DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PUNE, VADODARA • REG.NO. MCS/067/2018 - 20 RNI REGN. NO. 1543/57

The Indian EXPRESS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021, MUMBAI, LATE CITY, 18 PAGES

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE **SINCE 1932**

8

₹5.00, WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

BJP to start sports league named after Article 370 in Amit Shah seat

PARIMAL DABHI GANDHINAGAR, NOVEMBER 29

THE BJP in Gujarat's Gandhinagar, the Lok Sabha constituency represented by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. is planning to host tournaments in cricket and kabaddi under the label Gandhinagar Loksabha Premier League 370, or GLPL 370. to "draw maximum number of youth to the party", local leaders said.

According to Ahmedabad city BJP unit general secretary Jitubhai Patel, the league is named after Article 370, "which was abrogated in 2019 under Amit Shah's leadership", and there are plans to start tournaments in the middle of December.

Harshad Patel, who is the BJP in-charge of Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, told The Indian Express: "The events have been organised to make the (young) voters, whose names are CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Ajaz Patel, who batted till end of day Monday, survives an appeal. PTT

the series

deny India

India vs India-origin Rachin, Ajaz as Kiwis save Test in last-day epic

runs to win the Test, which was

SANDIP G KANPUR, NOVEMBER 29

UNDER THE smoggy, flood-lit skies of the historic Green Park Stadium, a draw for the ages. where sweat and emotion flowed in equal measure, was played out between India and New Zealand. The fortunes of

the game fluctuated, as the day

toggled between smog and sun-

shine. The tourists needed 284

a lost pursuit even before New ware system architect from Zealand's fourth innings began, Bengaluru who emigrated to Wellington at the turn of the cenbut they batted stoutly and stoically to deny India by a lone tury, but continued his love for wicket in the opening Test of cricket. He soon began organising cricket for schoolchildren and At the heart of the rearguard started the Hutts Hawks Club. were a debutant all-rounder which organised cricket tours to and a left-arm spinner of Indian different outposts of the game across the world. Naturally, heritage, Rachin Ravindra (18 off 91 balls) and Ajaz Patel (2 off Rachin, his name a portmanteau 23), who blunted 52 balls to of his father's favourite cricketers. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

LIZ MATHEW & **KRISHN KAUSHIK** NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

> THE WINTER session of Parliament began on a stormy note Monday when the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021, cleared the two Houses via voice votes without any discussion. The Bill sailed through amid Opposition demand for a debate on issues against the three new agricul-

in the first half of the proceedings amid vociferous demands for a discussion. And in the Rajva Sabha, it was passed minutes after resumption of the postlunch session.

have no tangible results, the drawal of the laws given that farmer protests began more than a year ago and some demands, including legal guarantee for

In Lok Sabha, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar introduced and tabled the Bill for consideration and passing. Members of the TMC and DMK came to the Well, seeking a discussion while Congress MPs

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



House clears farm laws repeal Bill,

Govt rejects Opp call for a debate

PM Modi, Union MoS Arjun Ram Meghwal and Jitendra Singh at Parliament at start of winter session Monday. Anil Sharma

Boycott session or take fight to the Govt? Opp will take a call today

speak to Chairman M Venkaiah

Naidu on behalf of the entire

Opposition and demand revoca-

PM SPEECH VS LAST

SESSION'S 15 BILLS

IN 10 MINUTES P 10

DIMINISHING HOUSE

THE EDITORIAL PAGE, P12

MANOJCG NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

STORMY START TO WINTER SESSION

Adhir, Kharge target Govt over lack of discussion, repeal

delay; Tomar says debate to have no tangible results

tion of the suspension. He suggested that if the government is WITH THE suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs deepening the politinot amenable, then the cal divide and threatening a Opposition should think about washout of the entire winter sesboycotting the entire session. sion, backchannel talks were held Leaders of the Left parties are between the government and the learnt to have supported him. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 Opposition Monday to find an amicable resolution, but there

was no immediate headway. Minutes after the suspension of the MPs, Opposition floor leaders met in the chamber of Mallikariun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha.

it is learnt, said Kharge should

12 RS MPs suspended for entire session, Opp calls it undemocratic

KRISHN KAUSHIK, MANOJCG& SOURAV ROY BARMAN NEW DEI HI NOVEMBER 29

IN A move that angered the Opposition and set the stage for acrimonious exchanges, a dozen members of Opposition parties in Rajya Sabha were suspended from the winter session on the very first day following a motion brought in by the government.

The members were suspended for alleged unruly conduct towards the end of the monsoon session in August when marshals were called af-Opposition members CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ter



RULE 256 from Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in RS was invoked against the MPs. The Opposition said the rule is for ongoing session, not to be used in an earlier one. In 6 decades. it has been used 13 times. EXPLAINED, PAGE 11

NEEC and VENCOBB recommended today's Eggs and Broller Chicken tates Ex Farm Broller Chicken Rate ₹83 per kilo Retail Sale Rate Live ₹111 per kilo Dressed (with skin)" ₹136 per kilo Retail Rate Per Dozen of Eggs ₹ 64 per Dozen नवीन आकडेवारी तसेच राज्यसेवा मुख्य परीक्षेच्या नवीन अभ्यासक्रमानुसा भगीरथ प्रकाशन पुणे श्री रंजन कोळंबे लिखीत भारताय थव्यवस्थ दावी आवृत्ती 25 नोव्हेंबर पासून उपलब्ध 970298197/9090906777 Omicron news from



pointed Chandiwal Commission cancelled the bailable warrant issued against former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh, an inquiry was initiated into an alleged "secret meeting"

between Singh and dismissed policeman Sachin Waze. Singh and Waze -- an undertrial prisoner who is the main accused in the Antilia security scare case and is being investi-

gated by the NIA -- allegedly met in a separate room in the premises where the Chandiwal Commission holds its hearings,



Param Bir Singh and Sachin Waze appeared before the Chandiwal Commission on Monday. Ganesh Shirsekar

without seeking the judge's permission

The Mumbai Police will conduct an inquiry into the incident and submit its report to the Navi Mumbai Police, who shall take

National Centre for Disease

Control (NCDC) held a detailed

exchange with South African au-

thorities on Omicron, including

the transmissibility and severity

experts conveyed that Omicron

has been found to be highly

COVID VICTIM BODIES

FOUND AFTER A YEAR,

KIN DISTRAUGHT

Sources said South African

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

of infection.

PAGE 7

further action against the four policemen including a police subinspector who escorted Waze from Taloja jail in Navi Mumbai to Old Secretariat Building Annex **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Question Govt skipped: Were

REPORTS, PAGE 18 Rachin's father was a softraised by farmers protesting

ture laws being withdrawn by the government.

The Lok Sabha passed the Bill

Claiming that the Bill had been brought in with consensus, that it did not have any clause to discuss and that a debate would treasury benches rejected demands of the Opposition, which was keen to target the government over the delay in with-

The RJD's Manoj Kumar Jha,



MSP, are still being raised.

INSIDE

PEGASUS: PANEL BY SC SEEKS DEVICES OF PETITIONERS

RBI SUPERSEDES BOARD OF RELIANCE CAPITAL PAGES 14, 15



S Africa: high fatigue, low hospitalisation

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M& SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

SOUTH AFRICAN health authorities have conveyed to top medical experts in India that they are witnessing "very low hospitalisation" directly linked to Omicron, although the new Covid variant of concern is "highly transmissibile" and patients are experiencing extreme fatigue even with mild disease. The Indian Express has learnt.

The latest update came even the World Health Organisation (WHO) assessed global risk from the newly discovered variant as "very high", and India extended support to countries dealing with Omicron

NRIs asked to stop aiding farmers? in Africa, and promised supplies of Made-in-India vaccines.

Top Government sources **ANISHA DUTTA** told The Indian Express that experts from the Indian Council of NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29 Medical Research (ICMR) and

A QUESTION by Congress Rajya Sabha member K C Venugopal to the Minister of External Affairs on whether NRIs living abroad were harassed at airports and sent back, and some even asked by authorities to stop helping the farmers' agitation, was provisionally admitted and scheduled to be answered on December 2, but dropped from the final list of questions for the day.

The question (Provisionally Admitted Question Starred/ Unstarred diary number U455) read: "Will the Minister of CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WINNE A RECORD 10 TIMES

FLYING FOR

Over 40,000 sq. metres of spectacular shopping. Thousands of limited editions and travel exclusives. Hundreds of the world's most desirable brands. But only one glorious destination: Dubai Duty Free.

SHOP AT DUBAI DUTY FREE

Dorsey steps down, IIT-B alumnus Parag Agrawal is new CEO of Twitter

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

TWITTER'S CHIEF Technology Officer Parag Agrawal, who is an alumnus of IIT-Bombay, will replace outgoing CEO Jack Dorsey, the microblogging site announced Monday. Agrawal has been with Twitter since 2011 and has served as Chief Techonology Officer (CTO) since October 2017.

In a statement, Twitter said that while Dorsey is stepping down and Agrawal's appointment in the executive role will



Agrawal is currently Chief Technology Officer

be effective immediately, the outgoing CEO will continue to be on the company's board till the end of his term next year.

"I've decided to leave Twitter because I believe the company is ready to move on from its founders. My trust in Parag as Twitter's CEO is deep.



