations with foreign countries" may be submitted when the Majlis, the country's parliament, meets today. This is an ill advised move.

It is ironic that a party that has "democratic" as its middle name, is now preparing to bring in a law that will restrict freedom of expression. This can only hand the opposition a stick to beat the MDP with, and whip up more anti-India sentiment. In the present atmosphere, it would not be a surprise if an Indian hand is seen behind the legislation, heightening suspicions that the MDP is putting people's rights at stake to please India. It must not be forgotten that some 30,000 Indians live and work in the Maldives. The sustained campaign is now causing concern in the Indian expatriate community.

The better option for the MDP would be to engage more with the protesters and address their concerns, by being transparent about Indian projects in the country. The fact that it is the party, and not the government, that has been spearheading the need for such legislation, indicates that not all in the MDP are on the same page. It would be in the nation's and MDP's own political interests to drop the idea entirely.

SPLENDID ISOLATION

Kyoto faces financial ruin thanks to the lack of tourists due to pandemic. But there are gains too

KOTO'S WOES SEEM tragically commonplace in the Covid-19 era: In 2019, the year before the pandemic struck, Kyoto received about 8 million visitors. In 2021, the number of tourists shrunk to less than 2,500,000 — an over 99 per cent drop. Without the tourist spending, Mayor Daisaku Kadokawa has warned that the Japanese town could face bankruptcy within the decade. Yet, the residents of Kyoto are divided over the recent developments. For many, the escape from tourists has come as a welcome respite.

Even before 2020, there were movements in Kyoto against "tourism pollution". Rich, entitled foreigners — most visitors are well-heeled considering how expensive Japan is — insisted on taking selfies with locals, many of whom just wanted to enjoy a quiet cup of tea sans interruptions. Restaurateurs had to deal with ill-mannered tourists who didn't show up after reserving half the place for a large party. The public transport system was unable to support the influx of joyriders, making the commute to work all that more difficult. And perhaps most irritating of all, as devotees made the long climb up to the Kiyomizu-dera Buddhist temple, buses and vans full of "loud Americans" would already have beaten them to it, piercing the calm.

Kyoto's harried denizens will probably find sympathetic ears in Nainital and Darjeeling, Goa and Ooty. For all the inherent hospitality in many cultures — there are versions of "atithi daivo bhava" across Asia and beyond — there is something irritating about the loud entitlement of the paying customer, believing as he does that he is always right. Not getting a table at your favourite hometown restaurant and finding a hillside or beach littered with Kurkure packets only makes matters worse. But, for better or worse, when people circulate, so does money. And the t-shirt seller and street food vendor in Kyoto need that cash almost as much as their counterparts in Kanyakumari.



NK SINGH

EACH BUDGET MUST respond to the contemporary challenges and be sensitive to the mood of the times. In this sense, this year is somewhat unique.

The raging pandemic imposed atypical expenditure burdens. Uncertainties on the path of the pandemic loom large. This circumscribes policy prognosis. The elections in five important states, including Uttar Pradesh, loom large. Its outcome would determine the political course for policymakers vis à vis far-reaching economic and structural reforms. Domain experts have concluded that monetary policy has run out of steam. The efficacy of any policy of forbearance and extending guarantees or moratoriums is no substitute for fiscal action. Fiscal stimulus is stressed for job creation and relief to the MSME sector and the informal sector.

In this context, this budget is a commendable balancing act. It is seeking symmetry between contradictory pulls and pressures. It represents continuity with trust.

To begin with, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was truthful that this was no time for tax reprieves. The fact that she has not resorted to tax increases normally expected during a pandemic through enhanced health cess or a pandemic tax is no mean achievement. Continuity in tax policies is central and obviating unpleasant surprises reinforces investor confidence.

Second, the continued emphasis on capital expenditure (capex), which decisively alters outcomes of public outlays is a long awaited expenditure reform. Capex has gone up by 26 per cent, from Rs 4.39 trillion in FY21 to Rs 5.54 trillion in FY22. Job creation will be the direct outcome of enhanced capex and altering of employment patterns in seeking more gainful employment and asset creation, such as through the National Highways Development Programme and the National Infrastructure, giving an impetus to Gati Shakti.

Third, this focus on productive capex comes ahead of elections in five states. The government could have been distracted by more direct monetary support to influence the electoral psyche. The decision to stay away from a populist budget is consistent with the PM's objective to enhance our long term competitive efficiency supporting growth objectives and a new export thrust.

A fiscal consolidation of half percentage point for the following year is significant. This

is consistent with the objectives of a 4.5 per cent fiscal deficit at the end of 2024-25. No doubt, this is somewhat higher than the stipulated 3 per cent in the FRBM Act and a little misaligned with the 4 per cent suggested by the Finance Commission. However, this exercise, commenced last year and continued this year in taking on all extra budgetary borrowings, contingent liabilities and extra budgetary resources, reinforces the credibility of our accounting process.

One of the outstanding achievements is the somewhat unexpected revenue buoyancy. Painful but sustained efforts in improving GST outcomes as well as on direct taxes will result in tax to GDP of around 10.7 per cent over the next year. This is a significant gain considering that tax to GDP has for long languished far below its potential. The GST Council must now engage in more decisive action in broad banding, inverted duty structure and including excluded items as well as improving all-round compliance. We are, by international reckoning, losing about 4 percentage points of GDP in our overall revenue realisation. A coherent plan on sustaining our current revenue buoyancy would be keenly watched.

This budget must be read in conjunction with the statements of fiscal policy as required under the FRBM Act, which includes statements of the macroeconomic framework and medium term fiscal policy cum strategy. According to the IMF's Fiscal Monitor report published in late October 2021, countries which have a fiscal rule must focus more clearly on cyclically adjusted fiscal balance. On debt, the report suggests even a longer timeframe of aligning emerging markets' original debt targets anywhere beyond 10 years. The current debt to GDP of 90.6 per cent is somewhat above comfort levels. Given that the debt stock is high, spectacular changes cannot be expected in one year. However, the direction is a positive one.

For the agriculture sector, the setback on farm reforms could have shelved further action. Yet the budget strategy includes improving the farm incomes and long term productivity of agriculture including crop diversification. The digitisation of land records is important for market based economies to be benefited by the agriculture sector.

On education, the need for bridging the digital divide has been echoed. The setting up of 200 TV stations as well as digital universi-

WORDLY WISE

PEOPLE CRUSHED BY LAWS HAVE NO HOPE
BUT TO EVADE POWER.

— EDMUND BURKE

The budget's balance

It seeks symmetry between pulls and pressures of growth and stability, finds a path of continuity, trust



TRISHA RAY

WE OFTEN THINK of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies as a gateway to a future written in chrome, operating on a virtual cloud. This techno-optimism underpinned FM Nirmala Sitharaman's 2022 budget speech, where AI was described as a sunrise technology that would "assist sustainable development at scale and modernise the country." While there is an allure to national dreams of economic prosperity and global competitiveness, underwritten by AI, there is an environmental cost and — like any issue at the nexus of technology, development, growth and security — a cost that comes with being locked into rules about said environmental impact set by powerful actors.

The "race" for dominance in AI is far from fair: Not only do a few developed economies possess certain material advantages right from the start, they also set the rules. They have an advantage in research and development, and possess a skilled workforce as well as wealth to invest in AI. North America and East Asia alone account for three-fourths of global private investment in AI, patents and publications.

We can also look at the state of inequity in AI in terms of governance: How "tech fluent" are policymakers in developing and underdeveloped countries? What barriers do they face in crafting regulations and industrial policy? Are they sufficiently represented and empowered at the international bodies that set rules

Developing and underdeveloped countries face a challenge on two fronts: First, AI's social and economic benefits are accruing to a few countries, and second, most of the current efforts and narratives on the relationship between AI and climate impact are being driven by the developed West.

and standards on AI? At the same time, there is an emerging challenge at the nexus of AI and climate change that could deepen this inequity.

The climate impact of AI comes in a few forms: The energy use of training and operating large AI models is one. In 2020, digital technologies accounted for between 1.8 per cent and 6.3 per cent of global emissions. At the same time, AI development and adoption across sectors has skyrocketed, as has the demand for processing power associated with larger and larger AI models. Paired with the fact that governments of developing countries see AI as a silver bullet for solving complex socio-economic problems, we could see a growing share of AI in technology-linked emissions in the coming decades.

The idea of sustainability is rapidly entering mainstream debates on AI ethics and sustainable development. In November 2021, UNESCO adopted the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, calling on actors to "reduce the environmental impact of AI systems, including but not limited to its carbon footprint." Similarly, technology giants like Amazon, Microsoft, Alphabet and Facebook have announced "net zero" policies and initiatives. These initiatives are a good sign, but they only scratch the surface. Both global AI governance and climate change policy (historically) are contentious, being rooted in inequitable

access to resources.

Developing and underdeveloped countries face a challenge on two fronts: First, AI's social and economic benefits are accruing to a few countries, and second, most of the current efforts and narratives on the relationship between AI and climate impact are being driven by the developed West.

What then is the way ahead? Like most nexus issues, the relationship between climate change and AI is still a whisper in the wind. It is understudied, not least because the largest companies working in this space are neither transparent nor meaningfully committed to studying, let alone acting, to substantively limit the climate impact of their operations.

Governments of developing countries, India included, should also assess their technology-led growth priorities in the context of AI's climate costs. It is argued that as developing nations are not plagued by legacy infrastructure it would be easier for them to "build up better". These countries don't have to follow the same AI-led growth paradigm as their Western counterparts. It may be worth thinking through what "solutions" would truly work for the unique social and economic contexts of the communities in our global village.

The writer is an associate fellow at the Observer Research Foundation



FEBRUARY 3, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

BAD BEHAVIOUR

M LJADAM, leader of the Indian contingent to the Mini-Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, Australia, last year, has explained to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) that a delegation of uninvited officials of the Asian Games not only usurped the facilities meant for the team but lowered the prestige of the country by their behaviour. In particular, Jadam was embarrassed by an unseemly wrangle in front of the foreign sports representatives as to who was heading the delegation. Two overzealous members of the Asian Games Organising Committee, S S Gill and C M Muthiah, insisted that the Delhi MP and non-sportsman, KHL Bhagat was the team

leader and should be given the honour of awarding medals. The puzzled representatives of the International Wrestling Association did not know what to make of this confusion, since various team managers claimed that the IOA had appointed Jadam to the post.

COSTLIER CALLS

THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED sweeping increases in postal and telecommunication charges. The biggest increase is in telephone rentals which ranged from Rs 125 to Rs 200 a quarter. These would now have to be paid every two months. Whereas the rental in

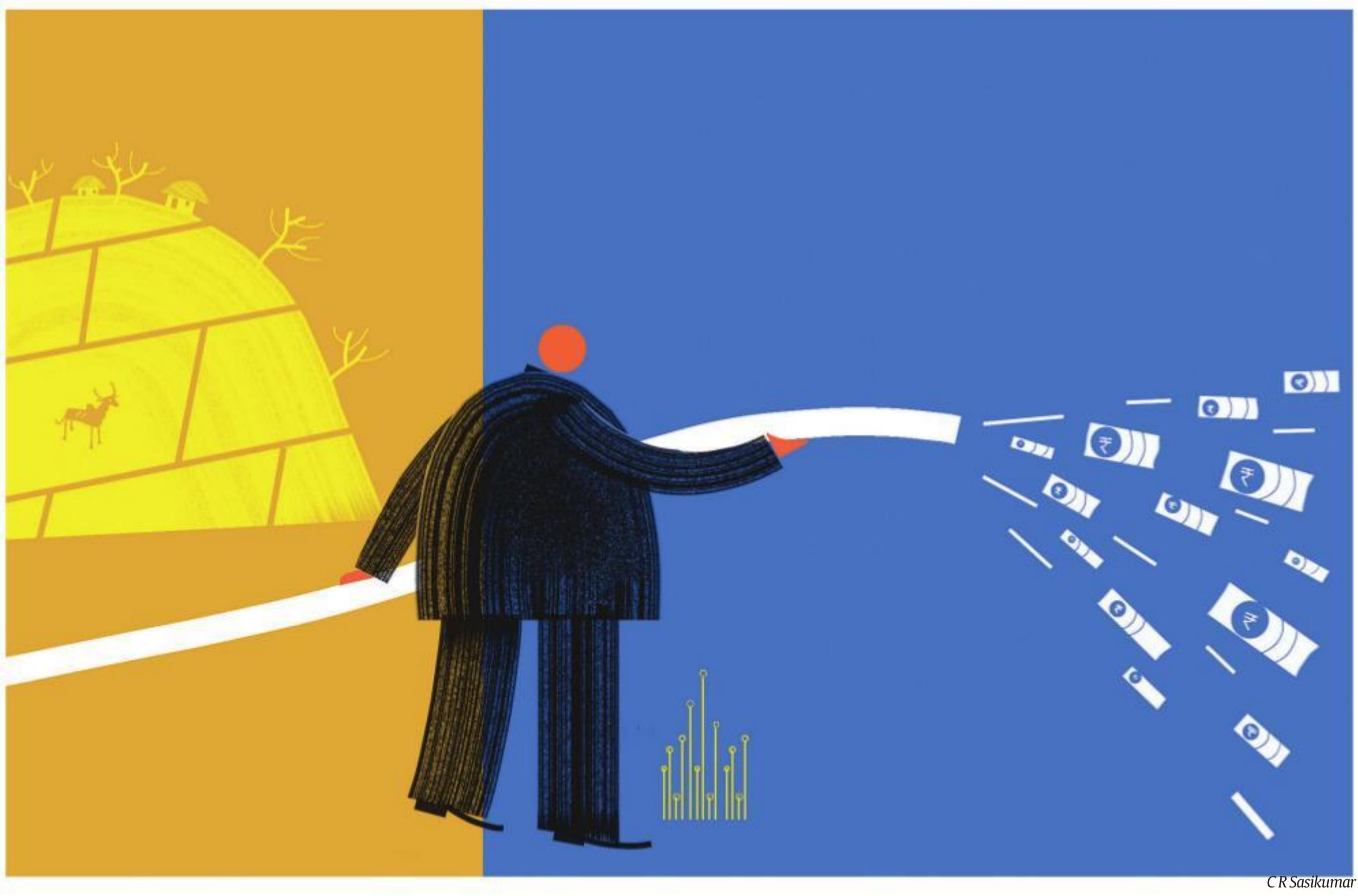
Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta was Rs 200 for 3 months, it will be Rs 200 every 2 months from March 1.

CRACKER UNIT FIRE

SIX CHILDREN BETWEEN 12 and 15 years were charred to death when a room of the cracker factory in which they were working caught fire at Chellappatti about 20 km from Sankarankovil. This is the second such accident in Tirunelveli district in four months. Four persons were killed in an explosion in a cracker manufacturing unit at Themangulam near Alwarthirunagari in October last year.



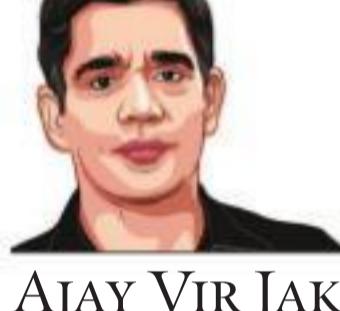
11 THE IDEAS PAGE



CR Sasikumar

The seeds not planted

This budget will be remembered for its silence on the problems of farmers, its lack of a long-term vision for agriculture



AJAY VIR JAKHAR

THE FINANCE MINISTER'S frequent references to the "Amrit Kaal" — India's 25-year-long lead-up to its first centenary of Independence in 2047 — in her budget speech, frame, in no small measure, the government's accomplishment of running the world's largest welfare programme: Feeding 800 million in the country free or subsidised food. As a farmer, however, one hopes a better measure of accomplishment would have been the country not having to feed anyone for free because everyone can afford nutritious meals.