As CTO, Agrawal has been responsible for the company's technical strategy, while overseeing machine learning and AI. Since joining Twitter ten years ago, he has led efforts on scaling

Twitter Ads systems, as well as re-accelerating user growth by improving home timeline relevance.

Prior to joining Twitter, he was involved with research in large-scale data management with collaborators at Microsoft Research, Yahoo! Research, and AT&T Labs.

Agrawal holds a Ph.D. in

Computer Science from Stanford University and a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and Engineering from IIT-Bombay, from where he graduated in 2005

Agrawal joins a list of Indian-American tech bosses, which currently includes IBM chairman and CEO Arvind Krishna, Microsoft chairman and CEO Satya Nadella, Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai and Adobe chairman, president and CEO Shantanu Narayen.

Lately, under Dorsey as CEO, Twitter has been embroiled in different controversies across key markets, including India. Just months after his visit to India in November 2018, Dorsey was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



2 THE SECOND PAGE

The Indian EXPRESS

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM DOWNLOAD APP 📕 VISUAL STORIES DAILY BRIEFING OF Indian DIRESS R A SHRINKING ISLAND IN BENGAL, A RIVER THAT THREATENS TO SWALLOW IT WHOLE PODCASTS WEB How Nehru debated his Catalysed by the ever-increasing environmental pollution, climate change remains one of the biggest threats CUSTOMIZABLE **NEWS EXPERIENCE** to the world, as the recent UN conference, COP26, showed. Bengal, too, is witnessing the ill effects of such adversaries climate change 品種 **Indian Express** **** 4.6 **NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY** Today's top news **EXPLAINED** TECH In their latest book, Nehru: The Debates AUSTRALIA'S BILL ON **QLAN: NETWORK** to explain that Defined India, Adeel Hussain and SOCIAL MEDIA FIRMS **FOR GAMERS** Tripurdaman Singh look at four men who debated the first PM and how the **Allows Australians to Gamers take first step** exchanges shaped India as we know it SCAN THIS OR CODE TO make a plaint over to being professional in ICC Test Batting Bankings DOWNLOAD THE APP defamatory material eSports player per pipped wysmakers there: was hand to the No. 1 penalties

FROM PAGE ONE

Sports league

on the voters' list, pro-BJP. For that, cricket and kabaddi have been selected. The target is to have at least two teams in each ward (one each for cricket and kabaddi)."

Harshad Patel said: "Home Minister Amit Shah first discussed this with around 8-10 of us in the party." Subsequently, he said, a meeting of 200-250 party workers was called and responsibilities assigned.

For instance, Gujarat MoS Jagdish Vishwakarma, who organised the Karnavati Premier League (KPL) in Ahmedabad five years ago, has been asked to plan the tournaments.

BJP state unit general secretary Pradipsinh Vaghela said: "An entire team of the Lok Sabha constituency is involved. The plan is to organise a kabaddi tournament for the constituency and seven cricket tournaments, one for each of its seven Assembly segments.

The seven segments are Vejalpur, Ghatlodia, Naranpura, Sabarmati, Kalol, Gandhinagar (North) and Sanand. The Lok Sabha constituency has around 1,800 booths across Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, and BJP officebearers have been asked to identify teams, venues and commentators as well as frame rules.

The league is currently open for men only, and the matches will be played using tennis balls on grounds rented from private owners, BJP leaders said. Publicity is mainly being done through WhatsApp groups.

Shah has been associated with the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) since 2007, in ending the 16-year reign of the Congress. He was also vice chairman of GCA when then Chief Minister Narendra Modi was

two overs remained for New Zealand to seal a memorable draw and India to pinch a famous win. But then, the umpires flicked out the light-meter. It was 15 minutes past four, but the stadium was in darkness. A wave of anxiety lashed the ground, before it burst in joy when the umpires concluded that the game could continue.

It was the third time in as many overs that the umpires had checked the light. Soon, the crowd started chanting the names of the umpires, Nitin Menon and Virender Sharma. perhaps a first for them. Then, they were chanting the

name of Axar Patel, the first-innings hero with the ball. But Rachin repelled everything that was thrown at him. The third ball spun viciously into him and brushed the inside edge. But the edge eluded leg-gully. By this time, every Indian fielder was around the batsman like an umbrella. A pin-drop silence filled the ground, as Rachin defended the final three balls to safety. And then, in between the overs, they

gave him a standing ovation for the heart and skill he had shown. But one more over remained, and Jadeja calmly tossed the ball

in the air. He was the force that stretched the match this far with four wickets, including those of Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor, breathing life into a match that was meandering to a tame draw. But Ajaz frayed no nerves, defending each of the six balls. The second ball spun and kept low, but Ajaz had his eyes on the

ball and body behind it. At the end of the over, the 98th of the New Zealand innings, with 10 minutes remaining for close of play, the umpires checked the light again, and ruled that the game could not continue. With wearv eves, the Indian players lingered, staring at the skies, just in case the sun winked again. By this time, Rachin and Ajaz were already basking in the sweat of their toil. House clears farm laws repeal Bill

there is no need to discuss it and

the repeal Bill should be passed,"

Shah and Defence Minister

Rajnath Singh were present in

Lok Sabha when the Bill was

passed. Modi was in Lok Sabha

when it met in the morning but

did not return to the House

when proceedings resumed af-

ter a brief adjournment at noon.

Sabha saw Opposition MPs rush

to the Well, raising various is-

sues. While Congress and TMC

MPs raised slogans in support of

farmers, DMK's T R Baalu de-

manded that the House pass a

resolution condoling the death

of farmers during the agitation

against the farm laws. In Rajya

Sabha too, members were in the

Well of the House, holding plac-

ards demanding uniform pro-

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi

criticised the government's

move to pass the repeal Bill

government will have to with-

Outside Parliament House,

"Earlier, we had said that the

curement policy.

without discussion.

The start of the session in Lok

Union Home Minister Amit

Tomar said

said it is not in the favour of

farmers, it will be against them".

of repealing the laws only due to

electoral compulsions. He said

the ruling BJP was impacted in

the recent by-elections in sev-

eral states "and then there are

elections in five states" coming

up, and that the government

feels it will have an impact in

Tomar maintained that the

"government had brought the

three Bills for the betterment of

the farmers" but "we are sad

that sometimes, even after try-

ing... even after Congress men-

words and actions." he said.

"We have come here to re-

peal the laws, the government

these elections too.

He accused the government

who were there initially, returned to their seats to let their leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury speak on their behalf.

"When it is listed as consideration and passing of the Bill, why can't there be a debate? This government, since 2014, has been passing and repealing Bills without any discussion. You have taken this House for a ride." Chowdhary alleged.

The Speaker said there could be discussions later but there had to be decorum in the House. He repeatedly said that the House had to be in order for a debate

tioned it in their manifesto but Chowdhury's party colhad a hypocritical attitude toleague Mallikarjun Kharge told wards it ... we were unable to Rajya Sabha that everyone "welconvince the farmers during our comes" the repeal Bill, and that discussions". He said the Prime nobody is against it. But, he said, Minister"demonstrated historic it took the government a year magnanimity," and announced and three months to take back the repeal of the laws on Guru the three "black" laws. Nanak Dev Jayanti. "This shows unity in the Prime Minister's

Kharge said when the three farm Bills were brought to Parliament for discussion, "all members, whether from Lower or Upper House, NGOs and farmer unions, protested.. they

countries in Africa.

pared to other variants.

tainties" in information about

Omicron, but preliminary re-

ports suggest a potential for "in-

creased risk" from this variant.

confer immune-escape potential

and possibly transmissibility ad-

vantage, the likelihood of poten-

tial further spread of Omicron at

the global level is high ... The over-

all global risk related to the new

VoC (variant of concern)

Omicron is assessed as very

Covid19 takes place driven by

Omicron, consequences may be

severe. Increasing cases, regard-

less of a change in severity, may

pose overwhelming demands on

healthcare systems and may lead

to increased morbidity and mor-

tality," it said. The WHO, how-

ever, also noted that no Omicron-

related death had been reported

MPs suspended

each from CPI and CPM: Phulo

Nasir Hussain and Akhilesh

Prasad Singh of Congress; Dola

Sen, Shanta Chhetri of Trinamool

Amendment Bill, 2021.

anywhere.

... If another major surge of

high," the WHO said.

"Given mutations that may

is ready and the Opposition has been demanding. Therefore, Boycott session or take fight to Govt? Opp decides today The Congress, sources said, of the suspended members. did not reveal its mind immedi-TMC neither attended the

ately. Some Congress leaders morning meeting of Opposition leaders convened by Kharge nor said boycotting the session would be an extreme response. the one after the suspension of the 12 MPs though two among "The government then will have a free run. We cannot va-

them are from the party. ENS adds: Earlier in the day, cate the space. We have to negotiate and arrive at a tactical Venkaiah Naidu referred to the truce," a Congress leader said. incident of the last session. In his Sources said one proposal is opening address, he said "bitter for members to meet the and unpleasant experiences" of

the conduct of some members during the final two days of the last turbulent session," he said, adding that he had tried to reach out to leaders of various parties.