Times have been harsh and, with the pandemic adding to the severity of the situation, the youth in all parts of the country has been engulfed by anxiety. Over a fourth of the country's youth are without employment and that is without even factoring in the disguised unemployment across rural India. After the farmers' protest — globally the largest and the longest — ratcheted up pressure on the government, students are now agitating for jobs. It seems that an era of mass protests is beginning. The finance ministry has lost its appetite for bold announcements and the government, overly influenced by foreign consultants and businesses, remains resolute in falsely assuming that a trickle-down economy will solve the problem. Unemployment remains the biggest challenge faced by the country. It is like a powder-keg waiting to go off.

There is much more at stake though. Inflation has raised its head and the emerging picture is frightening. People will only be able to afford less nutritious food, poor households will see their savings dwindle, medical treatment will be deferred, more food will be cooked by burning wood, and education degrees will lose their relevance. That will be India adjusting to a new normal. The illusion of PM KISAN is unravelling in the villages — the monthly dole of Rs 500, limited to the landowning classes, does not even cover the rise in gas cylinder prices, two-wheeler fuel costs, the hike in tractor diesel prices, or healthcare and education costs that have shot up multiple times. It's quite possible that in Budget 2023, a year before the parliamentary elections, the government will double the PM KISAN amount to Rs 1,000.

This year, at least, the finance minister did not fall for electoral populism. Arguably, the backlog of problems received by Nirmala Sitharaman left her with little room to manoeuvre. The rising global fuel and fertiliser prices have forced tougher choices upon the nation.

The allocation for the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is up substantially, as are the funds apportioned for the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. One can only hope the talk of millets and oilseeds will be backed by real resources unlike the allocations for natural farming. But there are also instances of reduction and stagnancy in budgetary allocations for departments like rural development and health. Programmes guaranteeing rural employment have been slashed as well. Even when there is an increase in allocation — for instance, agriculture research and education — it does not even offset the level of inflation. After six years of rhetoric, the slogan of doubling farmers' incomes has expectedly and conveniently been forgotten. This budget will be remem-

Inflation has raised its head and the emerging picture is frightening. People will only be able to afford less nutritious food, poor households will see their savings dwindle, medical treatment will be deferred, more food will be cooked by burning wood, and education degrees will lose their relevance. That will be India adjusting to a new normal. The illusion of PM KISAN is unravelling in the villages — the monthly dole of Rs 500, limited to the landowning classes, does not even cover the rise in gas cylinder prices, two-wheeler fuel costs, the hike in tractor diesel prices, or healthcare and education costs that have shot up multiple times.

bered for its eerie silence on making a difference to Indian agriculture. International inflationary concerns were flagged as a problem in the Economic Survey, but one must realise that improved international commodity prices also help agriculture grow. Farmers have responded to higher prices with higher agriculture productivity. The FM, however, tripped up in not declaring a statutory imposition of import duties on crops where the landing cost is below the MSP (where declared) or below remunerative prices (where there is no MSP) — this would have ensured that these crops do not enter Indian markets below a threshold price.

The states — as well as the Centre — are highly indebted with a large portion of revenue receipts being used for interest payments. But there is a desperate rush for creating new physical infrastructure rather than prioritising human resources by filling up vacancies in all critical departments such as the police, health, agriculture extension, animal husbandry, education, revenue, and administrative services. These omissions are tantamount to transferring the costs, including the costs of missed opportunities, to future generations.

The government refuses to confront the reality that social welfare schemes need to be sustainable. It has also wasted the occasion by not committing to repurpose farm subsidies to payment for farm ecosystem services. Hopes for MSP procurement for crops other than wheat and paddy have been belied. Overall, one senses the absence of a long-term vision. Agriculture, like other departments, has been asked to solve its problem in isolation. It is not as if India's growth story is jinxed. It's just that the policymakers routinely mistake a plan for a strategy and refuse to even acknowledge the difference.

The writer is chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj



BENITA FERNANDO

Why I wear a mask

It is a chance the healthy give to the vulnerable in the pandemic

THREE MONTHS after the pandemic started, my family faced the stressful diagnosis of cancer. A loved one would have to undergo a prolonged treatment plan spanning up to a year. If the pandemic was excruciating, managing cancer in it seemed doubly so. The vaccine was a distant hope at this point. A flu episode could be difficult to manage for a cancer patient with suppressed immunity, so one couldn't imagine what Covid might mean. It came to define my family's perspective on masking up, one that hasn't changed till date.

The chance of isolation or social distancing was impractical if you are making multiple trips to hospitals and labs, as we were. It was hard to say if we, as patients and caregivers, would dodge the virus or not. The best we could do — all we could do — was to just sit tight behind our masks. Not all may agree, but for a cancer patient, a mask can determine the difference between lesser suffering or more, life and death. It's knowledge that I wasn't aware of some years ago.

For a decade, I lived in the vicinity of one of South Asia's best, and busiest, cancer centres in Mumbai. On mundane trips to buy groceries or take the bus, I'd see patients,

many of them children, wearing masks in crowded street corners and food stalls around the hospital. In my biased ignorance, I, like many others, assumed that the patients had to hide their faces, perhaps they didn't want to be contagious. A mask in public was a sign of weakness and a sign of sickness. It was ominous unless you were a camera-toting tourist. It was similar to why people avoid going to a doctor — seeking a diagnosis means you are sick, not the other way round.

Things changed dramatically with the cancer diagnosis. In the last two years, I have told off customers at markets for wearing their masks incorrectly or for not wearing them at all. I have made snide comments in packed elevators and shamed people into pulling up their masks. The municipal corporation should be thankful. All this only because I knew that I couldn't afford to catch a bad cold. With healthy populations reporting that Omicron hasn't felt milder by any means, for cancer patients and others with immunocompromised conditions, Omicron can be twice as severe or lead to delays and interruptions in treatment plans. To say that Omicron is inevitable is to say that immunosuppressed people just have to deal with it, over and above everything else.

I find great joy and even liberation in masking up — I no longer smile politely at dull jokes or casual sexism, my eye make-up has improved significantly and I can talk to myself in public without drawing attention.

Our approach towards the pandemic and safety measures is also true of how cities are

sible through the course of the cancer treatment, sometimes doubling up in the second wave. It's impossible for cancer patients to be masked up all the time, not only because they have difficulty breathing or are panicking or want a good cry or a wave of nausea has hit them. Sometimes it's logically unmanageable — like with feeding tubes that are needed in certain cancers. If patients eat when they can or at appointed hours, it means that some of this has to be done in crowded spots, which is practically all of Mumbai.

It's why the current messaging around "mild" Omicron is disconcerting. It's able to start with. If you are young, or with no co-morbidities, then Omicron may be as tolerable as a bad cold. With healthy populations reporting that Omicron hasn't felt milder by any means, for cancer patients and others with immunocompromised conditions, Omicron can be twice as severe or lead to delays and interruptions in treatment plans. To say that Omicron is inevitable is to say that immunosuppressed people just have to deal with it, over and above everything else.

Our approach towards the pandemic and safety measures is also true of how cities are

planned in India — so long as you are young and able, you should have no problem crossing the average busy intersection in an Indian city. If you aren't, go figure. The slow change of messaging from cloth masks to N95 ones in the course of the Omicron surge is also part of this misguided approach. Even the cheapest N95 mask in the market is not affordable for large sections of India or even feasible.

Seeing through cancer in a pandemic showed us that masking up is the work of a community. The times that we had to remove our masks, we did so, thankful to the people around us in hospitals who were dutifully masked up. We breathed easy because of them.

We often assume that cancer, like Covid, is something that happens to other people and that we will somehow be insulated from it. It took Omicron to show us that Covid can happen to just about every other person in our circles. In the hubris of our youth or idealism, we forget that one day we could be in a position where we are desperate for a fighting chance, and the only way to get it is that the community stays masked up.

benita.fernando@expressindia.com

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

Just when it seemed that the Big Three's time was coming to an end, Nadal came up with a sucker punch

— DAWN

A budget that looks away

With the economy in a precarious position, one expected some awareness of it in the budget. It has turned out to be a non-event, ignoring the poor



PRABHAT PATNAIK

THE SETTING for the 2022-23 Union Budget was quite unprecedented: Acute unemployment, growing poverty, burgeoning wealth and income inequalities, and accelerating inflation. One expected to find in the budget some measures for stimulating the economy, and also some gesture towards alleviating distress. Such alleviation, even if not used as the primary means of stimulating the economy, could have constituted a set of separate and additional provisions. This was not to be. The budget has been a gigantic non-event, blithely ignoring the economy's travails and providing neither stimulus nor succour to the poor.

True, the budget envisages a rise in capital expenditure by the government but if we look at total government expenditure, which is what matters from the point of view of aggregate demand, the increase is only Rs 1.75 lakh crore, from Rs 37.70 lakh crore in 2021-22 (RE) to Rs 39.45 lakh crore in 2022-23 — a 4.6 per cent rise. This is even lower than the inflation rate. In real terms, the budgeted total expenditure change is thus negative. Government expenditure as a proportion of GDP is set to decline sharply, entailing a dampening effect on the economy.

Likewise, the provision for MGNREGA, a lifeline for the poor, is pegged at Rs 73,000 crore, lower than Rs 98,000 crore in 2021-22 (RE) and Rs 1,11,000 crore in 2020-21. It would be argued that this being a demand-driven scheme, the outlay can be expanded if necessary. What this argument misses is that such an expansion of outlay takes time, and delayed wage payment in the interim discourages demand. The initial budgetary provision is, therefore, important.

This damp squib of a budget implies that the perverse fiscal strategy the Modi government has been putting into effect of late is allowed to persist. This strategy consists in giving tax concessions to the rich (expecting them to invest more), while restraining the fiscal deficit through higher indirect taxation, notably on fuel. Even in the current budget, the oil price is set to increase for consumers because of the additional excise duty of Rs 2 per litre on unblended fuel.

This fiscal strategy is a perverse one for several reasons. First, it is inhumane, inequitable and hence anti-democratic: Its inhumaneness, in contrast to other resource mobilisation measures like a wealth tax, is so appalling that a group of American billionaires on the occasion of the Davos summit expressed their desire for being taxed more so that the poor are spared. Second, it goes against what advanced capitalist countries like the US have been trying to do. The Biden administration's recovery strategy entails spending more, including on welfare schemes, by resorting to heavier, not lighter, corporate taxation. For this, it has even negotiated an internationally-agreed minimum corporate tax rate to prevent corporates from parking profits in tax havens. Third, it has been a major contributory factor to the phe-

nomenon of inflationary recession that is plaguing the Indian economy. Raising fuel taxes raises prices in general and since the money incomes of the working people do not increase in tandem, there is a reduction in real demand, and hence a recession. Fourth, precisely because of this recession that develops, the increase in private corporate investment, that had supposedly constituted the justification for such tax concessions, does not materialise: On the contrary, the larger unutilised capacity in existing units, that arises because of the recession, causes a curtailment in private investment.

This perverse fiscal strategy, which one hoped would be abandoned in the current budget, continues even as the government itself admits that private investment is unresponsive to tax concessions which is why it has decided to increase public investment hoping that it would "crowd in" private investment.

The budget, by doing nothing either for alleviating distress or for reviving the economy, shows not just a lack of concern; it is dangerous because all indications point to a worsening of the situation because of both internal and external developments.

Internally, whatever recovery has occurred in 2021-22 relative to 2019-20 has not touched real consumption expenditure, which continues to be below its 2019-20 level. The level of capacity utilisation in consumer goods sectors, therefore, cannot be higher than in 2019-20. In fact, since there has been some addition to capacity meanwhile, because of the lagged effect of investment decisions taken earlier, unutilised capacity in these sectors has obviously increased, which means that investment will come down, and its multiplier effects on consumption will make it shrink further. This recovery, therefore, unlike what the Economic Survey predicts, cannot last.

Externally, the oil price is on the rise, with many expecting it to reach \$100 per barrel soon. The Modi government, whose revenue comes substantially from taxing petro-products, will then have to pass on the higher import price to the consumers for fear of losing revenue otherwise, which will only exacerbate domestic inflation. What is more, the near-zero interest rate policy pursued in the US and elsewhere till now, which had enabled India to access global financial flows easily for balancing its external payments, is coming to an end because of the acceleration of inflation there. This threatens a depreciation in the external value of the rupee and that will add further to the rate of inflation in the Indian economy, including through higher rupee prices of imported oil whose dollar price itself is rising. This, in turn, will add further to recession and unemployment, as curbing inflation acquires priority.

With the economy in such a precarious position, one expected some awareness of it in the budget. Such an awareness would have suggested a shift towards greater imposts on the rich through wealth or corporate income taxation. At least some reversal of the perverse fiscal strategy being pursued could have been signalled or some other strategy for coping with the situation could have been tabled for discussion. The budget alas appears oblivious of these developments and that is a dangerous portent.

The writer is former professor of economics at JNU, Delhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A MIXED BAG

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Measured steps & a leap to spend' (IE, February 2). The finance minister should be complimented for avoiding a populist budget. However, she must be questioned for not adequately addressing inequality and poverty. Pruning MGNREGA and PDS allocations on the assumption of normalcy being restored soon is risky and could prolong the suffering of the poor. Similarly, the hesitation to tax the wealthy, who did not respond favourably to an earlier corporate tax cut by investing more, is surprising and will only exacerbate the inequality gap.

Increased capex is the redeeming feature of the budget, with its employment potential which, though spread out, could bring relief to the jobless many. Hemant Contractor, Pune

UNSEEMLY CONDUCT
THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Unblock' (IE, February 2). From the day Mamata Banerjee returned to power with a thumping majority in the last West Bengal assembly elections, she has been acting as the head of a separate country. She has the entire state administration at her beck and call — even senior IAS officers refuse to obey the Centre's orders of recall — and has been questioning almost every policy decision of

the Centre which she believes erroneously is against the federal structure of the Constitution. The present governor does not conform to her expectation of a submissive figurehead. As such their regular confrontation inside and beyond the public domain have become lamentable.

YG Chouksey, Pune

BASICS MISSING
THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Voices the budget didn't hear' (IE, February 2). While the booster shot for capex and infrastructure development in Budget 2022 is duly appreciated it has a lot of misses as well. In many ways, the FM has left the nation high and dry. Instead of providing resources and stimulus for the private sector to take over capex for roads and railways, the government has decided to be the leading player. It's a surprise that tax incentives were not given for startups in the technology space considering that future growth will be driven by technology. The FM also reneged on her 2019 promise of a relook at tax slabs for individuals in 2022. Wages have not risen commensurate to inflation and no change in tax slabs effectively means lesser income in the hands of people. So, while the budget did meet the lofty ESG and capex goals, it has missed the basics of the economy, which does not augur well for the future.

Gaurav Gupta, Pune

BRIEFLY

Kerala to get India's first graphene centre

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala government on Wednesday announced the country's first Graphene Innovation Centre, a joint venture of Digital University of Kerala, Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) and Tata Steel Ltd. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in his official Facebook page, said the centre would come up in Thrissur at a cost of Rs 86.41 crore. The project will give a major fillip for scientific research and state's industrial sector. ENS

NEW DELHI

ONORC now in Chhattisgarh

New Delhi: Chhattisgarh has become 35th state to implement 'One Nation, One Ration Card' (ONORC), the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said on Wednesday. The ministry said, "Recently, Department of Food & Public Distribution had reviewed the progress of states/UTs towards the implementation of ONORC plan, and after successful testing, the department has approved the integration of Chhattisgarh with the existing cluster under ONORC." ENS

ODISHA

Govt dismisses IAS officer

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government on Wednesday dismissed senior IAS officer Vinod Kumar, a key accused in the rural housing scam after the 1999 super cyclone in Odisha. Kumar was dismissed after the Centre approved the proposal to give him compulsory retirement. Kumar has 27 vigilance cases filed against him, of which he was convicted in two. ENS

Student killed in pre-poll violence

Bhubaneswar: Tension prevailed in Odisha's Bhadrak district after a 23-year-old engineering student, a supporter of BJP, was allegedly killed ahead of the crucial three-tier panchayat elections in the state. The incident was reported from Brahmpur village under the Sabarang police station limits in Bhadrak. The three-tier panchayat polls is scheduled in five phases from February 16 to 24. ENS

SC seeks Centre reply on Salem plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought the Centre's response to 1993 Mumbai serial blasts convict Abu Salem's plea that he cannot be imprisoned for more than 25 years in view of the treaty between India and Portugal, under which he was extradited. Salem was extradited from Portugal on November 11, 2005. In 2017, a designated TADA court had sentenced Salem to life imprisonment in the Mumbai serial blasts case. A bench of justices SK Kaul and MM Sundresh issued notice to the Centre on Salem's plea that the 2017 sentencing was in contravention of the terms of the extradition agreement. The court gave the Centre four weeks to reply. ENS

Students take exam under vehicle headlights in Bihar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PATNA, FEBRUARY 2

OVER 500 students of Class 12 had to write their Hindi paper in poor lighting and in headlights of vehicles, at a college in Bihar's Motihari district on Wednesday as the examination got delayed due to examination centre official's mismanagement.