"Some of them made it clear that their members would not be a party to any such inquiry. Some leaders, however, expressed concern over the way the functioning of the House was derailed during the last ses-

lead in expressing their outrage over what had happened during the last session with assurances of introspection and spirited efforts to prevent recurrence of such incidents. Such assurances by all concerned would have helped me in appropriately handling the matter. But unfortunately, it was not to be," he said, referring to unruly scenes in the

draw the farm laws, and today

these laws were repealed. It is

unfortunate that the farm laws

were repealed without discus-

sion. This government is scared

of holding a discussion," he said.

its protests in the afternoon in

Lok Sabha while Rajya Sabha de-

scended into chaos after a mo-

Opposition MPs over their be-

haviour during the monsoon

two Houses met, PM Modi said

the government was ready to

discuss all issues in the House

Discussions, and not disrup-

tions, should be the yardstick on

which the success of Parliament

answer all questions during the

winter session of Parliament,"

he said. Stating that the dignity

of the House and the Chair must

be maintained. Modi said: "We

should debate in Parliament

and maintain the decorum of

the proceedings. "Sawal bhi,

shanti bhi (ask questions, main-

of this august House to take the

tain order)," he said.

"Our government is ready to

must be weighed, he said.

Earlier in the day, before the

session.

tion was moved to suspend 12

The Opposition intensified

Certificate; Passport Seva Kendra in rural and semi-urban areas; Salary cuts and non-payment of wages from the countries abroad; Second India-New Zealand Bilateral Cyber Dialogue; Membership in Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG); Visits of foreign dignitaries and Human rights violations against Tamils in Sri Lanka.

The final admitted list for the Rajya Sabha cleared on Monday for December 2 comprises all questions approved in the tentative list except Venugopal's question, which was missing in the tentative list too.

A questionnaire sent to the MEA spokesperson remained unanswered. When called, the spokesperson at the Rajya Sabha Secretariat declined a comment.

The admissibility of questions in Rajya Sabha is governed by Rules 47-50 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States. Ordinarily, once a question which fulfils the conditions of admissibility is received, it is sent to the ministry concerned. On receipt of the facts in response to the reference made by the Secretariat, the question is further examined. Admitting or disallowing auestions is the sole discretion of the Chairman. The printed

lists of questions, circulated to Ministers, are the final lists on the basis of which Ministries frame their answers. A senior official, who did not

wish to be named, said, "The question concerned has likely been disallowed as it is not mentioned anywhere in the finally admitted questions for its scheduled date. There are many provisions under the Rajya Sabha rules that can remove a question." The Rajya Sabha lists 22 conditions of admissibility.

"It is informed that ill health and other ailments precluded him from remaining physically present this commission. Based on protection extended by Hon'ble Supreme Court by order dated 22nd November 2021, Singh has cause to ensure his presence before the commission," read an order passed by the judge.

The bailable warrant was cancelled and Singh was fined Rs 15,000. He was instructed to deposit the money in the chief minister's relief fund within a week.

Singh reached the Old Secretariat Building Annex in Fort at 10.30 am. The commission sits on the second floor. The office of the Homeguards is situated on the first floor of the same building. Singh, who holds charge of Director General Homeguard, first went to his office and spent about half an hour there. He then appeared before the commission at about 11.05 am. His lawyer filed an application for cancellation of the bailable warrant against him. Singh had to file an affidavit for the cancellation.

Meanwhile, Waze had also been brought to the building and marked his presence before the commission. but he was not scheduled to depose or be cross-examined today.

The meeting between him and Singh is alleged to have taken place in the room next door to where the commission holds its hearings. Their meeting allegedly went on for some time while Waze's four police escorts stood outside the room. Following the alleged meet-

ing, at around 12.05 pm, Singh and his lawyers returned to the commission and filed an affidavit in which Singh reiterated that he had nothing more to add or depose before it. When Deshmukh's lawyer flagged the "secret meeting" tion in Rajya Sabha which asked between Singh and Waze, the judge instructed Waze to if the government had entered into a contract with Israeli cyberhenceforth sit in the same room security firm NSO Group. as the commission. The government had then The public prosecutor, said that "the ongoing issue of Shishir Hiray, said, "There was no permission granted by the Pegasus" was sub judice after several PILs have been filed in judge for any meeting with a the Supreme Court". It had then jail inmate." Singh's lawyer did not reply written to the Rajya Sabha to calls and messages from The Secretariat seeking that the Indian Express. Admitted Question" by CPI MP Binoy Mumbai Zone 1 Deputy Viswam scheduled to be an-Commissioner of Police Hari swered on August 12, 2021, in the Balaji said, "We had appointed Rajya Sabha, be not allowed. an assistant commissioner of The letter said. "It would be police to conduct the inquiry. noted that Part (a) to (c) of PAQ However, later the decision to seeks to know about the ongotransfer the inquiry to the Navi ing issue of Pegasus owned by Mumbai police commissioner NSO Group. On this issue, several was taken as the four police-PILs have been filed in the men are posted in that jurisdiction.' Citing Rule 47 (xix) of the Senior Mumbai Police officials said that statements of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Council of States (Rajya Sabha), four escort policemen would be recorded, after which a report dealing with admissibility of on the incident would be questions, the letter said, an admitted question "shall not ask for handed over to the Navi information on matter which is Mumbai police commissionerunder adjudication by a court of ate for further disciplinary aclaw having jurisdiction in any tion.

chairman. Shah's son, Jay Shah, is the current BCCI secretary.

"On the lines of Narendrabhai's concept of motivating players through Khel Mahakumbh, Amitbhai has got this organised... By Wednesday, we should be able to get the first registered teams," said Jitubhai Patel, the Ahmedabad city unit BJP general secretary.

Kiwis save Test

Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid, took to the game.

Ajaz was born in Mumbai and shifted to Auckland when he was eight with his father Yunus, who was then a refrigerator mechanic. Upon his aunt's insistence, he was enrolled in a local club, where former New Zealand spinner Dipak Patel spotted him.

Destiny brought Rachin and Ajaz together. It's unsure how their career would progress from here, but they have collected memories of a lifetime during those 52 balls.

There was more drama and outpouring of emotion in the last 10 minutes than in the entire match -- appeals, reviews, chats, umpires flipping the light-meter, deafening chants from the stands, chirping fielders, edges falling short, pitch playing tricks, and the ball seldom kicking up thigh-high. From hope to dejection, desperation to agony, the stadium swung. In the mix of all, New Zealand's last-wicket pair remained unflustered.

On the sixth ball of the 96th over, Ravi Ashwin rapped Ajaz on his pads. The umpire remained unmoved. Skipper Ajinkya Rahane reviewed. The crowd held their breath. The replays showed no bat, much to their joy, but Hawkeye showed the ball had pitched just outside legstump. Ajaz heaved a sigh of relief, Rachin wrapped his arms around him.

Rahane chewed his lips, Ashwin frowned. Half an inch into the stumps, and he would have been wheeling away in celebration. Ravindra Jadeja, though, exuded serenity. Only

Omicron news transmissible when compared to Delta, the predominant variant in India. "Based on the exchange,

we also know that very low hospitalisation is linked to the variant so far." sources said. Significantly, the South

African experts have informed that Omicron has not resulted in any deaths, as of now. "So far, it only manifests as a mild disease with extreme fatigue and throat irritation being the predominant symptom," sources said.

The South Africans also highlighted that patients are not experiencing loss of sense, smell and taste, or drop in oxygen levels as reported in the Delta variant. "At this point, we are not panicking ... But if anything untoward happens, they will share with us," sources said

In Delhi, meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement that India expresses "solidarity with the countries, particularly in Africa". It said that the Government "stands ready to support the countries affected... in dealing with the Omicron variant, including by supplies of Made-in-India vaccines".

"Supplies can be undertaken through Covax or bilaterally. In this regard, the Government has cleared all orders placed so far by Covax for supplies of Covishield vaccines, including to African countries like Malawi, Ethiopia, Zambia, Mozambique, Guinea and Lesotho. We have also cleared supplies of Covaxin to Botswana," the MEA said.

"Any new requirement projected either bilaterally or through Covax will be considered expeditiously," it said.

The Government also said that it is ready to supply life-saving drugs, test kits, gloves, PPE kits and medical equipment, such as ventilators.

Chairman in his chamber and the monsoon session "still conexpress regret so that suspentinue to haunt most of us".

sion can be revoked. But this has "The treasury benches been strongly opposed by some wanted a detailed inquiry into

Congress; Priyanka Chaturvedi, India has, so far, supplied more than 25 million doses of Anil Desai of Shiv Sena; Made-in-India vaccines to 41 Elamaram Kareem of CPM; and, Binov Viswam of CPL

On Sunday, the WHO had The motion, moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister said that it is not yet clear Pralhad Joshi, was passed by whether infection with Omicron causes more severe disease comvoice vote. Calling it "undemocratic" and "unprecedented", the Later, in a new technical brief Opposition said their floor leadcirculated to countries, it said ers will hold a joint meeting Tuesday to discuss the issue. there were "considerable uncer-

The members were suspended for the rest of the winter session under Rule 256 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha. The rule has been used 13 times in the past to suspend 26 members (some multiple times) since 1962. Membership of two Parliamentarians was terminated under the rule in 2010.