Following the incident, the district administration removed the centre's superintendent and ordered a probe into the matter.

BSEB is holding Class 12 Board examination after Covid

epaper.indianexpress.com



India under 'threat of bigotry, religious hegemony', Stalin writes to leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 2



Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin at his home gym in Chennai. ANI

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister MK Stalin has written to leaders cutting across regional and political lines inviting them to nominate their party representatives to the All India Federation for Social Justice, a platform he formed on Republic Day. Stating that the country is "under threat of bigotry and religious hegemony", Stalin mentioned in the letter that "these forces can only be fought if all who believe in equality, self-respect and social justice unite together".

The platform, Social Justice, was formed to create a roadmap to take forward the battle for social justice in India and to identify the areas to bring about a common minimum programme to be uniformly adopted by all states.

The letter was sent to 37 leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Farook Abdullah, Sharad Pawar, Mamata Banerjee, D Raja, Sitaram Yechury, N Chandrababu Naidu, Arvind Kejriwal, Meenbooba Mufti, Chandrasekara Rao, Udhav Thackeray and Akhilesh Yadav. Tamil leaders who got the letter were AIADMK coordinator O Panneerselvam, PMK founder S Ramadoss, VCK leader Thol

Thirumavalavan and Vaiko.

"Social Justice as an ideology is simple — 'everything for everyone'... Only by ensuring this equality of opportunity can we build the egalitarian society visualised by the framers of our Constitution," said Stalin on Wednesday.

"As I write this, our unique, diverse, multi-cultural federation is under threat of bigotry and religious hegemony. These forces can only be fought if all who believe in equality, self-respect and social justice unite together." It is not a question of political gain but re-establishing the pluralistic identity of our Republic, as visualised by our founding fathers," he wrote.

Mamata: BJP main enemy, must join hands to oust it in 2024

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 2



West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar with CM Mamata Banerjee and Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee at the state government's Republic Day function. File

AFTER BEING re-elected as the chairperson of the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) during the party's organisational poll on Wednesday, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee laid down her party's roadmap for national expansion and sought the cooperation of all anti-BJP fronts in the country to oust the saffron party from power after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"Today, I ask my party workers and leaders to strengthen the organisation as we have to oust the BJP from power in 2024. If we can oust the CPM from West Bengal after 34 years of its rule, we can definitely remove the BJP from [power] in the country. They are our main enemy," she said.

Targeting the Congress, which is yet to enter into an understanding with the TMC for the coming Assembly elections in multiple states this year, Banerjee said, "We want all regional parties to come together and defeat the BJP in 2024. We want those who are opposed to BJP come on one platform, but if someone wants to sit back because of ego, we cannot be blamed. We will fight against the BJP alone if needed."

The Chief Minister alleged that the Congress had helped the BJP to win elections in Meghalaya and Chandigarh.

Responding to the allegation, Congress Rajya Sabha MP

Pradeep Bhattacharya said, "It is completely wrong to think that the Congress is helping BJP win elections. This kind of thought needs to change. Mamata Banerjee should read the history of the Congress. Our party has always fought against the Jan Sangh and the BJP.. The TMC was with the BJP government. So, this kind of statement against the Congress is unwarranted."

Shah asserted that the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections and the Assembly polls in 2017 were for "changing the fortune (kismat) of Uttar Pradesh.

He said SP and BSP, "gripped with casteist thinking", could never do any good for the state.

Shah warned voters in Uttar Pradesh that if "mafia rule" — apparently referring to the Samajwadi Party — again comes in the state, people will hesitate to invest in the defence corridor in Aligarh, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018.

"(Akhilesh) stood in front of me and said due to the decision (revoking Article 370) 'koohn ki nadiya bahengi' (rivers of blood will flow). But Akhilesh-babu, leave that river of blood; no one had the courage to throw even a 'kankad' (stone). Narendra Modi has secured the nation now," Shah said.

The Home Minister was addressing a rally in support of BJP candidate Sandeep Singh, former UP CM Kalyan Singh's grandson, in Atrauli, Aligarh.

Shah also hit out at the BSP and the Congress for opposing the

Akhilesh said rivers of blood will flow over Art 370 revocation, not a stone thrown: Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALIGARH, FEBRUARY 2



Union Home Minister Amit Shah

abrogation of Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, due to "vote bank" politics. "Had SP, BSP, Congress been in power, would they ever have withdrawn Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir? When Modi ji became PM for the second time, he withdrew it (Article 30) on August 5, 2019. Akhilesh Yadav was against it. Why do you do such vote-bank politics?" he said.

Shah asserted that the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections and the Assembly polls in 2017 were for "changing the fortune (kismat) of Uttar Pradesh.

He said SP and BSP, "gripped with casteist thinking", could never do any good for the state. Shah warned voters that if "mafia rule" returns in the state, the defence corridor that PM Modi has brought in Aligarh, where crores are to be invested, no one will come for investment there. "If the rule of SP is brought back, then the rule of the mafia comes and these industries will go (leave UP)."

China fields Galwan Valley soldier as Winter Olympics torchbearer

KRISHNA KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

EXPLAINED Where the talks stand

THE 14th round of Corps Commander level talks between India and China for disengagement from Hot Springs ended without any progress in January. After the talks, the two sides issued a joint statement, saying they would consolidate earlier outcomes and stay in close contact. They agreed to hold the next round of talks soon.

and highlighted that he was involved in the Galwan Valley fight. The gesture appears to be a deliberate attempt to cock a snook at India, which refused to join five Western nations – the US, Britain, Australia, Canada and Lithuania – in boycotting the Games.

This is not the first time China has brought up Galwan Valley, in

what appears to be PsyOps, or psychological operations, as part of a larger propaganda, even as the tensions between India and China continue to remain high. The over 21-month-long military standoff in eastern Ladakh, of which Galwan Valley skirmish was a part of, is yet to be resolved.

The clashes resulted in death of 20 Indian soldiers, including a Colonel, while China last year admitted to losing four of its troops.

Less than a month ago, the *Global Times* reported that PLA's Western Theatre Command, responsible for the border with India, debuted on China's Twitter-like Sina Weibo on January 7, with a notice announcing that "on February 1 it will randomly choose 10 lucky netizens from those who reposted the notice and send them a stone from the Galwan Valley as a present".

That was just a week after the Indian Army on January 1 released images of Indian and Chinese soldiers exchanging New Year's greetings across several points on the LAC, and Chinese handles associated with state-owned media

shared a video of PLA troops unfurling China's national flag in the Galwan Valley. In response to the video, the Indian Army too put out photos of Indian soldiers with the national flag in the Galwan Valley. Army sources later said the video with Chinese soldiers was shot on their side of the LAC, much deeper than the demilitarized zone created after the two sides agreed to disengage from Patrolling Point 14 in Galwan Valley.

In September 2021, while celebrating their Martyr's Day, the Western Theatre Command had reportedly released a video of its soldiers along the Galwan River, stating that they had given their lives to defend the country, and remembrance their sacrifice.

In February 2021, when both sides were in the process of pulling back their troops from the north and south banks of Pangong Tso, the Chinese released a video on Twitter, which they claimed was of the Galwan Valley fight. This came just hours after China, for the first time, officially announced that four PLA personnel died in clashes.

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In the charge sheet, CBI stated that "deliberate" and "intentional" "ramming" caused "severe bodily injuries" which were "sufficient" in the "ordinary course of nature" to cause the ASI's death.

Court frames charges against 2 in Dhanbad judge death case**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 2

THE CONGRESS

on Wednesday released its manifesto for the Uttarakhand Assembly election, with special focus on LPG subsidy, employment and women's empowerment. The state goes to the polls on February 14.

Saying that her family has a deep relationship with Uttarakhand, Priyanka added that she was saddened by the BJP government in the state.

"Governments come, and it is understandable that a government cannot complete all the development required and realises that they can do more. However, it is sad that this government has done nothing at all. You all gave them your support, but they broke all the promises. The developments you see were done during our government," she said.

The party promised that a Congress government would keep the price of LPG below Rs 500. Under the slogan of "char

dham char kaam", the Congress also promised annual aid of Rs 40,000 to 5 lakh families in the state, the creation of more than 4 lakh jobs and access to health facilities for every family.

Priyanka said the Congress would encourage tourism and create a special tourism package.

Releasing the manifesto during a virtual rally organised from Dehradun, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said that if voted to power in the state, the party's government would reserve 40 per cent of posts in the police department for women, and that priority would be given to women in 40 per cent of all government jobs.

The party promised that a Congress government would keep the price of LPG below Rs 500. Under the slogan of "char

porters restored the room to its previous state "as directed by the authorities" and it was reopened on Wednesday.

On Monday, a purported video of the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti (HJS), a right-wing group, barge into the porters' resting room at a railway station in Bengaluru after a right-wing group complained it was being used by Muslim porters, the

they claimed that namaaz was being widely shared on social media. Later on Monday, the outfit submitted a memorandum to the divisional railway manager alleging the resting room was converted into an unauthorised place for prayer saying that it is "a threat to national security".

On Wednesday, the authori-

ties reopened the resting room after the porters repainted and removed the place where Muslim porters use to offer namaaz.

"We have never interfered in their restroom and they have never complained about their colleagues performing prayers. The issue will be solved in consultation," said an SWR official.

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"This recognition is for people's efforts to protect the birds visiting Khijadiya... This tag makes a lot of difference. It is a kind of international accreditation for this sanctuary... it has taken a lot of efforts," said Shyamal Tikader, principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) and chief wildlife warden of Gujarat, adding it took a year to comprehensively study the flora and fauna of Khijadiya before the proposal for the listing was sent.

Vinod Soni, president of Bird Conservation Society of Gujarat (BCSG), said, "Khijadiya is an ideal candidate to be designated as a wetland of international importance... better late than never."

After Udupi, hijab row moves to more colleges in Karnataka

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 2

SIMMERING FOR nearly a month at a pre-university college for girls in Karnataka's Udupi district, the row over the institution's ban over wearing a hijab to classes – and protests against the move by a section of students – seems to be spreading to a few other institutions in the region.

On Wednesday, a few male students of a government pre-university college in Kundapur, also in the district, came wearing saffron towels across their neck and asked students from the Muslim community to remove their hijab. According to sources, 27 girls come to college in hijab.

At Bhadravathi, in Shivamogga district, students of

Sir MV Arts and Commerce College came to campus wearing saffron towels and asked the college administration to ban hijab.

According to some Muslim students of Kundapur college, they were allowed to attend classes with hijab earlier. While the government has asked for maintaining of status quo, on Tuesday the college principal "insisted" that they attend classes without hijab, students said.

Pre-University Education Department director, Snehal R, and Kundapur government college principal Ramakrishna did not respond to calls and messages sent for a response on the issue.

State Education Minister B C Nagesh said, "It is unfortunate that such incidents are being reported in colleges in the state. We are consulting legal opinion

and are also in the process of forming a committee to formulate guidelines. As per directions, colleges in the state have been instructed to maintain status quo (on wearing hijab)."

Masood Manna, state unit secretary of Campus Front of India, said, "We are asking the government to be specific – whether students can attend (classes) wearing hijab or not," he added.

The

13

E. EXPLAINED

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

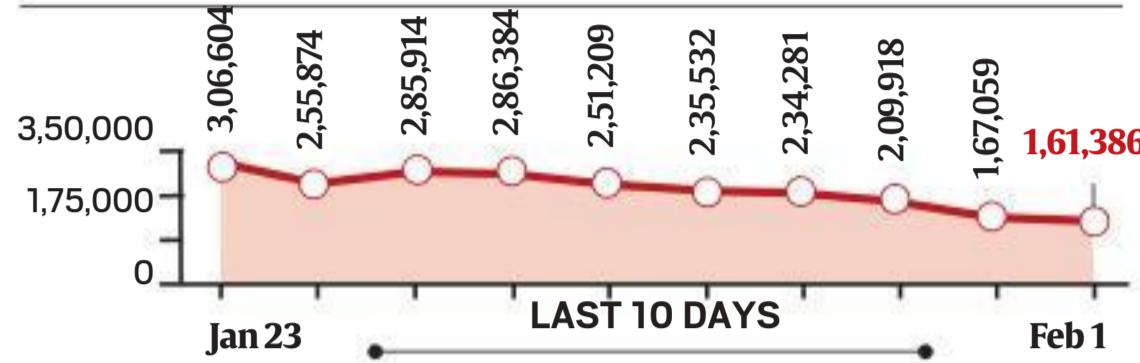
DASHBOARD, AS ON FEB 1

702
DAYS SINCE
PANDEMIC
BEGAN

New cases 1,61,386 | Active cases 16,21,603 | Deaths 1,733

Weekly CFR: 0.37% | Overall CFR: 1.31% | Total deaths: 4,97,975

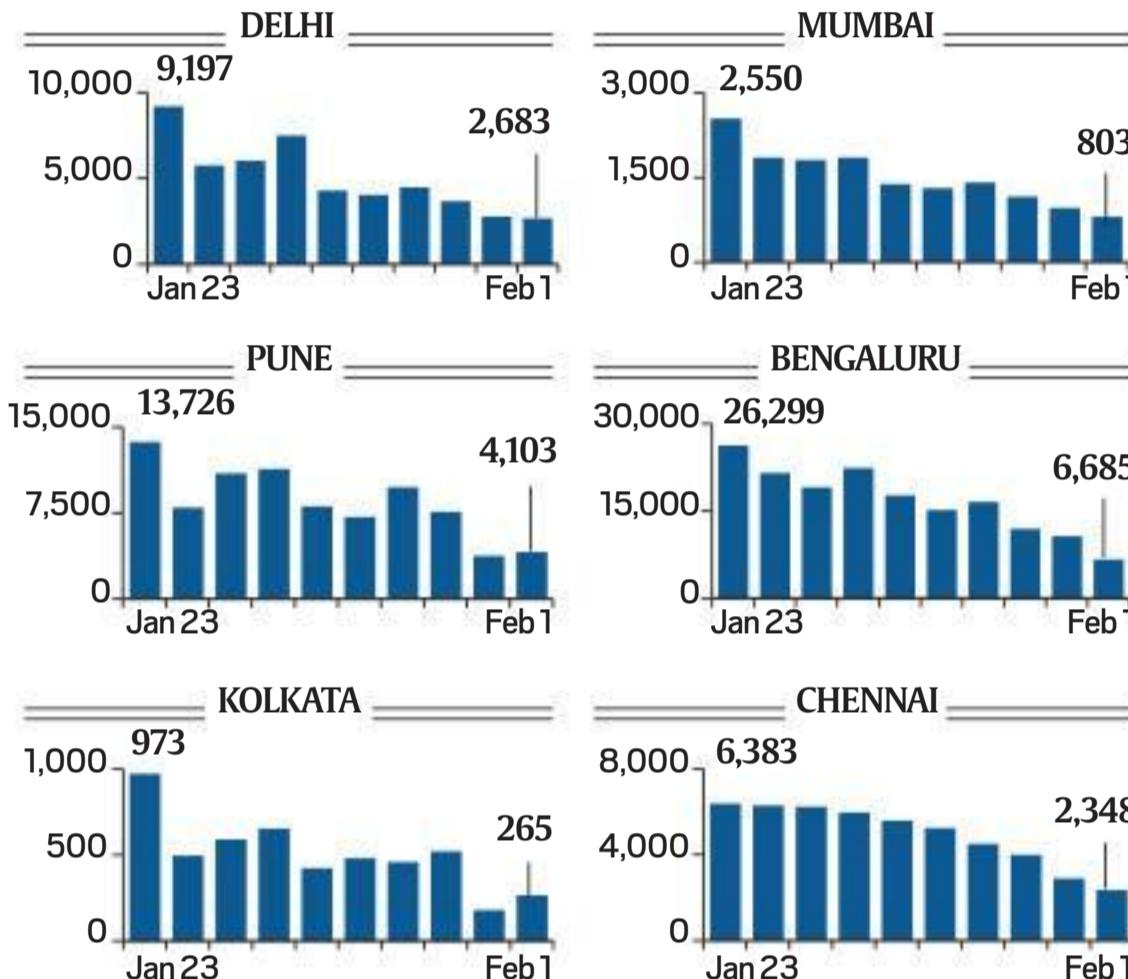
NEW CASES, DAILY



SURGE IN THE STATES

State	ON FEBRUARY 1			Weekly positivity
	New cases	Active cases	Deaths	
Kerala	51,887	3,68,580	1,205	45.86%
Tamil Nadu	16,096	1,88,599	35	17.01%
Maharashtra	14,372	1,91,524	105	15.12%
Karnataka	14,366	1,97,755	58	19.06%
Gujarat	8,338	75,464	38	9.09%