Reading the motion, Joshi said "this House takes cognizance and strongly condemns the utter disregard to the authority of the Chair, complete abuse of the rules of the House persistently, thereby wilfully obstructing the business of the House through their unprecedented acts of misconduct, contemptuous, unruly and violent behaviour and intentional attacks on security personnel on the last day of the 254th session".

Responding to the suspen-(WITH ENS/PUNE) sion, 14 Opposition parties issued a joint statement which was not signed by Trinamool stormed the Well during the pas-Congress, to whom two of the sage of the General Insurance suspended members belong. Business (Nationalisation) "The motion moved by the Government... is unprecedented The suspended members and violates the Rules of comprise six from the Congress, Procedure and Conduct of two each from Trinamool Business of the Council of States Congress and Shiv Sena, and one (Rajya Sabha)," it said.

Asked why his party was not Devi Netam, Chhaya Verma, a signatory to the joint state-Ripun Bora, Rajamani Patel, Syed ment, Sukhendu Shekhar Roy of Trinamool Congress said: "Neither did they consult us before issuing the statement, nor

sion and condemned the unruly incidents." Naidu said.

"On my part, I was expecting and waiting for the leading lights

did we reach out to them." His colleague Dola Sen, who

was suspended earlier in September 2020 for behaviour during the passage of farm laws, said the government will not be able to "silence dissenting voices". "This is complete lawlessness," she said.

Shanta Chhetri said: "While we were protesting that day, I felt unwell, and was rushed to hospital... Even the motion to suspend us was brought without any consultation. This is our punishment for raising issues that affect the masses, be it farm Bills or Pegasus."

Shiv Sena's Privanka Chaturvedi said: "Even criminals are allowed to give their versions... If speaking for the people is unruly... I am willing to do it a thousand times over"

While Akhilesh Prasad Singh of Congress called the suspension "unfortunate and undemocratic", his party colleague Syed Nasir Hussain said "the government is throttling the voices of dissent in Parliament".

nothing but political vindictiveness. It is murder of democracy... price for this in 2024," he said.

Patel said: "If they had to suspend us... they should have done it in the last session. How can you suspend an MP for something which happened in the previous session?"

Verma said: "Some of the members who climbed onto the table and tore files were not suspended... They did not even give us a chance to speak.

Viswam said: "If the government believes that such a suspension will deter us from continuing to raise people's issues, it is going to be disappointed." Kareem said the action has

no justification. "There is no precedent or practice of taking

House on August 11 during the passage of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill

action against a member for something which had happened in the previous session.'

A question External Affairs be pleased to

state A)Whether it is a fact that a number of NRIs based outside India were harassed at the airports and even sent back from Airports; B) If so the details thereof in the last three years: C) Whether it is a fact that some of them were asked to stop helping farmers agitation against the three farm laws by the authorities; D) if so the details thereof?"

The questions were to be answered by the MEA on Monday. the day the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021, was tabled and passed by both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha without a debate.

The sources said mails were sent on November 23 to the divisions concerne in the MEA to seek inputs on the provisionally admitted questions including Venugopal's by November 29. Venugopal's questions, however, did not find mention in the tentative list of Finally Admitted Questions (FAQs) cleared by the ministry on November 26.

Venugopal told The Indian Express, "Earlier they used to give a clear reason for dropping a question but this time they only conveyed it orally. Another question of mine on the Jallianwala Bagh renovation was also dropped." Pointing out that it was the right of a member to ask a question, he said, "It is not 'antinational'... This is a clear cut dictatorial way of functioning."

The tentative list of questions for December 2 included finally admitted questions on the following topics: Easing traveling restrictions; Augmenting relationships with Taiwan; Hindi as one of the official languages in the UN; India-Afghanistan relations; Reciprocal Vaccine

During the monsoon session of Parliament, the government had moved to disallow a gues-

"Provisionally

Supreme Court.'

part of India".

'Secret meeting'

in Fort, where the proceedings

of the commission are under

way, and who allowed the al-

Mumbai police commissioner

presented himself before the

commission. The Chandiwal

Commission was appointed by

the government to probe

Singh's allegations of corrup-

Maharashtra home minister

Anil Deshmukh. It had issued a

bailable warrant against him on

September 7 after he failed to

appear before it. After Singh's

resurfacing last week, his

lawyers filed an application be-

fore the commission seeking

cancellation of the bailable

warrant, which the commis-

sion granted on Monday.

formei

against

tion

Earlier in the day, the former

leged meeting to take place.

Mumbai Police Navi Commissioner Bipin Kumar Singh said he was unaware of the incident. He said, "We are yet to receive any official communication from Mumbai Police. As soon as we do, we will set up an inquiry and on the basis of its findings we will take

action against them." Maharashtra Congress committee general secretary Atul Londhe demanded a high-level inquiry into the incident.

After appearing before the commission in the first half of the day, Singh went to the state CID office at Belapur in Navi Mumbai around 3.30 pm. They are investigating three FIRs registered against him. After questioning, Singh was allowed to leave by 8.30 pm.

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

Bora said: "The suspension is They will have to pay a heavy

Moderate rain forecast in city till December 2

3

SANJANA BHALERAO MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

THE WINTER chill is likely to be further delayed in Maharashtra, as the weather bureau has forecast a wet spell over parts of the Konkan and Madhya Maharashtra region for the next three days.

Northern parts of Konkan i.e., Mumbai, Thane and Palghar and areas in Madhya Maharashtra are bracing for some moderate rain along with thunderstorms till December 2, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The Met department has issued a "yellow" alert for November 30-December 2 indicating thunderstorms with lightning, light to moderate rain and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) at isolated places over Palghar, Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Aurangabad, Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Nashik, Ahmednagar, Pune and Satara districts.

The three-day rain spell over the state in the winter season is under the influence of a fresh western disturbance approaching north India. "A low pressure area is likely to form over the east-central Arabian sea off Maharashtra coast around December 1. This system is very likely to interact with an approaching western disturbance, resulting in wet spell over parts of Maharashtra," said IMD.

The associated strong winds and presence of moisture will cause thunderstorms and rain over north Madhya Maharashtra and Konkan regions till December 2.

As per the seven-day forecast for Mumbai, after thunderstorms and moderate rain till December 2, a partly cloudy sky can be witnessed till the end of this week. During this period, the minimum temperatures will stay above normal and high relative humidity will increase the heat index in the city.

On Monday, a slight drop in the night temperature was recorded. The minimum temperature recorded in Mumbai during the day was 20 degrees Celsius, a five-degree drop in the past four days. The relative humidity was also low in the city at 41% on Monday morning. Last Thursday, Mumbai's relative humidity stood at 81%.

However, experts said these weather conditions are short-lived and a rise in the temperature will be recorded in the next three days owing to the development of weather systems in the Arabian Sea.

After a marginal spike in the pollution levels last week, the Air Quality Index (AQI) on Monday fell in the "satisfactory" category at 97. For the past two weeks, barring a few days, the AQI has been less than 100, which falls in the satisfactory and good category as per the System of Air Quality Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) classification.

As per the 24 hours forecast issued by SAFAR, AQI of Mumbai is likely to be in the 'moderate' category. An AQI between 101 and 200 is categorised as moderate.



Visit www.hdfc.com **HDFC Home Loans** @ EMI starting **₹646/Lakh*** + Superfast 5 days* loan sanction J HDF HOME LOANS Give us a missed call on apni jagah banao 09289 120 120 Disclaimer: **All loans are at the sole discretion of HDFC Ltd. For detailed terms & conditions visit www.hdfc.com CIN: L70100MH1977PLC019916. **NETWORK** HDFC2844-21 INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY Powai, Mumbai-400 076 ADVT No.H-6/21-22 Dean (IPS), on behalf of Director, IIT (B) invites Tender (percentage rate bid) for "Construction of New Annexe to HSS Building (Basement +Ground + 6 floors) including all Finishing, Fire fighting, MEP and Development works for Indian Institute of Technology Bombay" Powai, Mumbai - 400076 For details refer <u>https://www.iitb.ac.in/deanpl/tender.html</u> ast date of submission is 30.12.2021 up to 15:00 hrs IITB/DEAN (IPS)/CACI/HSS/Tender/01 dt: 30.11.2021 Dean (IPS) Chetana's Institute Code: MB3102 **Ramprasad Khandelwal Institute of Management & Research** INSTITUTE LEVEL SEATS / VACANT SEATS AFTER CAP MMS ADMISSION 2021-2022 Applications are invited fr Applications are invited from the engine candidates for Master of Management Studies (MMS) Course of University of Mumbai to fill up "Institute Level Seats & vacant seats after CAP Round". Candidates can fill-up the application either online or offline Sanctioned Intake Institute Seats Vacant Seats After CAP Rounds Application format is available at the Institute office between 11:00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m. (Lunch time 01:30 p.m. to 02:00 p.m.) e Application format is available on the Institute website www.crl From 30th November, 2021 to 10th December, 2021 The last date for submitting duly filled in application with a copy of Final Merit Status for Admission to Institute Level Seats / Vacant Seat First Year MMS Course is **10th December**, **2021** by **04:00 p.m.** Vacant Seats, if any, after CAP Round will be displayed on Institute's Notice Board. Eligibility criteria as provided in rule 13 of State Common Entrance Test Cell Government of Maharashtra, Information Brochure for the A. Y. 2021-2022.



ocial initiative b

RELIANCE

ाकसान सम्मान प्रदेश की शान





सोच ईमावद्रि, टाम दमदर

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 4 THE CITY

EYE ON OMICRON

BMC takes steps to ramp up Covid care facilities, keep them ready

which only 952 are occupied.