CASES IN THE CITIES, LAST 10 DAYS

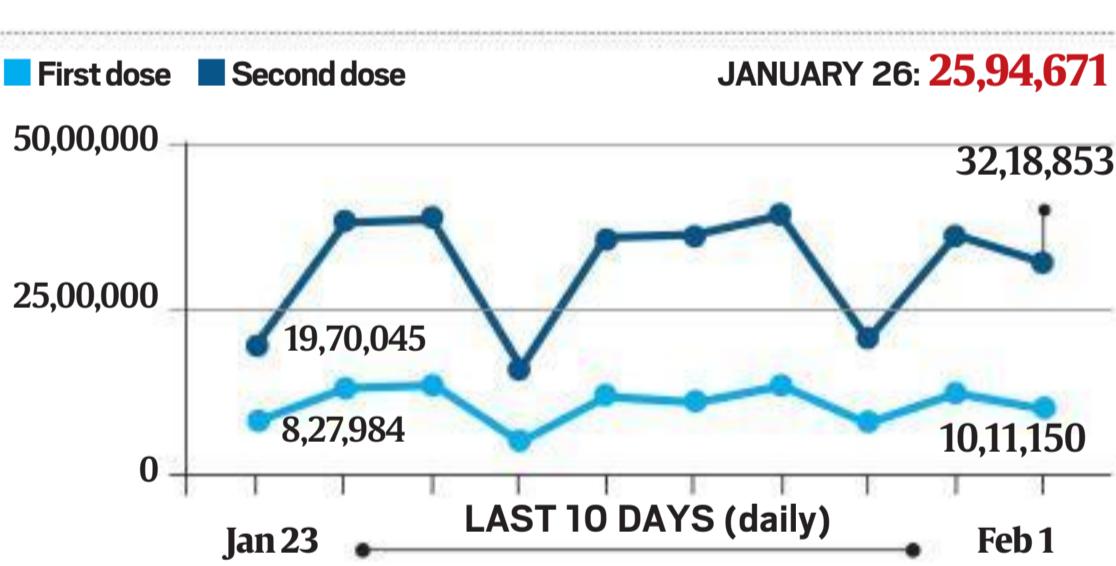


TOTAL TESTS

TESTS ON FEB 1 17,42,793 | WEEKLY POSITIVITY 13.02% | OVERALL POSITIVITY 5.68%

INDIA TOTAL DOSES

(Adults 1st dose: 89,63,78,414; 2nd: 71,51,85,846; 15-18 age group 1st dose: 4,72,32,018; 2nd: 11,28,099; precautionary: 1,30,18,330)



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Why Washington is making Pakistan's ambassador designate wait

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 2

PAKISTAN'S AMBASSADOR designate to the United States, Masood Khan, is being made to wait longer than usual for an agreement, a term that means the host government's acceptance of his appointment. Nominated by the Pakistan government in November 2021, he is still awaiting word from the Biden Administration to take up his new role.

Republican Congressman Scott Perry is reported to have written to President Joe Biden, calling Masood Khan a "jihadist" and "a bona fide terrorist sympathiser" and demanding the nomination should be rejected, as Khan was working to undermine US interests as well as the "security of our Indian allies".

Background

A diplomat who joined Pakistan's foreign service in 1980, Khan, now 70, is a Pashtun who was born in Rawalakot in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

His first high-profile assignment came

just two years after 9/11, as spokesperson for the Pakistan Foreign Office. Khan won praise from the media for his approachability. Pakistan's military considers foreign policy as part of its remit, and senior officials in the ministry of foreign affairs are deep-rooted establishmentarians. Khan was also the rare "Kashmiri" in Pakistan's foreign service.

After his stint as spokesman, he was sent by the Prevez Musharraf government as Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations at Geneva. In 2008, the Yusuf Raza Gilani government dispatched him as ambassador to China. Four years later, he was named Permanent Representative to the UN in New York.

On his return, he ran for president of PoK towards the end of Nawaz Sharif's abruptly interrupted term as Prime Minister. The PML(N) had won the elections in the region – officially Pakistan does not include PoK as part of its territory – and Masood romped home with a comfortable margin.

A Khan in PoK

Those who interacted with Khan in those



Masood Khan, nominated to the post by the Pakistan government in November.
Twitter

years noted his stridency in the heyday of the India-Pakistan peace process, even if it was amiably delivered. As a politician in PoK, Khan was expectedly one with the establishment's view on Kashmir. In this view, India is an "illegal occupying force". Kashmir is an international dispute, and India's position that the 1972 Simla Agreement turned it into a bilateral matter is sheer "manipulation", as India does not wish to discuss Kashmir with Pakistan even bilaterally.

Khan's election as PoK president came two months after the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen leader Burhan Wani, when Kashmir erupted in protests. Khan called

Burhan a "hero" who had passed on the baton of resistance against India in Kashmir through his "martyrdom".

As Pakistan's top man at the UN, he would have also worked with the Chinese for blocking the designation of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar, for which India campaigned for years. The designation finally came in 2019, after the Pulwama attack.

Anti-Modi statements

Khan has mirrored his Prime Minister Imran Khan's statements against Hindutva and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. And he has made it known that he will push the Biden Administration for the release of Afia Siddiqui, a Pakistani woman convicted and imprisoned in the US on terror charges.

Weeks after he was named the envoy, Khan tweeted that "the US Government can find a way to free Afia Siddiqui".

In an interview to the Turkish news agency Andalou in May 2019, Khan said a "catastrophic" chapter had begun in Kashmir, and that Kashmiris had become "fodder" in the election victories of the Indian leadership.

Grey shades

More recently, Khan has written about peace with India. On January 22, days after Pakistan released its first National Security Policy, in an article on a website called Narratives that says its aim is to project Pakistan's case abroad, Khan wrote that Pakistan "should not envisage a future of perennial hostility with its eastern neighbour, though the settlement of outstanding conflicts is necessary for economic co-operation with it". He also made a case for a fresh look at the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline "in which Russia is a tacit guarantor, if not a partner", adding that livelihoods would eliminate terrorism rather than a military response.

Earlier in his career, there was also enough bonhomie for him to attend a reception hosted by the Indian ambassador at his home.

Why no agreement yet

After the Perry letter, speculation in India has swirled around his alleged "jihadist" links. His wait for an agreement has come at a time when ties between India and Pakistan

have lost energy. After withdrawing from Afghanistan, Biden seems to have lost interest in Pakistan. He has not yet had a conversation with Prime Minister Imran Khan.

A report in Dawn said the "longer than usual" delay had given an impression of "a pause in the process". It quoted an unnamed Foreign Office source in Islamabad as saying the delay could be due to his stint as president of PoK. Technically, Khan was head of state of a region Pakistan has not officially integrated within its federation. The Biden Administration may be considering this anomaly, which has the potential to muddy the pitch with India.

In October 2019, a few months after the Modi government did away with the special status of Kashmir, Delhi prevented Khan, then PoK president, from addressing a programme organised by the Pakistan Embassy at the French parliament. India sent a de-marche to the French government that an invitation to him was a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.

New Delhi would be watching to see how the wait for the agreement ends.

@ieExplained
#ExpressExplained

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

SIMPLY PUT

The India-Israel relationship

Diplomatic relations between the two countries have just completed 30 years. A look at how the relationship has evolved, with India of late walking a tightrope between its ties with Israel and Palestine.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with then Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu in New Delhi during the latter's India visit in 2018. Express Archive

During the UPA's 10 years in office, Mahmoud Abbas, head of the Palestinian Authority that administers the West Bank, visited four times – in 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2012.

India voted for Palestine to become a full member of UNESCO in 2011, and a year later, co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that enabled Palestine to become a "non-member" observer state at the UN without voting rights. India also supported the installation of the Palestinian flag on the UN premises in September 2015, a year after Modi was voted to power.

Shift in policy

The first big shift in India's policy came during the visit of Mahmoud Abbas in 2017 when India in a statement dropped the customary line in support of East Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state. When Modi visited Israel, his itinerary did not include Ramallah, as had been the practice by other visiting dignitaries.

But the balancing act continued. Modi made a separate visit to Ramallah in February 2018, and called for an independent Palestinian state. Even as it abstained at UNESCO in December 2017, India voted in favour of a resolution in the General Assembly opposing the Trump administration's recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital. At the UNHRC's 46th session in Geneva earlier in 2021, India voted against Israel in three resolutions – on the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people; on Israeli settlement policy; and on the human rights situation in the Golan Heights. It abstained on a fourth, which asked for an UNHRC report on the human rights situation in Palestine, including East Jerusalem.

In February 2021, the International Criminal Court claimed jurisdiction to investigate human rights abuses in Palestinian territory including West Bank and Gaza and named both Israeli security forces and Hamas as perpetrators. Then PM Netanyahu wanted India, which does not recognise the ICC, to take a stand against it, and was surprised when it did not come.

The Indian statement in the UNSC was another disappointment for Israel. But it did not affect the relationship as both countries weigh their long term interests against the fast changing geopolitics of West Asia. Both will be hoping that the Pegasus episode will similarly blow over without any major impact on bilateral ties.

Assam-Arunachal border dispute, 1951 to now

TOURA AGARWALA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

LAST MONTH, days after Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met with his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu to discuss a "permanent solution" to the decades-old boundary dispute between the two states, fresh tensions were reported along the border.

Bone of contention: 1951

Arunachal Pradesh, earlier part of Assam, now shares an about 800-km boundary with it, along which frequent flare-ups have been reported since the 1990s.

The roots of the dispute lie in the "inner line" regulation, introduced by the British in 1873, demarcating an imaginary boundary between plains and the frontier hills. These hills, designated in 1915 as the North East Frontier Tracts, make up Arunachal Pradesh today.

After Independence, the Assam government assumed administrative jurisdiction over the North East Frontier Tracts, which became the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) in 1954,

the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh in 1972, and a state in 1987.

Before it was carved out of Assam, a sub-committee headed by then Assam chief minister Gopinath Bordoloi had made some recommendations about the administration of NEFA. Based on the Bordoloi committee report in 1951, around 3,648 sq km of 'plain' areas of Balipara and Sadiya foothills was transferred from the frontier tracts to Assam.

"This remains the bone of contention as Arunachal Pradesh refuses to accept this notification as the basis of demarcation," said a senior government official from Assam.

"It was arbitrary, defective, and no tribal leader from Arunachal Pradesh was consulted before the land was transferred. They just decided to draw a line between the hills and plains," said Tabom Dai, general secretary, All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union.

Efforts at demarcation

In the 1970s, multiple efforts were made to demarcate the boundary. In April 1979, a high-powered tripartite committee was constituted to delineate the boundary on the basis of

Survey of India maps, as well as discussions with both sides.

By 1983-84, out of 800 km, 489 km was demarcated. But Arunachal Pradesh did not accept the recommendations, and claimed large chunks of the 3,648 sq km transferred as per the 1951 notification.

Assam filed a case in the Supreme Court in 1989. The court appointed a local boundary commission in 2006, headed by a retired SC judge. Its report in September 2014 recommended that Arunachal Pradesh get back some territory transferred to Assam in 1951, and that the two states arrive at a consensus through discussion. Nothing came of it.

Flashpoints

According to a 2008 research paper from the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), clashes were first reported in 1992 when the Arunachal government alleged that people from Assam were "building houses, markets and even police stations on its territory". Another MP-IDSA paper in 2020 said Assam had raised the issue of Arunachal encroaching on its forest land, and

periodically launched eviction drives.

The recent flashpoint is the Likabali-Durpal road, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, under construction since 2019 in Arunachal's Lower Siang district. Assam claims some parts of it fall under its Dhemaji district. The road, about 65-70 km, is meant to connect 24 villages between Arunachal's Durpal and Likabali (a site of dispute).

Last week, a culvert under construction was burnt by "unidentified miscreants from the Assam side", authorities said. Following that, there were unconfirmed reports of "firing in the air" by locals from the Arunachal side. This was preceded by a team from Assam Police stopping the construction in the area, claiming it was touching disputed territory.



US Defence Secretary

Lloyd Austin Reuters

UNITED STATES

US to send fighter jets to assist UAE after Houthi attacks

Dubai: The United States said it is sending fighter jets to assist UAE following missile attacks on the Gulf state launched by Yemen's Houthi movement, including a foiled attack aimed at a base hosting US forces. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin also told Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Tuesday that Washington would send the guided missile destroyer the USS Cole to partner with the UAE navy ahead of a port call in Abu Dhabi. "The Secretary also informed the Crown Prince of his decision to deploy 5th Generation Fighter aircraft to assist the UAE and as a signal that the US stands with the UAE as a strategic partner," the US Defence Department said.

REUTERS

PAKISTAN

Justice Umar Bandial sworn in as Chief Justice

Islamabad: Justice Umar Ata Bandial was sworn in as the 28th Chief Justice of Pakistan at a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace on Wednesday. Pakistan President Arif Alvi administered the oath to Justice Bandial in the presence of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and senior civil and military officials also attended the ceremony. Justice Bandial, 63, will serve in the top judicial office until September 16, 2023.

PTI

THE WORLD



MEANWHILE

ABC SUSPENDS ANCHOR OVER HOLOCAUST REMARKS

Whoopi Goldberg was suspended for two weeks as co-host of "The View" because of what the head of ABC News called her "wrong and hurtful comments" about Jews and the Holocaust. The suspension came a day after Goldberg's comment during a discussion on "The View" that race was not a factor in the Holocaust. Goldberg apologised hours later and again on Tuesday morning episode, but the original remark drew condemnation from several prominent Jewish leaders.

US to deploy more troops in east Europe, help NATO allies

The troops, including 1,000 already in Germany: Official

THE NEW YORK TIMES
FEBRUARY 2

PRESIDENT BIDEN has approved the deployment of about 3,000 additional American troops to Eastern Europe, administration officials said on Wednesday.

The troops, including 1,000 already in Germany, will head to Poland and Romania, the Pentagon spokesman, John F. Kirby, said. Their purpose will be to reassure NATO allies that while the US has no intention of sending troops into Ukraine, where President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia has been threatening an invasion, Biden would protect America's NATO allies from any Russian aggression.