Apart from this, over 19,000

beds have been reserved in CCC2

(Covid Care Center) for asympto-

matic or mild symptomatic pa-

tients and CCC1 (Covid Care

Center) for high-risk contacts of

positive patients.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI. NOVEMBER 29

WITH CONCERNS rising on Covid-19 variant Omicron, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will ramp up its Covid care facilities. The civic body has instructed the dean of all jumbo centres and ward officers to keep the facilities ready so that in case of need they can be activated within a day.

"We have instructed all our deans and ward officers to keep these facilities ready. In case of need, they can be made ready within one day," said Suresh Kakani, Additional Municipal Commissioner (Health).

On Monday, State Tourism Minister Aaditya Thackeray held a review meeting on Covid readiness and the new strain. During the meeting, discussions were

Beneficiaries get inoculated at a vaccination centre in Navi Mumbai on Monday. Amit Chakravarty

held on vaccinations, treatment and guarantine facilities that have

been deactivated temporarily since there are very few patients. According to data from the BMC's Covid-19 dashboard, there are 16,939 beds for treatment of asymptomatic Covid patients of

of now, most of the private hospitals have at least one ward for treatment of Covid patients. The facilities can be ramped in case of need. We have enough beds and oxygen for treatment," said Dr Gautam Bhansali from Bombay Hospital, also a coordinator of the private hospitals. In Mumbai, 115 fresh cases and 4 deaths were reported on Monday. Amid the scare of new

In the meeting, private hos-

pitals have also been informed

regarding the preparedness. "As

variant, the BMC has also decided to increase vaccination in the city. So far, 100 per cent of the population have got their first dose of vaccine while 72 per cent got both doses.

The civic body has decided to collect details of vaccination from private and public establishments. If majority of employees in any establishments found unvaccinated

0.02% recovered Covid-19

Mumbai, BMC data shows

then it will organise a special campaign to vaccinate them. Currently, no cases of Omicron

have been detected in Mumbai. "There are no cases of Omicron variant yet in Mumbai. In the last 15 days, we have got data of 466 people from Maharashtra, who have landed at Mumbai airport arriving from countries of concern. Of these, 100 are from Mumbai and none are Covid-19 positive. But we have taken their samples again on Monday and reports will be out by tomorrow or

Wednesday," Kakani said. He added, "In case any samples are positive, we are sending them for genomic sequencing. We have collected 200 samples till Monday and more than 150 samples will be added for genomic sequencing. The next 15 days are going to be crucial and

currently we are on watch mode after taking all precautions."

Superintendent, Taloja jail, to provide home food to Waze for

Special NIA court

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

allows ED to record Waze's statement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

THE SPECIAL NIA court, which is hearing pleas pertaining to Ambani house terror scare case and the subsequent murder of businessman Mansukh Hiren. on Monday allowed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to question dismissed Mumbai police officer Sachin Waze in connection with the money laundering case registered against former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh and others.

The ED had moved the special NIA court in whose custody Waze is. The agency sought to record Waze's statement under Section 50 of PMLA Act and interrogate him in the case.

Special judge AT Wankhede permitted ED to question Waze between December 9 and 11 in Taloja jail in Navi Mumbai where he is currently lodged.

The court also asked the Mumbai. Singh had also alleged political interference in transfers and postings of police officers.

Court extends Deshmukh's judicial custody till December 13

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

A SPECIAL Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court on Monday extended by 14 days the judicial custody for former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh in a money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on allegations that he received bribes from bar owners in the city.

On October 29, the Bombay High Court had rejected Deshmukh's plea seeking quashing of summons by the ED, asking him to appear before it in connection with the money laundering case. The ED arrested Deshmukh on November 2 after questioning him for over 12 hours at its office. After spending 14 days in ED

custody, the special court on November 15 had sent Deshmukh to judicial custody till November 29. On Monday, the special judge extended Deshmukh's judicial custody till December 13 and adjourned the matter for production of the accused on the said date

PASSENGER FROM SAFRICA TESTS POSITIVE KDMC unable to trace taxi driver who drove Dombvli resident

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

SIX DAYS after a 32-year-old Dombvli resident with international travel history from South Africa tested Covid-19 positive upon arrival in Mumbai via Delhi on November 24, the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC) is unable to track the taxi driver, who drove the man from Mumbai airport to Dombvli.

"I tried contacting him but he is not answering calls. Now, I have sent the details to the state health department. As the person doesn't reside in KDMC jurisdiction, the department might ask Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to trace the driver," said Pratibha Panpatil,

Chief Medical Officer of KDMC. The patient tested negative in an RT-PCR test conducted 72 hours prior to his connecting fliơh



The man is currently in quarantine in a KDMC-run facility. Deepak Joshi

Dombvli resident's close contacts including his parents. Their reports were negative. "We have sent his samples for genome sequencing to Kasturba hospital. We are hoping to get the report within a week," said Panpatil. Though health officials are

yet to ascertain if he is infected with the Omicron variant of Covid-19, doctors urged Mumbai airport to be more cautious. They also demanded more restrictions on interna tional and domestic travellers. "Firstly, the infected patient should have taken an ambulance to reach home if he wanted to be home guarantined. Secondly, Mumbai airport needs to be more vigilant and learn from past experiences...," said Dr Avinash Bhondwe, former president of Indian Medical Association (IMA), Maharashtra. As per the new directive, Mumbai airport will have to run RT-PCR on international passengers coming from six 'countries of concern' of South Africa. Botswana, Eswatini (Swaziland), Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Until their reports come negative, they will have to wait at the airport. Once a passenger is identified as Covid-19 positive, he/she will be directly institutional quarantined at the Byculla jumbo centre. "We will keep buses at the airport to take the positive patients directly to the centre. Also, their samples will be sent for

RUPSACHAKRABORTY

patients reinfected in

ONE OUT of 5,885 -- or 0.02% -- recovered Covid-19 patients were reinfected in Mumbai, data analysed by the BMC has shown.

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

Of the 7.41 lakh Covid patients who were surveyed by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) from the start of the pandemic till November 1, 126 patients were found to have been reinfected

with Covid-19 after recovery. In general, reinfection means a person was infected with novel coronavirus once, recovered, and later became infected again due to exposure to a different or similar strain of Covid-19.

"There is a rising fear among people of getting reinfected with variants of novel coronavirus. We are getting several requests from ŀ s to allow booste shots for healthcare workers. But on the ground, data shows that such cases of reinfection are minimal." said Suresh Kakani. Additional Commissioner, BMC. Mumbai recorded the most reinfection cases in the second wave due to higher infection rate of Delta variants. Data accessed by The Indian Express show that 82% of the reinfected patients didnlt have any comorbidities. Of the remaining 23 patients, 12 had diabetes and 11 had hypertension. Out of the 24 wards in Mumbai, only four wards -- A (Fort), E(Byculla)FS(Parel) and PS (Goregaon West)--recorded zero cases of reinfection. However, in K-West (Andheri West), 40 of the recovered patients recontracted Covid-19--the highest in Mumbai. This is followed by M-West (Chembur) with 15 reinfection cases. Then comes T (Mulund) ward where 14 patients contracted Covid-19 more than once. study-SARS-CoV-2 The Immunity and Reinfection Evaluation (SIREN) -- concluded that immune responses from past infection reduce the risk of catching the virus again by 83% for at least

WARDS WITH HIGHEST **REINFECTION CASES**

Wards **K-West** 40 **M-West** 15 14 D 13 **F-North** 11

five months. But the researchers also found that people who become reinfected can carry high levels of the virus in their nose and throat, which increases the chances of transmitting the virus to others.

"Epidemiologically, haven't witnessed a significant difference in the reinfected population. But unvaccinated, singlercinated or immuno promised patients suffered severe symptoms of reinfections," said Dr Hemlata Arora, senior consultant, infectious diseases and internal medicine, Nanavati Hospital.

BMC struggles to run genome

Mumbai: Even as scientists across the world are laying emphasis on conducting more genome sequencing for early identification of variants, the genome sequencing at civic-run Kasturba Gandhi Hospital is lagging behind due to inadequate samples to run the tests. The Rs 6-crore genome sequencing machines require at least 350 samples to run one cycle of testing. "We know that genome sequencing is the need of the hour. So, to meet sample requirements, we have decided to conduct genome

Wankhede's father gives his consent, HC quashes order refusing injunction against Malik

The Bombay High

application in the

defamation suit.

the Wankhede family.

judge bench order.

On Friday, Malik's lawyers

had presented draft terms before

the division bench of the HC led

by Justice S J Kathawalla, which

has been hearing an appeal filed

by Wankhede against the single-

Court will now re-hear

Wankhede's interim

Sachin

one month from Monday fol-

lowing all security measures. It

added that in case of any med-

ical emergency, as per

September 29 order, the accused

be immediately referred to the

concerned hospital attached to

Taloja jail and even state-run JJ

missioner Param Bir Singh,

through his March 20 letter to

Thackeray, had alleged that

the then home minister

Sachin Waze to collect

Rs 100 crore every month, in-

cluding Rs 40-50 crore from

1,750 bars and restaurants in

had

Former Mumbai police com-

Uddhav

asked

Hospital, Mumbai.