"It's important that we send a strong signal to Putin and the world that NATO matters," Kirby told reporters at a news conference. "We are making it clear that we are going to be prepared to defend out



The Ukrainian Army at a front-line position in the eastern part of the country on Wednesday. NYT

NATO allies if it comes to that."

At the moment, Russia is threatening Ukraine, not Romania or Poland. But Putin has made clear his distaste for both NATO and the post-Cold War redrawing of the map of Europe, which put former Soviet republics and satellite countries in the West's foremost military alliance at his doorstep.

The President's decision comes days after Pentagon leaders said that Putin had deployed the necessary troops and military hardware to conduct an invasion of Ukraine. Close to 2,000 of the

troops — most of them coming from the 82nd Airborne in Fort Bragg, N.C. — will be going to

'PUTIN, JOHNSON DISCUSSED UKRAINE'

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson discussed Ukraine and the issue of security guarantees for Russia in a phone call on Wednesday, the Kremlin said. Putin told Johnson the NATO bloc was not ready to adequately react to Russian concerns, as per to the statement on the Kremlin website. Earlier on Wednesday, Russia mocked Johnson as "utterly confused" and ridiculed British politicians for their "stupidity and ignorance".

REUTERS

Poland, Kirby said. While many of those troops are paratroopers, Kirby said he did not expect the Airborne troops to deploy to Poland in a "tactical operation," which would raise the ire of Russia even more.

Jeff Zucker resigns from CNN after relationship with top executive

MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM
FEBRUARY 2EXPLAINED
E What it means for CNN?

ZUCKER is among the most powerful leaders in the American media and television industries. The abrupt end of his nine-year tenure immediately throws into flux the direction of CNN and its parent company, WarnerMedia, which is expected to be acquired later this year by Discovery Inc. in one of the nation's largest media mergers.

was wrong." "As a result, I am resigning today," he wrote. Zucker was referring to Allison Gollust, CNN's executive vice-president and chief marketing officer and one of the highest-ranking leaders of the network. Gollust said in a statement on Wednesday that she was remaining in her role at CNN. NYT

"As part of the investigation into Chris Cuomo's tenure at CNN, I was asked about a consensual relationship with my closest colleague," Zucker wrote. "I was required to disclose it when it began but I didn't. I

Nepal PM to push for \$500 mn deal with US

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, FEBRUARY 2

AFTER HIS decision on early elections to the local bodies, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on Wednesday again appeared determined to have \$500 million dollar Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact (MCC) deal endorsed by the Parliament, much against the wishes of the coalition partners.

Deuba asked coalition leaders Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda of the Maoist Centre and Madhav Kumar Nepal, both former Prime Ministers, to give him the details about their reservation on the deal, which the PM claims would ostensibly enhance road and hydro energy infrastructure in the country.

The \$500 million grant that Nepal and US signed in late 2017 has been in a limbo... After an hour-long meeting, Nepal said "We will not let the coalition split because of MCC, and will give in writing our views on the issue at the earliest."



LANDSLIDE KILLS 24 IN QUITO, 6 MISSING

Residents and rescue workers search for people inside a car after a rain-weakened hillside collapsed and brought waves of mud over La Gasca area of Quito, Ecuador. The mayor of Ecuador's capital Quito revised the number of people missing after a landslide on Monday night from 12 to 6, although rescue work was still going on, while the death toll stood at 24 on Wednesday. Ecuador's worst rains in nearly two decades overwhelmed a dam near the working class neighborhoods of La Gasca and La Comuna, sending mud and rocks down on residences and streets. Mayor Santiago Guarderas told reporters the number of injured had increased to 52 and repair work would begin on dozens of affected homes. AP

Technical Committee appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India (by order dated 27.10.2021 in WP (Crl) No. 314/2021 & connected matters)

Prof. Naveen Chaudhary

Prof. P. Prabaharan

Prof. Ashwin Gumaste FNAE

Public notice

Date: 3rd February 2022

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide the order dated Oct 27, 2021 in Writ Petition 314 (Crl) of 2021 and connected matters, has constituted this Technical Committee to enquire, investigate and determine the following in regard to Pegasus spyware/malware:

- Whether the Pegasus suite of spyware was used on phones or other devices of the citizens of India to access stored data, eavesdrop on conversations, intercept information and/or for any other purposes not explicitly stated herein?
- The details of the victims and/or persons affected by such a spyware attack.
- What steps/actions have been taken by the Respondent-Union of India after reports were published in the year 2019 about backing of WhatsApp accounts of Indian citizens, using the Pegasus suite of spyware.
- Whether any Pegasus suite of spyware was acquired by the Respondent-Union of India, or any State Government, or any central or state agency for use against the citizens of India?
- If any government agency has used the Pegasus suite of spyware on the citizens of this country, under what law, rule, guideline, protocol or lawful procedure was such deployment made?
- If any domestic entity/person has used the spyware on the citizens of this country, then is such a use authorised?
- Any other matter or aspect which may be connected, ancillary or incidental to the above terms of reference, which the Committee may deem fit and proper to investigate.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also directed that the Technical Committee is authorised to (a) devise its own procedure to effectively implement and answer the Terms of Reference; (b) hold such enquiry or investigation as it deems fit; and (c) take statements of any person in connection with the enquiry and call for the records of any authority or individual.

The Technical Committee had issued a Public Notice on January 2, 2022 calling upon the members of the public who had reasonable cause to suspect that her/his mobile instrument had been infected/ compromised due to specific usage of Pegasus spyware of the NSO Group Israel to contact the Technical Committee at inquiry@pegasus-india-investigation.in. In response to it, only two persons have produced their mobile instruments for taking digital images. Therefore, the Technical Committee once again requests those who have reasonable cause to believe their mobile instrument is infected with Pegasus spyware to come forward and contact the Technical Committee **with reasons as to why they believe that their mobile instrument may have been infected with Pegasus malware**, on or before February 8th, 2022 by an email to inquiry@pegasus-india-investigation.in

On receiving such information, if the Technical Committee is of the view that the reasons for suspicion of the mobile instrument being infected with the malware require a further investigation, then the Committee may call upon the person to produce the mobile instrument for examination/investigation and for taking digital images and also to furnish a statement relating to the particulars of the instrument and the person producing the instrument. When an instrument is produced, a digital image will be taken in the presence of the person producing the instrument and immediately thereafter, the instrument will be returned to the person producing it. A digital image copy will also be furnished to the person producing the mobile instrument.

The Technical Committee also requests anyone having any information or knowledge (or material), on matters bearing on the enquiry/investigation by the technical committee in terms of the reference by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to furnish their statements and/or material to the technical committee by email to inquiry@pegasus-india-investigation.in

Every statement filed before the technical committee, should contain the name, address and contact details of the person submitting the statement and an affirmation that the facts stated are true to their knowledge and information.

Technical Committee in matter of WP 314 (crl) of 2021.

Davp 06101/11/0023/2122

As nations ease Covid-19 curbs, WHO warns move 'premature'

THE NEW YORK TIMES
FEBRUARY 2

Covid trial deliberately infecting young adults found to be safe: Study

REUTERS
LONDON, FEBRUARY 2

THE WORLD'S first "human challenge" trial in which volunteers were deliberately exposed to Covid-19 to advance research into the disease was found to be safe in healthy young adults, leaders of the study said on Wednesday.

The study supports the safety of this model and could lay the groundwork for future studies to test new vaccines and medicines against Covid-19.

Open Orphan is running the project, launched in February last year, with Imperial College London, the British government's vaccines task force and the clinical company hVIVO.

Scientists have used human challenge trials for decades to learn more about diseases, such as malaria, flu, typhoid and cholera, and to develop treatments and vaccines against them.

In April last year, Oxford University scientists launched another human challenge trial which sought to reinfect people who previously had Covid-19 in an effort to deepen understanding about immunity, rather than infecting people for the first time. No serious adverse events occurred, and the human challenge study model was shown to be safe in young adults, the company said.



A man gets booster dose in Jakarta on Wednesday. Reuters

Imran heads to China today, will meet top leadership

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will travel to China on Thursday to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games and meet China's top leadership, including President Xi Jinping.

Beijing is hosting the Winter Olympics amid a diplomatic boycott by the US and allies over human rights allegations against Uyghur Muslims in the Xinjiang province. Khan, who has been invited by the Chinese leadership, will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including members of the Cabinet and senior government officials, according to Foreign Office.

During his visit from February 3 to 6, Prime Minister Khan will hold bilateral meetings with President Xi and Premier Li Keqiang and the two sides will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation including CPEC, the office said.

FROM PAGE ONE

'We do want to move forward, enabling environment has to come from India'

whether Pakistan deserves to or should be existing. We have said again and again that the ball is in India's court. We do want to move forward, but the enabling environment has to come from India.

How do you then explain the backchannel process that led to the ceasefire?

Personally, I have come out of it, realising that it was basically just a tactic to release the pressure that India was facing on Kashmir from the Western world... when you talk, you want to see if the other side realises that ultimately we have to move forward, both have to sit down and find the middle. And frankly, I don't pick that up. If there is, then India should come forward and tell us how it's willing to do it.

The NSP is full of the new realities of the changing world order, how you have to adjust yourself to it. So this is the new reality of India, and perhaps Pakistan has to come to terms with it, and do business. Haven't you foreclosed your options by calling it negative, regressive, and so on?

Nobody is saying that we have foreclosed any options of engagement. Who said that? We have just invited India to the SAARC summit. India is the one that said we don't want to show up. So if we had foreclosed all options for engagement, we won't be saying that.

The NSP is espousing very clear confidence that (Pakistan) wants to move forward on a geo-economic platform, connectivity, development partnerships. And if our eastern flank is closed, we are not going to wait. CPEC is going to go from strength to

strength, we are going to focus more on our western border, and open up to Central Asia and Eurasia... When it's the right time, hopefully, we will open up the east if India plays ball in a way that's sensible.

Why do you say the eastern flank is closed? You are the one that closed it. When you talk of openings, can you see Pakistan resuming trade with India without making it conditional to demands on Kashmir?

Because you want to move open up a relationship and connectivity and hope that we can move forward does not mean that you basically give up on your cardinal national interests. These two things are not mutually exclusive in any way. You have to look at things from a country's perspective on what is required for a country to move forward. Kashmir remains an integral issue to Pakistan.

Before August 5, 2019, Pakistan did not really attach any significance to Article 370. Why are you now attaching so much importance to its return?

Of course, Article 370, 35 A are part of the Indian Constitution, provisions or articles that we don't accept... But the point is (Kashmir) has a separate character... There has been a qualitative change. And that qualitative change has to be reversed before we move forward. It's as simple as that.

India has been asking for a land route to Afghanistan through Pakistan to reach humanitarian supplies. This doesn't seem to have happened. Why?

thing if there is a conflict with China. I think it's a figment of India's imagination. We will do what we need to do to protect our interests. What we have said is, we want peace all around.

SENSEX: 59,558.33 ▲ 695.76 (1.18%) NIFTY: 17,780 ▲ 203.15 (1.16%) NIKKEI: 27,533.60 ▲ 455.12 HANG SENG: 23,802.26 ▲ 252.18 FTSE: 7,603.28 ▲ 67.50 DAX: 15,683.57 ▲ 64.18



GOLD

₹47,837



RUPEE

₹74.83



OIL

\$89.41



SILVER

₹61,477

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

International market data till 1900 IST

BUDGET 2022-23: THE DAY AFTER

Tax revenue may cross RE; without excise we get 14% rise next year: Bajaj

THE GOVERNMENT is working towards expanding the tax base as 75 per cent of the total individual tax returns show income below Rs 5 lakh, said Revenue Secretary TARUN BAJAJ. In an interview with AANCHAL MAGAZINE and SUNNY VERMA, he also said the regulatory concerns on virtual digital assets should be addressed by legislation. Edited excerpts:

For the tax revenue estimates, there seems to have been a lower amount anticipated for the last quarter. Why so?

What happened was that last year was very good. First quarter was a washout, people didn't pay taxes, the second quarter was also not good, third was better and fourth was best. So, we don't anticipate the same growth as much as it happened in the earlier quarters, so it is in that context that we have kept this figure. I think we should be around that. It may be more than Rs 10,000-20,000 crore more than the RE.

For next year, the targets...

For next year, if you take out the excise duty, then the increase is 14 per cent, which is a good increase. We have actually not been achieving a buoyancy of 1 for the past few years, so in this case though they have said that the nominal GDP will grow by 11 per cent, even if it

grows a little more, so 14 per cent is a good target. The base is going to be much bigger this year because the growth this year is going to be much larger.

If you include excise duty, then buoyancy factor won't be 1

If you include excise, it is almost 1. But one should not take excise duty into account, it's not even related to GDP. It's consumption-led, if consumption increases, as compared to this year, to that extent maybe 2-3 per cent, not more than that. We have also reduced the excise duty. So, if you take the effect of that, actually there is a 15 per cent reduction in excise duty.

What is the hit that came from reduction in excise duty and customs duty on edible oil?

For excise duty, we have taken a hit of about Rs 50,000-60,000 crore and for Customs duty it was overall Rs 18,000-20,000 crore.

On crypto, the tax aspect is different and regulatory side is different. From the perspective of smaller investors, this is now expanding, there is marketing of coins. Will it not lead to mis-selling? Now it might be seen as the government is taking tax for it.

That becomes a more regulatory issue. That is then a regulatory



Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj. via @FinMinIndia Twitter

issue or a consumer protection issue. But if we had not taxed it ... now people will say because it has been taxed, it is legal?

That's how it will get sold, that's the issue

So, let's hope they'll come up with a Bill sooner than later. So if they come up with a Bill then it will be regulated and will keep the interest of the investor in mind. But the role of the Revenue Department is very limited in the sense that we are just saying that if you're making money in this product, please pay your taxes.

We have seen a lot of instances of fake input tax credit bills. Government has also been

taking action. The GST system has been there for many years and it has stabilised. Is there any system or strategy where it doesn't happen?

We have brainstormed, we are using IT, we are using artificial intelligence but how do you do it? If I issue you a (fake) bill, and you are willing to accept it. Then? How will you stop it?

The honest taxpayers are also getting affected with the ITC restrictions.

How is the taxpayer honest if there is no movement of goods, but only movement of bills.

Conditions are going to be there to avail input tax credit.

Conditions will be put in now. Those are enabling provisions (in the Finance Bill). It is there since, say, a spike comes in the first month by showing a turnover of Rs 50 crore. We noticed in our analysis that in the second month that person is not there. There would be no imprint in income tax. So, we can create those kind of things. But, if somebody shows this kind of a spike, we will keep a check on him.

How has the new taxation regime performed?

For individuals, we are yet to analyse data since this is the first year. It is fine for corporates. In 2019-20, 65 percent of income and 16 percent of assesses have moved here. So, every year numbers would go up. As and when their sunset clause comes in, they will keep moving to the new regime. The tax rate that we are getting from corporates is about 22 per cent on an average, which was 27-28 per cent before the reduction.

For individuals?

We will do the analysis. But my anticipation is that those whose income is lower, they will not come to the new regime. For higher income, if you are not taking exemptions, then you will come. Of the returns that we have analysed in 2019-20, 75 per cent

of the returns are below Rs 5 lakh income and 92 per cent are below Rs 10 lakh income.

So, how to expand tax base?

We are doing it. From the TDS side. Seven crore people file returns but 11 crore people pay taxes. Four crore don't come because their TDS may have been deducted. We have brought in a clause that if your TDS is more than Rs 50,000 and you have not filed return, we would wait for two years and if return wouldn't be filed, then levy double TDS. Now that time period has been reduced to one year. Also, we have so much information. Because of that we have brought in the updated tax return clause. We can now show you information, you will file the return before the tax department raises any question.

Is that tax return filing window an amnesty scheme?

No. You may have genuinely done some mistake. So that gives you a chance to correct it. And you get two years to do it.

And pay tax for it

Otherwise, I'll also not pay tax. Otherwise I'll just say I'll pay tax after 2 years. The risk is that the tax department is also watching. So if you do not pay tax and wait, then there may be a chance of the department catching you before that.