Chief Minister

Deshmukh

Waze. File

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

DHYANDEV WANKHEDE, father of NCB zonal director Sameer Wankhede, on Monday gave his consent to the proposed draft terms given by Maharashtra cabinet minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik to quash a singlejudge order, which had refused to grant interim relief to Wankhede in a defamation suit.

The Bombay High Court will now re-hear Wankhede's interim application in the defamation suit.

Malik has said that pending the hearing of Wankhede's interim plea, he would not make public comments on any medium against the latter or his family.

On November 22, a singlejudge bench of Justice Madhav J amdar had refused to grant

made by him before the division bench on Thursday about public comments on the Wankhede family can continue till the pendency of the re-hearing before

the single-judge bench. He also said that the rehearing should not be influenced by the previous order of November 22

However, senior advocate Birendra Saraf for Wankhede on Friday had opposed a clause in Malik's proposed consent terms related to the quashing of order, stating that while the said 50page order had refused to grant relief to his client, it made stern observations of malice against

The cabinet minister's Malik's tweets. lawyer, advocate Karl Tamboly, presented the proposed draft While Saraf had sought time terms before the division bench, to get instructions from his client wherein he said that the singleon proposed terms, he said that judge bench order can be he would want to sort this issue quashed and the interim applionce and for all. ation by Wankhede ca

On Monday Wanl



Mumbai. "He had got an RT-CPR test in Cape Town before travelling to Mumbai via Delhi. But the report was negative for SARS-CoV-2. Upon landing in Delhi airport, when another RT-PCR test was conducted, he was found positive. There is a possibility that his previous report was false negative," said Panpatil.

Despite running a test on him at Delhi airport, the authorities allowed him to fly to Mumbai without waiting for the report. When he landed in Mumbai, he received his digital test report in his email which confirmed that he was carrying the pathogen of Covid-19. But while getting out of the airport, he showed his earlier negative test report to screening officers. Then he took a private cab and travelled for 50 km to his home in Dombvli, exposing the taxi driver and nearby passersby.

In a similar incident last year, the first three identified Covid-19 infected patients in Maharashtra infected a taxi driver, who drove them from Mumbai to Pune on March 1, 2020, upon their arrival from Dubai.

KDMC has tested eight of the

genome sequencing to Kasturba Gandhi Hospital," said Dr Ramesh Bharmal, director of maior civic-run hospitals.

'Underreporting a possibility'

Doctors highlighted that the reinfection figure may not provide the real picture as many reinfected patients remain asymptomatic and unreported.

"There is a paucity of broad testing and surveillance and hence we do not know the actual rate of reinfection, and this is all the more amplified as there may be an even bigger pool of asymptomatic undetected reinfections...," Dr Sanjith Saseedharan, Consultant and Head Critical Care, SL Raheia Hospital, Mahim.

Healthcare workers on duty -due to higher exposure in environments where there are more cases of Covid-19--are more prone to reinfection by the virus. Data shared by Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors show that 60 resident doctors were reinfected with Covid-19 in the last two months. A series of Right to

why the college administrators responded like this, but we have Information (RTI) filed by The the data." he said.

international passengers, reinfected patients and boost sample collection from hotspots," said Suresh Kakani, Additional Commissioner, BMC. ENS

Indian Express shows that civic-

run medical colleges don't have

any data of reinfection among its

students. In response to an RTL

King Edward Memorial (KEM)

Parel -- the biggest civic-run hos-

pital -- replied on October 21, "For

re-infection genomic sampling

testing needs to be done. As our

hospital doesn't have genomic

testing and all samples of health-

care workers cannot be subjected

to genomic sampling, hence this

Sion Hospital in an RTI re-

Dr Ramesh Bharmal, director

sponse on November 12 stated

that they don't maintain the data.

of major civic-run hospitals, said

that medical colleges have sent

samples of medical students for

genome sequencing to Kasturba

Gandhi Hospital. "I don't know

data cannot be provided.'

sequencing on all Covid

blanket injunction to restrain the NCP leader but directed him to conduct "reasonable verification" of facts before posting any material on social media or speaking with the media against

heard

Malik further sought that he be permitted to file a comprehensive affidavit in reply to Wankhede's plea. He added that, if agreed upon, the statement lawyer told the bench that he had consented to the NCP leader's draft terms and had no objection to it, after which the HC consensually guashed and set aside the single bench order.

Cruise ship raid: Malik gets bail in criminal defamation case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

A MAGISTRATE court here on Monday granted bail to cabinet minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik in connection with a criminal defamation complaint filed against him by former Mumbai BJP youth wing president Mohit Bharatiya (Kamboj).

On October 9, in a press conference, Malik had claimed that Rishab Sachdev, brother-in-law of Bharatiya, along with two others were present in a Mumbai cruise party and were let off by the NCB.

Bhartiva had alleged that Malik, in a press conference on the NCB raid on Cordelia cruise ship and arrest of several persons including actor Shah Rukh Khan's statements, Bhartiya filed a



son Aryan Khan, had "purpose-

fully and intentionally defamed

sued a legal notice to Malik ask-

ing him to cease and desist from

making any further statements,

but the NCP leader continued to

make allegations. On October 11,

a second legal notice was sent to

Malik to prove whatever was

stated by him or cease from

As Malik did not stop making

making such claims.

Bhartiya had on October 9 is-

him and his brother-in-law".

defamation complaint before the magistrate, the lawyer said. The court on November 8 issued a notice in the complaint and directed Malik to remain

present before it. The magistrate had noted that prima facie Malik's statements had caused damage to Bhartiya's reputation and offence under section 500 (defamation) of IPC was made out against the NCP leader.

Malik appeared before the magistrate on Monday and prayed for bail, stating that offences levelled against him are bailable. The court said that the accused is released on surety of Rs 15,000.

The magistrate will further hear the defamation plea on December 30.

Record visitors at Byculla zoo, entry closed at 4 pm

SANJANA BHALERAO MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

A RECORD 16,503 people visited Byculla zoo on Sunday, forcing the management to close the entry gates at 4 pm due to Covid-19 concerns. The zoo reopened to the public on November 1 after being shut for eight months due to the pandemic.

The number of visitors on Sunday was higher than prepandemic weekend numbers of nearly 15,000.

The zoo's main attractions --a group of Humboldt penguins and their chicks, tigers and hyenas -- are crowd-pullers. Over the weekend, the zoo recorded a footfall of 26,297. The total revenue collected in the two days

was over 10 lakh

Weekdays are not quiet either with between 5,000 to

Zoo director Sanjay Tripathi said, "Keeping the Covid-19 precautionary measures in mind, we had closed the entry gates of the zoo at 4 pm on Sunday. Generally, the gates are open for visitors till 6 pm. We have also increased the security arrangements and request people to maintain a queue

while visiting the zoo." After more than two months of discussion over the maintenance cost of the Humboldt penguin enclosure at the Byculla Zoo erupted in the BMC, the standing committee meeting on Monday approved the Rs 15

F Keeping Covid-19

precautionary measures in mind, we closed the entry gates of the zoo at 4 pm on Sunday. Generally, the gates are open for

> visitors till 6 pm - SANJAY TRIPATHI ZOO DIRECTOR

crore enclosure maintenance proposal.

The standing committee approved a three-year maintenance contract to M/s Highway Construction for Rs 15.87 crore. M/s Highway Construction is the also current contractor and was

the only bidder to the tender. The existing contract ended on September 30, 2021, and since then the agency maintaining it had been given extensions (for maintenance).

In a letter dated November 29. BIP corporator Vinod Mishra has asked the mayor and the standing committee chairman to withdraw the current maintenance proposal and re-negotiate the cost of one-year additional maintenance of the penguin enclosure by the current contractor. Mishra suggested the staff already available with the zoo should be roped in to take care of the penguins and their enclosure.

Mishra alleged that the contract conditions are rigged to support the existing contractor.

However, a civic official on the condition of anonymity said, "The tender was open for bid but no new contractor came forward. We are left with no choice but to award the work to the agency that has come forward and also meets the qualification."

The penguin enclosure facility is equipped with chillers, CCTV cameras for 24/7 monitoring, veterinarians and animal keepers, engineers for care and management of the penguins and the enclosure. After the zoo welcomed two penguin chicks this year, there are nine flightless birds-Olive(7years), Popeye(6 years), Donald (5.5 years), Daisy (5.5 years), Molt (5 years), Flipper (8 years) and Bubble (5 years), Oreo (6 months) and an unnamed chick.

Gangster arrested for 'masterminding' businessman's murder over gang rivalry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

OFFICIALS FROM Mumbai Crime Branch unit VII recently arrested gangster Amit Bhogle for allegedly masterminding the murder of a small businessman in Bhandup (west) last month.

Bhogle, 37, was part of the Kumar Pillai gang and has multiple cases of murder, attempt to murder and extortion against him. After splitting from the Pillai gang, Bhogle started his own gang in Kanjurmarg-

Bhandup-Mulund-Thane areas where the gang members used threats and muscle power to get construction-related contracts for Bhogle, police said.

Bhogle came out on bail in 2020 after spending six months in jail for firing at a rival gang member in 2019 in Rabale, Navi Mumbai

The Crime Branch arrested Bhogle on November 26 for allegedly masterminding the murder of Suraj Mehra, 26, who ran a small Chinese food hotel in partnership with another person.

On October 4, a gang of four

to five men stopped Mehra and his friend Sridhar Bhor, 20, in Thembipada in Bhandup (west). They attacked them multiple times. Mehra died of stab injuries on his head and stomach while Bhor survived and was made complainant in the case. All accused were arrest then.

The crime branch learnt that Bhogle is involved.

When asked about the motive, an official from crime branch said, "Bhogle believed that Mehra was getting close to people from a rival gang and was seeing him as a threat.'



Winter session of legislature in Mumbai from December 22

VISHWAS WAGHMODE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

THE WINTER session of the Maharashtra legislature will begin on December 22 in Mumbai instead of Nagpur. Only those who are fully vaccinated and have negative RT-PCR test reports will be given entry into the legislature. The decision was taken at a meeting of the **Business Advisory Committee** (BAC) of the state legislature on Monday.

A statement from the government said that the business of the state legislature has been finalised for a week from

December 22 to 28. A BAC meet-Earlier this month, the CM had ing will be held on December 24 wherein the decision will be taken whether to extend the session

According to the decision, RT-PCR tests will have to be done every week. To prevent overcrowding, ministers can be accompanied by only one person each, while entry for private citizens is restricted. Separate arrangements for the legislators' assistants and drivers will be made in the legislature premises. The decision to shift the

venue of the session from Nagpur to Mumbai was taken considering the health of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

undergone spine surgery and is still recovering in the hospital. According to the convention, the winter session of the state legislature is held in Nagpur, the state's second capital. "At present, the CM is under-

going treatment and the doctors have not permitted him to fly for some time. Since the CM wanted to remain present for the session. it was decided to shift the venue to Mumbai for the winter session," Anil Parab, Parliamentary Affairs Minister, told the media after the meeting. Twelve bills. including an appropriation bill, will be tabled in the session, he added.

Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti seats to go up, Bill soon in House

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

THE MAHARASHTRA cabinet on Monday decided to increase the seats in Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samitis and the bill will be introduced in the winter session.

As per the decision, the number of Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti members will now go up from 2,000 to 2,248 and from 4,000 to 4,496 respectively in the state. An increase in one member of Zilla Parishad means two members of the Panchayat Samitis will increase,

said an official. At present, there are a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 75 elected members in the Zilla Parishad. Now a decision has been taken to increase the minimum seats to 55 and the maximum seats to 85 by amending the Maharashtra Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti Act, 1961. The cabinet also decided to

grant a one-year extension for submitting the caste validity certificate of the backward class candidates who will contest the local bodies elections. The decision will be applicable to all local bodies such as Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayat, Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat.

The caste validity certificate is required to be submitted at the time of filing the nomination by the backward class candidates. The decision has been taken as many backward class candidates are facing difficulties in getting the caste validity certificates due to the pandemic, said an official.

An ordinance will be promulgated to give effect to this decision. The state cabinet also asked the administration to fill the vacant seats of the caste validity committees so that the process

can be fast-tracked. Meanwhile, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Monday signed the file to promulgate an ordinance to increase the 9 corporator seats taking the total numbers from 227 to 236 in Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. The cabinet had taken the decision on November 10 and the government sent a file to the Governor on November 16. The delay in signing the file by the Governor had led to the speculation that BMC polls could be deferred. With the Governor's approval, the elections for 236 seats

of BMC are likely to be held early

next year.

AHEAD OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS **Nagpur BJP sends** corporators to other party-ruled states

VIVEK DESHPANDE NAGPUR, NOVEMBER 29

WITH LEGISLATIVE Council elections to two seats less than two weeks away, Nagpur BJP has sent off most of its corporators along with councillors from municipal councils in the district as well as Zila Parishad members to BJPruled states, in an apparent attempt to prevent possible splitting of votes.

Overall, 350 persons affiliated with the BJP, including family members of some of the representatives, have gone outside Maharashtra, say party sources.

Election to Legislative Council seats of Buldana-Akola and Nagpur will take place on December 10.

"Many of the corporators have been sent to Goa while some others have chosen to go to Nainital. Women corporators have preferred to visit Vaishno Devi," said BJP spokesman Chandar Goswami

The corporators left the city in several groups through the day on Monday. "Some preferred to stay back as they have some work to be completed," Goswami added. Political observers say that

while it is a common practice for Opposition parties to take its Parliamentarians, MLAs and corporators to "secure destinations" to prevent any poaching, it is rare

Former mayor Pravin Datke said, "An atmosphere of confusion has been sought to be created by the Opposition... So, we have decided to send them away."

for a ruling party with such a majority to send away its representatives.

In the December 10 election, BJP's former Kamptee MLA and ex-minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule is pitted against Ravindra 'Chotu' Bhoyar, a longtime RSS swayamsevak, who recently defected to the Congress while accusing the BJP of "ill-treat-

The BJP, currently in its third consecutive term as the ruling party in the Nagpur Municipal Corporation(NMC), has a strength of 107 out of 155 seats in the House. Though the party lost the 70-member Nagpur Zila Parishad to Congress last year, it, along with its alliance partners, still commands about 350 out of total 559 votes to be cast in the December election. It is also aiming to snatch

out of total six seats for unopposed about 50 votes from the election, leaving only Buldana-Akola and Nagpur as the two seats Opposition, sources said. Rest of the 334 votes come from various where actual polling will decide Municipal Councils in the district. the winner on December 10.

Suggestions invited from public for Thane-Borivali tunnel

On Thane side, the

tunnel will come out at

Neelkanth Garden and

then will be linked to

Ghodbunder road and

in Borivali, it will come

neer of MMRDA said, "We have

initiated the proposal from the

State Board of Wildlife and the

draft detailed project report is

completed. On Thane side, the

tunnel will come out at

Neelkanth Garden and then

will be linked to Ghodbunder

road and in Borivali, it will

come out at Magathane de-

He said that no vertical ven-

tilation will be permitted as

perforations will have to be

made in Sanjay Gandhi

National Park and hence only

horizontal ventilation will be

out at Magathane

depot.

pot.

5

YOGESH NAIK MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

MAHARASHTRA

THE THANE Municipal Corporation (TMC) has called for suggestion/objection for giving reservations to the Thane-Borivali tunnel on its development plan.

Asked why the party seemed TMC Commissioner Dr to be feeling insecure despite claiming to be "confident" of win-Vipin Sharma said, "The ning over 400 votes, city BJP pres-Mumbai Metropolitan Region ident and former mayor Pravin Development Authority (MM-Datke said, "An atmosphere of RDA), which is executing the confusion has been sought to be project told us that they need created by the Opposition by space and change of reservaclaiming that some of our corpotion where the tunnel lands in rators have been in touch with Thane. We had got this passed them. So, we have decided to send in our general body and have called suggestion/objections.' The work was first started

by the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) and was later handed over to MMRDA. The six-lane tunnel will be

11.8-km long and will pass under the Sanjay Gandhi National ark (SGNP).

MP Singh, executive engiallowed.

EXPRESSION OF INTREST (EOI) For "Partial Investment, Operations, Effective Management" Of Radio-Diagnostics, Central Lab and Pharmacy For a multispecialty Semi Corporate and teaching Hospital

We invite interested, diagnostics centers, labs, hospitals, firms (legal entity should be company registered under Indian Laws) to contact us for improvisation in operations, effective management of services and increase profitability / revenue by bringing new equipment's / technology management techniques, also by incorporating process management approach, marketing effort for radio- diagnostics, central lab and Pharmacy sections in our 600 bedded hospital at Navi Mumbai.

Upon receiving interest request with detail profile, we shall send scope and response document

Interested parties may send details of organization within seven days from publication of this advertisement by email to : eoiconsultant@gmail.com

Administrator

HC seeks update on proposed cryptocurrency law from Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

THE BOMBAY High Court on Monday directed the Union government to present its update on the cryptocurrency laws that it claimed will be



Regd. Office: 'Suraksha', 170, J. Tata Road, Churchgate, Mumbai-400020 Tel: +91-22-2286 7000 Fax: +91-22-2288 4010 Website: www.gicofindia.com E-mail: investors.gic@gicofindia.com CIN: L67200MH1972GOI016133 IRDAI REG. NO. 112

GIC Re NNIIAI GENERAI MEET

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED CIN-L65910MH1987PLC042961

Registered Office: Akurdi, Pune 411 035

Corporate Office: 4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv Corporate Office, Off Pune-Ahmednagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune 411 014

FIXED DEPOSIT SCHEMES

'FAAA/Stable' rating by CRISIL AND 'MAAA (Stable)' rating by ICRA.

The abovementioned ratings indicate highest degree of safety with regard to timely payment of interest and principal on the instrument.