China on mind, higher Customs seek to shield less tech-savvy sectors

AASHISH ARYAN & AANCHAL MAGAZINE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2



A market in Bhuleshwar, Mumbai. Umbrellas, headphones, imitation jewellery, among others will attract higher Customs. File

methyl alcohol and acetic acid, along with proposing to phase out the concessional rates in capital goods and project imports gradually and apply a tariff of 7.5 per cent.

"Project import duty concessions have also deprived the local producers of a level playing field in areas like coal mining projects, power generation, transmission or distribution projects, railway and metro projects. Our experience suggests that reasonable tariffs are

conducive to the growth of domestic industry and 'Make in India' without significantly impacting the cost of essential imports," Sitharaman said in her Budget speech.

Under Project Import Scheme, goods imported by a company are placed under a single tariff in the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 to facilitate faster assessment and clearances of goods.

"Customs duty on certain critical chemicals namely methanol, acetic acid and heavy feed stocks for petroleum refining are being reduced, while duty is being raised on sodium cyanide for which adequate domestic capacity exists. These changes will help in enhancing domestic value addition," Sitharaman said.

How have import duty changes been made in recent times?

Last year, Customs duty exemptions were given to the steel scrap industry, which has now been extended for another year, and are likely to provide relief to micro, small and medium-scale secondary steel producers.

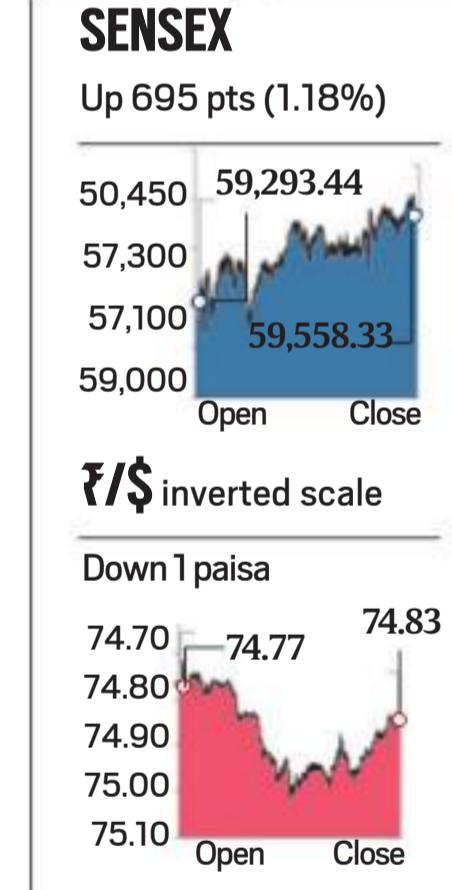
Over the last five years, import duty hikes have been made on several items such as almonds, apples, and others. Other items such as cellphone parts and solar panel have seen the most regular hikes.

Prior to the large-scale hikes, India's peak customs duty – the highest of the normal rates – on non-agriculture products had come down steeply from 150 per cent in 1991-92 to 40 per cent in 1997-98 and, subsequently, to 20 per cent in 2004-05 and 10 per cent in 2007-08.

Banking, finance lead rally as sentiment gets a booster shot

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 2



THE POST-BUDGET rally continued on the stock markets on Wednesday with key indices gaining another 1.18 per cent as positive global cues, combined with Budget-led buoyancy, boosted sentiment. After the 814-point gain on Tuesday, the Sensex rallied by another 696 points to 59,558.33 and the NSE Nifty Index jumped by 203 points to 17,780.

With this gain, the Sensex has risen by 1,544 points, or 2.66 per cent, in the last two sessions after Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Budget for FY23. Banking and finance stocks, which gained 2 per cent, led the rally on Wednesday, supported by IT, realty, consumer durables and healthcare stocks, which gained up to 1.50 per cent.

The rupee pared its initial gains to settle on flat note, down 1 paisa, at 74.83 against the US dollar on Wednesday due to dollar demand from foreign banks.

Bond yields also continued to

rise with the yield on benchmark 10 per cent government bond rising by another 3 basis points to 6.88 per cent as the market fretted over higher government borrowings.

Going forward, markets are likely to focus on the RBI policy on February 9.

Rating agencies give thumbs up to recovery push; eye on deficit

Global ratings agencies and brokerages have taken a cautious view of the government's ambitious capital expenditure drive, or capex, announced in the Union Budget 2022-23, citing the threat that it poses to the fiscal consolidation efforts



FITCH RATINGS

To assess whether the capex drive's growth impact is sufficient to offset higher than expected deficits and keep debt ratio on slight downward trajectory

Beyond the capex drive, budget short on major

HSBC

Overall borrowing likely to be elevated despite being lower than what was budgeted and this could lead to bond market pressure

Receipts from disinvestment at ₹ 65,000 crore lower than what markets expected but are reasonable

The capex target is achievable despite being high, once Air India sundry expenses are removed

KOTAK SECURITIES

Large fiscal deficit and continued heavy reliance on the bond market to finance government borrowings to create upward pressure on bond yield

Government continued its focus on supply-side reforms

No meaningful increase in central government outlay over FY21-23 Budget Estimates

DBS GROUP

Traditional priorities accompanied with new segments such as sovereign green bonds, Digital Rupee, clean energy, etc

Pace of consolidation to be gradual from estimated - 6.9% of GDP in FY23 vs budgeted - 6.8% to - 6.4% in FY22

Modest disinvestment projections "biggest element of surprise in the (fiscal) math"

S&P GLOBAL RATINGS

FY23 Budget an effort by the government to shore up economic recovery but fiscal consolidation "would pose a stout challenge to policymakers going forward"

Deficits at the state level could add further pressure to the general government fiscal deficit measure

Aggressive provisioning to help heal economy to be costly

Compiled by ENS Economic Bureau

BRIEFLY

Proposed \$68.7-BN buy Microsoft's Activision deal under US FTC lens'

REUTERS

BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 2

THE US antitrust review of Microsoft's \$68.7 billion proposed acquisition of "Call of Duty" maker Activision Blizzard will be handled by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Bloomberg News reported late Monday, citing a person familiar with the matter.

Microsoft, Activision and FTC did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment.

The deal announced by Microsoft in January is its biggest ever and is set to be the largest all-cash acquisition on record. It will bolster Microsoft's firepower in the videogaming market. The FTC, instead of the Justice Department, will investigate whether the takeover will harm competition.

Loan growth pushes HDFC Q3 net up 11%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 2

MORTGAGE FIRM HDFC on Wednesday reported an 11 per cent growth in its standalone net profit for the quarter ended December 2021 at Rs 3,260.6 crore, as against Rs 2,925.8 crore in the same quarter last year.

The company's total revenue from operations increased to Rs 11,783.6 crore as of December 2021, compared with Rs 11,707 crore a year ago. The net interest income stood at Rs 4,284 crore in Q3FY22, against Rs 4,005 crore in the year-ago quarter. Net interest margin was at 3.6 per cent.

The demand for home loans and pipeline of loan applications continues to remain strong, HDFC vice chairman and chief executive Keki Mistry said.

Growth in home loans was seen in both the affordable housing segment as well as in high-end properties. The increasing

OPEC+ sticks to output rise

London: OPEC+ agreed on Wednesday to stick to moderate rises in its oil output with the group already struggling to meet existing targets and wary of responding to calls on its strained capacity for more crude from top consumers to cap surging prices.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, a group known as OPEC+, which produces more than 40 per cent of global oil supply, has faced calls from the US, India and others

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Indira Circle, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: JDA/EE(Garden-II)/2021/D-262

Dated : 31.01.2022

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No. : JDA/EE(Garden-II)/06 / 2021-22

Online Bids are invited upto 6.00 PM of 21.02.2022 for "Construction and Development of Sylwan Biodiversity forest Phase-II (Rawadi Bed) at Agra Road, JDA, Jaipur" estimated cost of Rs.339.00 Lacs. The last date for applying Bid and making online payment on JDA portal is up to 6.00 PM dated 21.02.2022. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or the website of the State Public Procurement Portal www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in

UBN No. JDA2122WSOB00549

To participate in the bid, bidder has to be:

1. Registered on JDA website www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in for participating in the Bid, the Bidder has to apply for the Bid and pay the Bidding Document Fee, RISL Processing Fee online only. The bid Security may be deposited through online or Bank Guarantee.2. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for online e-Bid submission.

Executive Engineer (Garden-II)

Raj. Samwad/C/11231/2021-22

GUJARAT URJA VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED

Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan, Racecourse,
Vadodara - 390 007
Phone : (0265) 2334751, Website : www.guvnl.com
CIN U40109GJ2004SGC045195

E-TENDER NOTICE

GUVNL, a Govt. of Gujarat undertaking hereby invites e-tender for purchase of **500 MW power** from Hydro projects during morning 06:00 to 09:00 hrs and evening 17:00 to 20:00 hrs. for the period from **01-04-2022 to 31-03-2023** at GETCO Periphery (interconnection point of Gujarat STU with CTU) as per Ministry of Power (MoP), GoI Guidelines dated 30-03-2016. RFP will be available at mstcecommerce.com from 03-02-2022. Bid has to be submitted online through DEEP portal of MoP. All terms and conditions shall be as per RFP.

Date: 03-02-2022 General Manager (Commerce)

Nagar Nigam Heritage, Jaipur

Old Police Head Quarter, Behind Hawa Mahal, Jaipur (Raj)

NOTICE FOR INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR EMPANELMENT OF CONSERVATION ARCHITECTS/ FIRMS

Nagar Nigam Jaipur Heritage is inviting "Expression of Interest" from leading reputed experienced conservation architects/firms (Consultants) in their capacities as individuals; firms or companies for heritage-related works within the boundary of UNESCO World Heritage Site of Jaipur City with an aim to provide expert guidance for public and private projects impacting the heritage assets of the property, planning of urban heritage areas, and guidance to property owners for heritage-sensitive adaptive re-use and repairs.

Interested conservation architects/firms are requested to send the details to empanel with Nagar Nigam Jaipur Heritage. Applications duly completed in all respects and attested by authorized person must reach ACTP, Nagar Nigam Jaipur Heritage, Near Hawa Mahal, Tripolia Bazaar, Jaipur, 302002, India on or before February 28, 2022. A soft copy of the application may also be sent to heritagecellnnj@gmail.com. For any details and clarification, the undersigned can be contacted during office hours on working days. The final discretion to empanel any conservation architect/firm lies with the Nagar Nigam Jaipur Heritage. Nagar Nigam Jaipur Heritage reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reasons thereof.

The duly filled in application downloaded from the website should be submitted at the following address after enclosing the application fee (non-refundable) by way of Demand Draft/Banker's Cheque amounting 2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Only) favouring Nagar Nigam Jaipur Heritage. Further details are on website: www.jaipurmcheritage.org

(Avdhesh Meena) I.A.S.
Commissioner

Raj. Samwad/C/11215/2021-22

Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation

Udyog Sarathi, Marol Industrial Area, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400093

Date : 03 February, 2022

NOTICE

No. MIDC/CP/A-38549/2022

Whereas, the Government of Maharashtra has sanctioned the Revised Development Control Regulations 2009 (hereinafter referred to as 'DCR') for the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (hereinafter abbreviated as 'MIDC') vide Urban Development Department Notification No. TPB/4308/465/CR 64/08/UD-11 Dated 31st August 2009 and the same have come into force with effect from 24th September 2009 for the 'notified areas' under Section 40 (1A) of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966 (hereinafter referred to as 'the said Act') where MIDC is the Special Planning Authority (hereafter abbreviated as 'SPA');

And whereas, the Government of Maharashtra, in exercise of the powers conferred under sub section (1AA) has sanctioned modifications to the said DCR vide Urban Development Department's Notification No. TPB 4314/20/R-32/2014/UD-11, dt. 1st August, 2015 which are applicable to Integrated Industrial Areas for which MIDC is SPA under section 40 of the said Act;

And whereas, in view of the changing requirements, MIDC has decided to prepare one set of regulation to be made applicable to entire MIDC areas replacing existing regulations and accordingly prepared a set of Draft Development Control and Promotion Regulations to be made applicable to entire MIDC areas in the state of Maharashtra;

And whereas, MIDC in its Board Meeting No. 391 dated 30/11/2021 has resolved to publish the said set of Draft Comprehensive Development Control and Promotion Regulations 2022 (hereafter referred as 'Draft CDCPR') for inviting suggestions/ objections from general public;

And whereas, in exercise of powers conferred upon it under section 37 (1) of Maharashtra Regional & Town Planning Act, 1966, MIDC declares its intention to replace the existing Development Control Regulations by new set of Draft Comprehensive Development Control and Promotion Regulations 2022 and for that purpose publishes a notice for inviting suggestions / objections from public with respect to the said draft Comprehensive Development Control and Promotion Regulations within a period of one month from the date of publication of this notice in the Maharashtra Government Gazette;

Any suggestion / objections on the said proposed modification be forwarded to the Chief Planner, MIDC, Udyog Sarathi, Marol Industrial Area, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400093. The suggestions / objections received within a period of one month from the date of publication of this notice in the Maharashtra Government Gazette shall be duly considered before submitting the modification proposal to the Government for sanction.

This notice with draft CDCPR is kept open for inspection to the general public in the following offices for the above period on all working days and is also available on website www.midcindia.org.

1) Chief Planner, MIDC, Udyog Sarathi, Marol Industrial Area, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400093.

2) All offices of the ROs / SPAs, MIDC.

(Pratibha Bhadane)

Chief Planner

Mumbai - 93

Maharashtra Industrial Development

Corporation, Mumbai-400093.

Deps/02/2022@anexpress.com



INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR VARIOUS FOOD & BEVERAGE, PASSENGER SERVICES & IT CONCESSIONS AT CSMIA AIRPORT

Mumbai International Airport Limited ("MIAL") invites parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for various Food & Beverage, Passenger Services & IT Concessions at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport ("CSMIA"), Mumbai.

Parties are requested to visit the website: (https://csmia.adianairports.com/) Business→Tenders) for downloading form of Application for purchase of Request for Proposal document(s).

Please check the website for Last date and time for submission of Application.

MUMBAI RAILWAY VIKAS CORPORATION LTD.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) (Single Packet System - e-bid)

NCB NO. MRVC/W/S/T/Tele/Airoli - Kalwa/Dighi Station/2021/2 Date: 31/02/2022. MUMBAI RAILWAY VIKAS CORPORATION LTD. (MRVC), having its Corporate office at 2nd Floor Churchgate Station Building, Churchgate, Mumbai - 400020, India which is a Public Sector Undertaking of Government of India under Ministry of Railways (MoR) incorporated under Companies Act, 1956, invites E-bids under single packet system for the work of "Design, Supply of materials, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of outdoor and indoor equipments of Public Address System, Unreserved Ticketing System, Telephone Exchange, OFC equipment, Platform Train Indicators, GPS based Digital Clock & Excavation of trenches, Laying of cables etc. in connection with New Station Dighi on Trans harbour line between Airoli - Kalwa on Central Railway". Estimated Cost of work in INR (Including GST): ₹ 81,29,437. Period of Completion: 06 calendar months BID Submission in INR: ₹2,41,000 Cost of Bid Document in INR inclusive of GST: ₹11,800. Bidding Documents and relevant details about this e-bid and online participation in E-Bid are available on website www.ireps.gov.in, Date of Receipt and opening of Bids: The completed Bid shall be submitted electronically online on website www.ireps.gov.in not later than 15:00 hrs on 23/02/2022 and shall be opened at 15:30 hrs, on the same day in the presence of Bidders who choose to be present at the address mentioned below. Address for Communication: Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the following address: Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer - Project (II), Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, 2nd Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Churchgate, Mumbai - 400020. Tel: (022)-22036825 Fax: (022)-22096972

Email: dcytc.prj@mrvic.gov.in

Sd/- Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps, Bengaluru.

DIPR/DDU/YC/3172/2021-22

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE



DEPARTMENT OF STAMPS AND REGISTRATION

Office of The Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps, Kandaya Bhawan, 8th Floor, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009 Tel: 080-22220436, e-mail: aigrcomp@karnataka.gov.in

No. Comp/108/2020-21

Date: 02-02-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited by the Department of Stamps and Registration for Selection of a Service Provider for the "Procurement, Installation, Operations and Maintenance of IT Infrastructure along with Deployment of Operational Manpower in the Department Offices" on BOO (Build Own and Operate) Model . The tenders forms, terms and conditions may be obtained through e-tender procurement. The last date for submitting completed tender forms is 04-04-2022 till 5.30 PM. For further details please contact Assistant Inspector General of Registration (Computers)

Sd/- Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps, Bengaluru.

DIPR/DDU/YC/3172/2021-22

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE



PROVISION OF POWER SUPPLY FOR MAINTENANCE OF HOG COACHES

Tender Notice No.: Sr. DEE/LMG/18 of 2021-22, Dated: 01-02-2022- E-Tender is invited by the undersigned for the following work; Tender No.: EL/LM/21-22/07-RT-1. Name of Work : At Agartala. Provision of 750V Power Supply for maintenance of HOG coaches in Pit lines & sick lines of Agartala maintenance Depot. Tender Value: ₹ 1,35,38,643.81/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 2,17,700/- Closing at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 23-02-2022. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 23-02-2022 in website www.ireps.gov.in Sr. DEE/LM/21-22/07-RT-1. Name of Work : At Agartala. Provision of 750V Power Supply for maintenance of HOG coaches in Pit lines & sick lines of Agartala maintenance Depot. Tender Value: ₹ 1,35,38,643.81/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 2,17,700/- Closing at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 23-02-2022. 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Dhull, Rasheed help India reach 290/5 vs Aus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
FEBRUARY 2

ON THE EVE OF the semi-final against Australia, Yash Dhull was reminded about the contrasting career graphs of two of his senior state mates - Delhi's Virat Kohli and Unmukt Chand - who like him had led the India under-19 team. The shy boy, overawed by the attention of the world media, shook his head, acknowledged the need to upgrade to reach the next level and gave a short reply. Needing a translator by his side to negotiate questions in English, Dhull gave a short and matter-of-fact reply. "I will have to work doubly hard," he said.

Dhull, on Wednesday, showed he had the mental strength to put his head down and avert a crisis. At 37/2 in 13th overs, India had lost both its openers. The pair of Angkrish Raghuvanshi (6) and Harnoor Singh (16) had finally failed in the tournament where they had made it a habit to put up tall scores. The Indian team was facing an unfamiliar situation in the most crucial game of the World Cup. Across formats and in any age category, Australia at the World Cup is seen as the high hurdle. If you beat them, the Cup isn't too far from your grasp.

And in the first hour of play, India, it seems, was getting intimidated by the Boys in Yellow. But Dhull and his deputy Shaik Rasheed took control and eventually stepped on the pedal. Dhull's run-a-ball 110 and Rasheed's 94 helped India to a total of 290/5.

When Dhull eventually got out, an unfortunate run out ending his innings, the team's total was 241 and it was the game's 46th over.

Early in the innings, Dhull and Rasheed had milked the two Australian spinners Jack Sinfield and skipper Cooper Connolly. Playing like old ODI hands, they would drive the ball straight to long on and long off fielders and rotate strike. The spin pair went wicketless and weren't very economical too as India's heroes for the day punished most of the loose balls.

The game-changing long partnership between Dhull and Rasheed meant India had wickets in hand for the final slog. There was a shower of sixes towards the end with wicket-keeper Dinesh Bana hitting two in his 4-ball 20.

Dhull had made a point in the World Cup semi-final against Australia. He had also proved his coach Pradeep Kochar, a former First-Class player, right. Before the team's departure Kochar had said, "Yash doesn't let pressure affect him. He was sensible, calm, and controlled his emotions well. Youngsters find it hard to handle the pressure of expectations these days. Yash is an exception." And he is also ready to work "doubly hard".

Brief Score: India U-19 290/5 (Yash Dhull 110, S Rasheed 94) vs Aus U-19.

With Wang in thick of things, China dares to dream again

PSG playmaker has had it tough throughout early life, but the 2018 Asian Player of the Year is the biggest reason fallen giants are title contenders

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 2

GROWING UP, WANG SHUANG FELT like an imposter. Talk to her teammates, however, and say she's an inspiration.

Somewhere in between lies the compelling story of the biggest name in Chinese football and the 2018 AFC Asian Player of the Year. Abandoned by her parents, raised by her uncle and aunt, played football to overcome loneliness, secured a historic move to French powerhouse Paris St Germain, got separated from the rest of the Chinese national team players for 77 days when Wuhan, her hometown, was locked down at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and, has now brought Asian football's fallen giants to within touching distance of reclaiming lost glory.

On Thursday, China will face their toughest test of their Asian Cup campaign so far. Japan, powered on by Mana Iwabuchi - regarded as one of the best players in the world - will start as favourites in the semifinals in Pune. But in Wang, China have a player who can almost single-handedly control the narrative.

Like she did last Sunday. When Vietnam gave China an early scare in the quarterfinals, Wang took the game by the scruff of the neck. The 26-year-old midfielder was involved in all three of China's goals - scoring one and providing two assists - in the 3-1 comeback win.

"She is a very good (role) model for us," China captain Wang Shanshan, six years her senior who scored from her assist on Sunday, says. Coach Shui Qingxia adds: "She is very courageous, very confident."

'Role model', 'courageous' and 'confident' aren't attributes Wang has always associated with herself. By her own admission, lonely, shy, under-confident perhaps defined her better. At least, early on in life.

Wang was just five when her parents, after getting divorced, dropped her at a relative's place and left Wuhan to restart their lives in different cities. She relived the trauma of being cast aside in a moving piece for the website The Players' Tribune, recalling the several nights she locked herself in a room, crying and feeling vulnerable.

Having a ball

Football became an escape. Wang started playing because her cousin - Cao Guodong, now a professional footballer himself - did. Football allowed her to 'express' herself, make new friends and also realise that 'no matter what happens, you are not alone'.



With five goals, Shuang is the tournament's second-highest scorer. Amit Chakrabarty

What began as a distraction became her destiny. At seven, she was spotted by the coach of her brother's team. By the time she turned 12, Wang was selected for China's under-17 national team. At 16, she was selected for the under-20 side. A year later, she made her senior debut.

None of it, however, was smooth sailing. The constant jibes - being called 'tomboy' by teachers and 'parents' (her uncle and aunt), and by people who, she noted, 'always tried to push me down, to crush my hopes, to tell me everything that I couldn't do' - affected her so deeply that she lost faith in her abilities.

"They were saying that I had no talent for football at all. After a while, I felt almost as if I didn't," Wang wrote in her column.

When she was first called up to the national team, aged 17, Wang thought, "Me? Are you sure?" When a South Korean club, Daejeon Sports, wanted to sign her, she was excited that a coach from another country thought I was good. It was only when Wang started juggling between three jobs - playing for the senior national team, the youth national team, and her South Korean club, did she feel confident in her abilities. "I felt valuable. I felt recognised. Perhaps I had a bit of talent after all."

Not any 'bit of talent'; the child prodigy is hailed as China's once-in-a-generation player, a status that got cemented when PSG signed her in 2019.

Climbing to the top again

China is one of the pioneers of women's

football in Asia and has won the continental championship eight times, including seven straight titles between 1986 and 1999. This was their golden phase, headlined by runners-up finishes at the 1996 Olympics and the 1999 World Cup. But it's been six years since China last won the Asian Cup, and more than two decades since they achieved anything significant at the world level. It is hoped that Wang will inspire China to heights it once routinely scaled.

It was easy to gauge her importance to the side on the eve of the quarterfinals. Coaches almost always are hesitant to speak about individual players, often reminding that it's the collective performance of the team that matters. But when coach Shui was asked about Wang ahead of the Vietnam match, she waxed eloquent about her influence on the team, calling her an 'outstanding' player who unfailingly performed on the big stage.

Sunday provided an apt reminder. Whenever the Chinese players ran out of ideas, they'd simply pass the ball to Wang and she'd use her flair to create something. When China lacked finishing, she provided it to score the equaliser; when they lacked a quality ball inside the box, she delivered two delightful assists that ultimately sealed the tie.

Not bad, for someone who has spent half her life feeling she's an imposter.

SEMININAL LINE-UP
South Korea vs Philippines, 1.30 pm
China vs Japan, 7.30 pm
Live on Eurosport

Vukic living immigrant's dream on Aussie courts

SHIVANI NAIK
FEBRUARY 2

WHEN RAD VUKIC FLED SARAJEVO in the early 1990s, escaping the war by blinding in with another family catching a SOS plane, tennis was far off his mind. Son Aleksandar 'Alex', playing at the Tata Open Maharashtra, says it wasn't a sport his dad knew much about. But when the family - his mother Ljiljana and brother Vladimir had left earlier with other vulnerable women and children - found refuge in Sydney, Vukic Sr took to the game obsessively, and would steer his younger son into a career in the sport.

Australia boasts of several tennis players, children of immigrants who landed on its shores fleeing tough times, in search of a better, safer life. Many of East European and Mediterranean heritage call the country their home, and while Alex stresses the society is very inclusive, he adds that sport plays its role.

"Mostly my brother, six years older, who came to Australia at two-and-a-half years of age, took the first step. It is a multicultural society. But yes, sport did help blend in," he says. Vukic played tennis and football, and in high school even cricket, volleyball and rugby. "My dad and brother played, and I used to run behind them picking the balls. But I just played many sports and gravitated towards tennis," he remembers.

Vukic Sr would miss the rest of his family still in Montenegro, and continue celebrating important holidays with other cousins who similarly reached Sydney and became citizens. "But he was happy with his decision," Alex says.

While his parents were both computer engineers, his mother would often push him towards academics, while the father, smitten by tennis, turned him in the opposite direction: making him slog on the court. "My brother is a very smart guy. So, he followed that path. I went into tennis."

Parents' dream

Life can be rough for children of immigrants, eager to make the most of what they view as a great escape from troubles left behind. And not just in academics. "Yes, my dad was hard on me in a good way because he wanted me to succeed and that can be tough on the kids. So, there wasn't much room for socialising."

At times, it felt like too much pressure and I was being forced to train hard. But my parents did their best for us, so looking back I'm grateful, though at that point it was emotionally tough," he recalls.

He would watch his parents and the sheer hustle to pack everything into 24 hours of a day. "They would work so hard



Rad Vukic in action at TATA Open Maharashtra on Wednesday. TOM

during the day. And leave work early because I had to be at the tennis at 4 pm. Then they would log back in at 8-9 pm and work again," he says.

Alex is surrounded by friends in tennis, all of whom might be born in Australia, but whose parents came from varied nationalities. "But we don't see it that way. Especially as a child. You get integrated."

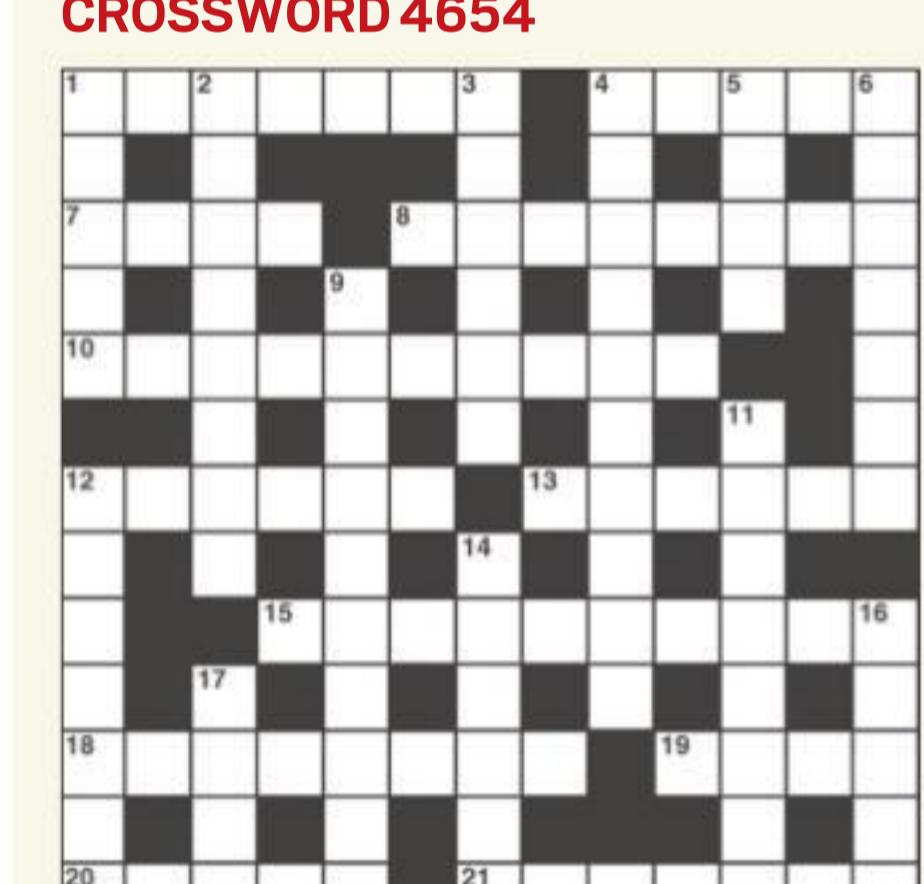
He would later choose to go to college at University of Illinois, playing tennis on a scholarship and standing out on the NCAA circuit.

"Unbelievable four years of my life. It was a great environment for my tennis," says the World No 140, looking to crack the Top 100. He also took on one of the toughest academic programmes, something expected of him by his mother.

Football remained a second love - something his father regularly attended before war broke out. "I'm a big Arsenal fan, fortunately or unfortunately," Alex jokes, adding his cricket viewing is restricted to the Ashes and when Indians come touring.

He scored his first breakthrough win against Lloyd Harris, seeded 30, at the recent Australian Open. In Pune, he would lose to second seed Italian Lorenzo Musetti 6-7 (3), 6-3, 3-6. But the dream of an immigrant father, nursed in the summer Sydney blaze on tennis courts, lives on.

CROSSWORD 4654



ACROSS

- 1 Rewards with a distinction (7)
- 4 Protection with strings attached (5)
- 7 Emotional state low with onset of depression (4)
- 8 Shakespearean character to sort out crime (8)
- 10 It eats almost everything (6,4)
- 12 Mixture of mud and air has curative powers (6)
- 13 Temporary halt in a hidden place (6)
- 15 Fit after trailing badly (4,6)
- 18 It braves a new order but trembles (8)
- 19 Formerly of some concern (4)
- 20 Valued new trade (5)
- 21 Easy mod in Uralic language (7)

DOWN

- 1 Apt to err? (5)
- 2 Time to dine on stew (8)
- 3 Observe present and past in child's play (6)
- 4 Man of principle made riches in a strange way (10)
- 5 It sounds the proper ceremonial (4)
- 6 Possibly sold one some Chinese food (7)
- 9 Small employee works round the clock (6,4)
- 11 The quality of mercy (8)
- 12 Make a comeback as upholsterers can do (7)
- 14 Is inactive in retirement? (6)
- 16 Late entry by middle of March brings anxiety (5)
- 17 Encourage with a wager (4)

Solutions Crossword 4653: Across: 1 Vacillation, 9 Electra, 10 Latch, 11 Disc, 12 Whistler, 14 Footer, 16 Launch, 18 Reballed, 19 Able, 22 Evict, 23 Typical, 24 Wedding ring. Down: 2 Avers, 3 Iota, 4 Loathe, 5 Talmud, 6 Ortolan, 7 Ready for bed, 8 Church bells, 13 Deflated, 15 Sublime, 17 Beaten, 20 Bacon, 21 Spar.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The Moon adopts a friendly position, offering some respite from the generally hysterical nature of the times. Try to see the larger picture; perhaps there is something you can do to resurrect an overseas connection or safeguard the legal position.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

At least your financial situation seems to be secure. Indeed, the prospect of increased prosperity, on however small a scale, may stand as a beacon of light amidst these generally unstable and possibly ill-tempered times. People often get irritable when they sense that change is on the way, but it's just as well that they feel insecure, so be understanding.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

To reach out and see how other people are feeling. What's needed is not only sympathy but empathy, the ability to tune into other people's emotions with compassion and understanding. Your romantic stars are strong, so proceed with confidence.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Because Mars is still in such a difficult alignment with a number of planets, people are prepared to fight their corner to the bitter end. Yet what they are defending is nothing but an illusion. Still, if it means something to them, then that's their prerogative.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Meetings are liable to be stormy, so if important issues are at stake you may feel it is best to wait until later for a final verdict. Above all, there is nothing to be gained from forcing the pace. Let events unfold in their own good time and I think you'll be pleased with the results.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You're in a strong position. Yet you may be unable to resist being embroiled in a series of strange and often unhelpful situations. Maintain your sense of humour and keep smiling throughout. A professional opportunity comes your way as a result of a colleague's goodwill.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Challenging aspects to your special planets are not making it easy for you to keep existing enterprises going, let alone get long-term projects off the ground. Why not stop struggling and take some time off? I say that partly because you have much to learn from mixing with new friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Forget about conventional answers to current dilemmas, whether your concerns are of a professional or a personal nature. Now it is time to implement the radical solutions which are your particular stock-in-trade. Just because other people are tied to convention, that doesn't mean that you should be as well.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Hopefully you are finding that the present situation is interesting without being in any way upsetting. With your deep understanding of the nature of reality you are better fitted than most people to dealing with challenging or obstructive conditions.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Many roads lead to the path, but basically there are only two: *— Bodhidharma (6,8)*

DMAEE D M A E E A E

INMOST I <span style="background-color:

BRIEFLY

United's Greenwood released on bail

London: Manchester United forward Mason Greenwood has been released on bail pending further investigations, police said on Wednesday after the 20-year-old player was arrested on suspicion of rape and assault of a woman. Greenwood was on Tuesday further arrested on suspicion of sexual assault and making threats to kill. The allegations against Greenwood were posted on Instagram on Sunday and deleted. "A 20-year-old man arrested (on Sunday 30 January 2022) on suspicion of the rape and assault of a woman has been released on bail pending further investigation," Greater Manchester Police said in a statement. United have suspended Greenwood, saying he would not return to training or play for the club until further notice.

REUTERS



East Bengal hold Chennai 2-2

Vasco: SC East Bengal denied Chennaiyin FC a chance to rise to third spot with a 2-2 draw in their Indian Super League (ISL) match here on Wednesday. The red and golds scored in injury time to deny three points to Chennaiyin. The Marina Machans raced to 2-0 lead through goals from Hira Mondal (2nd minute, own goal) and Ninthoi (15th). Darren Sidoel (61st) pulled one back with a well-hit free-kick and the equaliser finally came through Lalrinliana Hnamte (90+1). Earlier, the ISL unveiled the revised fixture list for the ongoing event with the organisers incorporating all the matches that were postponed due to COVID-19 outbreaks last month in the schedule that begins February 9. ATK Mohun Bagan will face Jamshedpur FC in the final match of the regular season at the PJD Stadium here on March 7, according to the revised fixture drawn by the league organisers Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL). PTI

Davis Cup: Nagal out, Yuki returns

New Delhi: Sumit Nagal has been dropped from the five-member Indian Davis Cup team for the World Group 1 play-off tie against Denmark here next month, the national tennis federation said on Wednesday. Nagal (world ranked 222) made way for Yuki Bhambri (863) in the squad which also has Ramkumar Ramanathan (182) and Prajnesh Gunneswaran (228) as other singles players. Doubles specialist Rohan Bopanna has retained his place alongside Divij Sharan, the All India Tennis Association (AITA) said. Saketh Myneni and Digvijay Pratap Singh are the two reserve players in the squad, to be coached by Zeeshan Ali, and has Rohit Rajpal as non-playing captain. The tie will be held at the grass courts of Delhi Gymkhana Club on March 4 and 5, inside a bio-security bubble. PTI

Dhawan, Iyer, Saini, Gaikwad test positive ahead of ODIs

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 2

The Indian board conducted RT-PCR tests on January 31, February 1 and February 2. It is learnt that Dhawan and Saini tested positive after the first test while Gaikwad and Iyer were found infected in the second and third tests respectively.

FOUR INDIAN team players, including Shikhar Dhawan and Shreyas Iyer, and three support staff have tested positive for Covid-19 in Ahmedabad, with the three-match ODI series against West Indies starting on February 6.

Dhawan, Iyer, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Navdeep Saini (who is a reserve player) tested positive along with three support staff.

The Indian board conducted RT-PCR tests on January 31, February 1 and February 2. It is learnt that Dhawan and Saini tested positive after the first test while Gaikwad and Iyer were found infected in the second and third tests respectively. The selection committee subsequently added Mayank Agarwal to the ODI squad. The Indian team was supposed to undergo

three days' quarantine before entering a bio-bubble. The BCCI had instructed its players and support staff to get RT-PCR tests done on January 28 before checking into the team hotel.

"The infected players have been isolated along with the three support staff members. The BCCI is monitoring the situation," a Board official confirmed.

Axar tested positive too

It is learnt that all-rounder Axar Patel, who is yet to join the Indian team, has tested positive. Patel is part of the T20I squad, with three games scheduled in Kolkata starting February 16.

Patel was about to join the Indian team in Ahmedabad, but couldn't. The Indian team's throwdown specialist Raghu too has tested positive and couldn't join the squad.

Looking at the situation, the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) has decided to stage the ODI series behind closed doors.

"We are all set to host the West Indies Tour of India ODI Series 2022. 1st ODI on 6th of Feb will be a very special and historic match as India will be playing its 1000th ODI. The Indian team will be the first cricket team in the world to achieve this feat. Considering the current situation, all the matches will be played behind closed doors," the state cricket body had tweeted.



The selection committee has added Mayank Agarwal to the squad for the West Indies ODI series starting on February 6. BCCI

There would certainly be some concerns from the players and I wouldn't be surprised if some of them don't make the tour. And that's very fair. People will discuss it with their families ... and come up with an answer and everyone respects that."

JOSH HAZLEWOOD, AUSTRALIA PACER, SAYS HE WON'T BE SURPRISED IF SOME OF HIS TEAMMATES REFUSE TO TOUR PAKISTAN NEXT MONTH

The ABC & \$ of auction pool

Some players will bank on star value while others have priced themselves smartly to gain from a bidding war between IPL teams

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 2

A FULL IPL auction offers unpredictability as franchises rebuild their respective squads almost from scratch.

A few days ago, during a Kolkata Knight Riders YouTube show, the franchise CEO and managing director Venky Mysore was recollecting how their strategy had gone haywire during the 2011 IPL full auction. The Kolkata-based franchise wanted a slow burn, but their prime targets, including Gautam Gambhir, were under the hammer very early, forcing KKR to spend two-thirds of their purse within the first one hour of a two-day auction.

For a franchise like Chennai Super Kings, as their chief executive Kasi Viswanathan was telling this paper, retention of a core group over the years had served them wonderfully well. This time, though, as the 15th season of the IPL will have a mega auction in Bangalore on February 12 and 13, with two new teams, the fight is expected to be very intense. The big-hitters will be bought for big money. But how the franchises build their squads and pick their captains would offer more intrigue.

CAPTAINS' CORNER

BASE PRICE
David Warner ₹ 2 CRORE
Shreyas Iyer ₹ 2 CRORE
Eoin Morgan ₹ 2 CRORE
Manish Pandey ₹ 1 CRORE

There are two sets of franchises in the IPL. An out-in-out cricket franchise like CSK, being run by seasoned cricket administrators, have built their team around MS Dhoni. Mumbai Indians, too, have their skipper Rohit Sharma running the show and this has been the preferred policy for KKR also, under Gautam Gambhir and Morgan. KKR's resurrection last season was masterminded by Morgan, although he had a lean patch as a batsman. Similarly, Warner had con-

tributed immensely to Sunrisers Hyderabad's consistency in the tournament before he was benched after a few low scores. Then, there are another set of franchises that pick their captains based on the players' brand value, putting the tactical responsibility on the coaching staff. The two new franchises, Lucknow Super Giants and Team Ahmedabad, seem to have fallen for the latter by appointing KL Rahul and Hardik Pandya respectively as their captains. At least a couple of captaincy spots are up for grabs, at KKR and RCB. Morgan, Warner, Shreyas and Pandey could be in the running.

SPIN-PUNCH

BASE PRICE
Yuzvendra Chahal ₹ 2 CRORE
Krunal Pandya ₹ 1 CRORE
Washington Sundar ₹ 1.5 CRORE
Kuldeep Yadav ₹ 1 CRORE
Rahul Chahar ₹ 75 LAKH

Yuzvendra Chahal's franchise RCB, which released him, is expected to go all-out for the leg-spinner. For his Indian team partner Kuldeep Yadav, fit again after going under the surgeon's knife, the three ODIs against the West Indies before the auction could be very important.

Also watch out for Washington Sundar with his all-round skills. The national selectors promptly brought him back to the ODI and T20I set-up, replacing Ashwin, as soon as he was fit.

PRICEY STARS

BASE PRICE
Ravichandran Ashwin, Trent Boult, Pat Cummins, Quinton de Kock, Shikhar Dhawan, Faf du Plessis, Shreyas Iyer, Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Shami, David Warner, Ishan Kishan and Devdutt Padikkal ₹ 2 CRORE

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Similarly, de Kock would be a prized possession whichever team is buying him. Every franchise covets an explosive opener like him who is also a wicketkeeper.

Being a proven performer and an India team regular in limited-overs cricket, Shreyas would be a hot property at the auction. As for du Plessis, it is learnt that CSK are keen to bring him back to the fold. Padikkal also firmly remains in RCB's

scheme of things though he was released. As regards to Shami, he is a fast-bowling royalty and Punjab Kings probably missed a trick by releasing him.

TWILIGHT ZONE

BASE PRICE
Bhuvneshwar Kumar ₹ 2 CRORE
Suresh Raina ₹ 2 CRORE
Ajinkya Rahane ₹ 1 CRORE
Cheteshwar Pujara ₹ 50 LAKH
Sreesanth ₹ 50 LAKH

When CSK eventually signed Pujara at last year's auction, everybody applauded. It was the Chennai-based franchise honouring a stalwart on the back of India's Test series win in Australia. This time, though, Pujara and Rahane registering coming into the auction has raised a few eyebrows. It can be argued that County stints would serve them better at a time when they are on the verge of losing their Test spots.

It needs to be seen how the auction pans out for Kumar and Raina, both at the tail-end of their illustrious careers. Sreesanth at the auction is an interesting development.

IPL ALSO-RANS

As England were getting hammered at the Ashes, some former players from the Blighty were targeting the IPL for their Test team's downfall, as if Rory Burns and Haseeb Hameed, for example, ruined their technique by playing in the Indian T20 league. When, subsequently, Joe Root and Ben Stokes decided not to register themselves for the auction, a franchise CEO told this paper: "Doesn't make a difference."

A total of 24 England players have registered themselves for this year's auction and arguably the two most coveted England cricketers in this format, Jos Buttler and Moeen Ali, have been retained by Rajasthan Royals and CSK respectively.

In those two Tests, luck wasn't on our side. There were many times when their batsmen edged, but the ball fell short or flew above us. We later realised that edges will not carry, so our fielders came closer. We were unlucky many times. Once they were 150 for 3, and we bowled them out. Once you are chasing 200-plus, there is confidence in the dressing room that it is chaseable. But if the target is 300-plus in the fourth innings, pressure starts to build up. In those two Test matches, we lost as our bowling and fielding unit didn't carry the luck with ourselves.

What was your reaction when you heard Virat (Kohli) was stepping down from Test captaincy?

It was an emotional moment for everyone. No one expected that he would resign from Test captaincy. We did well under his captaincy, especially overseas. Those series we lost overseas were close ones. The team was doing well under him and no one expected this. However, now that he has made his decision, everyone should respect it.

INTERVIEW: SHARDUL THAKUR

I'm a genuine all-rounder, always had talent but didn't get opportunity'

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 2

SHARDUL THAKUR doesn't hesitate to call himself a genuine all-rounder. The way he has performed in the last few months, Thakur has become a player teams can't ignore. Before joining the Indian team for the series against West Indies, Thakur spoke with The Indian Express about his batting, the partnership-breaker tag and other matters. Excerpts:

What's the secret about your backfoot punch and straight drive?

I always had talent but in between, I didn't get the opportunity to bat much, especially in Ranji Trophy. It all started when I came into the Indian team. Compare to other bowlers, I was a better batsman and (former head coach) Ravi Shastri gave me the opportunity to bat at number 7 or 8. Whatever talent I had, I just applied it. Whenever I get an opportunity, I bat in the nets.

During our practice sessions at the international level, most of the bowlers bowl back of a length. They will hardly give an opportunity to come onto the front foot. Maybe, it's one reason I have developed the skill (back-foot punch). I feel, one needs the right mixture of front foot and backfoot play. It will only come when a player gets quality practice. Whenever I'm batting in the nets, I visualise possible match situations. I feel as if I'm playing a match.

My planning and strategy start a day before the game. If I'm bowling in the nets, I will try things which I want to try in the game. If I'm executing well, I will bowl them in the game. I always believe that whatever prac-



Shardul Thakur scored unbeaten 50 and 40 against South Africa.

AP

How do you look at the partnership-breaker tag?

Honestly, I have been lucky. As a bowler, it's an important role. To win a Test match, one needs to get 20 wickets, in ODIs we need 10 wickets. One needs luck, and it's not like that you go and bowl and you will get wickets every time. What you're thinking while taking your run-up is also key. If a bowler is thinking about getting a wicket, he will get it. Wickets always help to check opponents' runs, one or two quick wickets mean the team will slow down. I always try to go for wickets and never bowl with a defensive mindset. I'm happy with the way I have managed to get wickets whenever I have come to bowl and hope to continue to the same.

Can you tell us about your planning, especially when you come to bowl?

My planning and strategy start a day before the game. If I'm bowling in the nets, I will try things which I want to try in the game. If I'm executing well, I will bowl them in the game. I always believe that whatever prac-

tice I do, it should be purposeful. Having quality practice is the key.

out? When he tries to play, it's the only time when he commits a mistake. So, I was trying to make him play as much as possible. (Mohammed) Shami and (Jasprit) Bumrah bowled outstandingly, but luck wasn't with them. I told myself luck is on his (Elgar's) side today as most of the balls are beating his edge, so why not try to bowl as many balls that he should play. I was hoping that he

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SHARDUL THAKUR, ON HIS BATTING

would make a mistake. When a batsman keeps on playing, there is a chance that he will go for a ball which is on the fourth or fifth stump line. And it happened, and he got out.

How important was the seven-wicket haul (in Johannesburg) for your career?

It was a great feeling because I had never got seven in an innings. I had got six wickets many times. Honestly, I never thought I would get seven wickets in that game. I just went and bowled. The only intention I had was that to bat Shami and Bumrah are not getting wickets, so I need to bowl in good areas.

Are white-ball tricks like knuckleball and scrambled seam effective in red-ball cricket?

They are effective. Many times, while bowling with a scrambled seam, the shine of the ball is on the opposite side. Nobody knows where it will go after pitching, not

even the bowler. Many times, I have tried to bowl outswing but due to a scrambled seam, the ball came in. Only the ball can decide where it wants to go after pitching. Sometimes, these variations help to deceive batsmen.

The Indian bowling wasn't able to defend 200-plus targets in two successive Tests. Did you guys talk about it?

In those two Tests, luck wasn't on our side. There were many times when their batsmen edged, but the ball fell short or flew above us. We later realised that edges will not carry, so our fielders came closer.

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