Rate of Interest per a	nnum valid up to ₹ Minimum	5 Crores per dep	osit (w.e.f. Dec		21) for NRIs, O	Cis and PiOs	G. a) Amount which the Company can raise by way of Deposits as per Non Banking
Tenor in months	deposit (in Rs.)	Cumulative	Monthly	Quarterly	Half Yearly	Annual	Financial Companies Acceptance of Public Deposits (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016: ₹49,257.75 Crore b) The aggregate of deposits actually held as on 31.03.2021: ₹25,803.43 Crore
12 - 23		5.65%	5.51%	5.53%	5.57%	5.65%	H. The aggregate dues from the facilities, both fund and non-fund based, extended to,
24 - 35	25,000	6.40%	6.22%	6.25%	6.30%	6.40%	the companies in the same group or other entities or business ventures in which the Director/Company are holding substantial interest are ₹ 52.55 Crore (Bajaj Housing
36		6.80%	6.60%	6.63%	6.69%	6.80%	Finance Ltd. – ₹ 5.36 Cr, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Ltd. – ₹ 4.51 Cr, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd. – ₹ 34.22 Cr, Bajaj Finserv Direct Ltd. – ₹ 0.25 Cr,
 a) Minimum amount for opening with BFL, is ₹25000/ 	g a Fixed Deposit ("hereinafte	er referred is "Deposit")	NAME	ADDRESS		OCCUPATION	Bajaj Finserv Health Ltd ₹7.70 Cr, Bajaj Auto Ltd ₹0.23 Cr, Hind Musafir Agency Ltd ₹0.07 Cr, Bajaj Electricals Ltd ₹0.02 Cr, Jamnalal Sons Pvt. Ltd ₹0.19 Cr)
 b) For the locations mentioned in Deposit is ₹5000/-(not eligible 		m amount for opening a	Shri Anami Narayan Roy	Khan Road, Worl		Retired Civil Servant	I. The Company has no overdue deposits other than unclaimed deposits. J. The Company declares as under:
 c) Funds will be accepted from NI amount must not represent 	RO (Non-Resident Ordinary) ba		(Independent Director) Shri Pramit Jhaveri (Independent Director)	Mumbai 400030 21C Woodlands F	eddar Road,	Business	 i) The Company has complied with the provisions of the directions applicable to it. ii) The compliance with the directions does not imply that the repayment of Deposits

(Independent Director) Mumbai 400026. d) Individual depositor or primary depositor, falling under special category of Senior citizens (i.e. persons more than 60 years of age, subject to provision of proof of age) will be eligible for Additional interest at the rate upto 0.25% p.a. per Deposit amount arised Financial Position of the Company (standalone) as appearing in F. Sur the two latest audited bala (₹in Crore) 31 March 2021 31 March 2020 Rate of interest for deposits for an amount more than ₹5 Grore per Deposit may vary from the published card rate and will be decided on case to case basis but within the cap on Rate of Interest specified by the Reserve Bank of India. e) Rate of inte ial assets f) Bajaj Finance Ltd("Company") will make repayment of Deposit on the date of maturity of such Deposit unless it receives any request for renewal within the prescribed period before the date of maturity. The payment will be made through NEFT or RTGS and/or account payee cheque (in case of rejection of tra NEFT/RTGS) to the bank account of the depositor mentioned in the application form. g) The depositor(s) should submit a written request for renewal of the Dep-portion thereof) so as to reach to Company atleast 3 (three) business day portion thereof) so as to reach to Company atleast 3 (three) business days maturity date of the Deposit. The written request can be submitted a treares of the Company or sending by post/ courier to the Company or to the inde financial advisors or antional distributors empaneted with the Company. Not for renewal of Deposit shall be accepted post the above-mentioned period. for renewal should be accompanied by the Deposit application form duly filled signed by all the Deposit holders. Renewal of Deposits auplication to the date of renewal Deposit Receipt ("FOR") of the existing deposits may not be required at the renewal of deposits as it stands null 6 void post its maturity date. In case where the depositor(s) has opted for renewal of Deposit through application form, however, wishes to cancel the renewal request, the dep should submit a specific written request so as to reach the Company alleast business days prior to maturity date of the Deposit. The written reques submitted at nearest branch of the Company or sending by post/ courie Company or to the independent financial advisors or national dist mpaneled with the Company. No requests shall be accepted post the Particulars to be furnished as per the Non-Banking Financial Comp Miscellaneous Non-Banking Companies (Advertisement) Rules, 1977 as amend A. Name of the Company: BAJAJ FINANCE LTD. B. Date of Incorporation: 25th March, 1987 C. Profits/Dividends: Profits of the Company before and after making provisions for tax, for the three years immediately preceding the date of the advertisement and the dividends by the Company in respect of the said years. Financial Year Profit (Standalone) ended on Before Tax After Tax 31.03.2019 6,035.30 3,890.34 6,808.13 5,362.88 3955.5 D. Brief particulars of the management of the Company: The Company is managed by the Managing Director, subject to the cor supervision of the Board of Directors. The Managing Director is entrus necessary powers for managing the business and affairs of the Company. E. Names, addresses and occupations of Directors: NAME ADDRESS OCCUPA Bajaj Vihar Colony, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035. Shri Sanjiv Bajaj Shri Raieev Iain D-2, Ivy Glen, Marigold Premises, Kalyani Nagar, Pune 411014. (Managing Director) Bungalow No. 3, Bajaj Vihar Colony, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035. Shri Madhur Bajaj (Non-Executive Director)
 Shri Rajiv Bajaj
 34/35, Yog Koregaon Park, Lane No. 2,

 (Non-Executive Director)
 Pune 411001.
 Inc Shri Dipak Poddar 171, Brij Kutir, Rungta Lane, Off Nepean Inc (Independent Director) Sea Road, Mumbai 400026. Flat No. 21, Mistry Court, 4th Floor, Dinshaw Vachha Road, Opp. CCI Club, Churchgate, Mumbai 400 020. Shri Ranjan Sanghi (Independent Director)

The compliance with the directions does not imply that the repayment of Deposits is guaranteed by the Reserve Bank of India. iii) The deposits accepted by the Company are unsecured and rank pari passu with other unsecured liabilities.

iv) The deposits solicited by the

them away. Asked if sending corporators to distant locations displays panic, Datke said, "There is no panic. We are sure to fetch over 400 votes. This exercise is just a part of our strategy. I think only we have the right to decide what our strategy

should be. No one else can tell us

what we should, or shouldn't, do."

chief Vikas Thakre said, "On

Congress MLA and city party

Notably, the ruling dispensa-

worked out a compromise in four

ment".

record, they are at least 80 votes ahead of us at present and vet they have done this. It shows that they are not sure about winning the election." Asked if the Congress has any chance of winning. Thakre said, "We can't say for sure if we would win but the panic in their camp shows that our chances of closing the gap are bright." tion in the state and the BJP have

tabled	in	the
winter s	essi	on of
the Par	lian	nent
comme	ncin	g on
Novemb	oer 2	9.
771		1

The order was issued by a division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Makarand S Karnik while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking directions to the Union government to enact a regulation on cryptocurrency in the country.

The PIL, filed by a Mumbaibased lawyer, claims that there is an 'imminent threat' of rise in the number of money-laundering cases, illicit trade of drugs and terror financing by trading of cryptocurrency, which the authorities have 'failed to curtail'. The lawyer, Aditya Pratap Kadam, in his petition sought intervention from the courts to formulate appropriate legislation and rules to protect citizen's interest among other decisions. The PIL has named the Union government, the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, RBI and SEBI as parties.

Annual General Meeting:

Notice is hereby given that the 49th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Corporation will be held on Tuesday, 21st December, 2021 at 03.00 p.m. (IST) through Video Conferencing/Other Audio-Visual Means (OAVM) in compliance with the applicable MCA Circulars and provisions of the Companies Act and SEBI to transact the business as set out in the Notice of AGM. The proceeding of the AGM shall be deemed to be conducted at the Registered Office of the Corporation.

Notice of AGM and Annual Report:

The Notice convening the AGM and the Annual Report of the Corporation for the financial year 2020-21 have been emailed on **Monday**, 29th **November 2021** to Members whose registered email IDs are available with Depository Participants (DP)/Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTA). The aforesaid documents can also be accessed on the websites of the Corporation www.gicofindia.com, Stock Exchanges (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and e-voting agency M/s. National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") at www.evoting.nsdl.com.

E-voting through Electronic means:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with other applicable statutory provisions, the Corporation has engaged the services of M/s. National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") for provision of remote e-voting facility as under:

Particulars	Prior to AGM	During AGM	
Commencement of remote e-voting	Thursday, 16 th December, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. (IST)	Tuesday, 21 st December, 2021	
End of remote e-voting	Monday, 20 th December, 2021 at 05.00 P.M. (IST)	Tuesday, 21 st December, 2021 (15 minutes post end of AGM)	
Cut-off date (for eligibility to vote)	Tuesday, 14 th December 2021		
Weblink to access	https://www.evoting.nsdl.com		
E-voting Event Number	EVEN-118865		

Notes:

- 1. A person whose name appears in the Register of Members/Beneficial Owners as on the cut-off date i.e Tuesday, 14th December 2021 only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the Annual General Meeting.
- 2. The Voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to the Equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Corporation, as on 14th December 2021.
- 3. Members who have not registered their email addresses or any person who becomes a Member of the Corporation after dispatch of the Notice of the AGM but before the cut-off date for e-voting i.e. 14th December 2021 can email the request to the Corporation at investors.gic@gicofindia.com by quoting the Folio No./DP-ID Client ID for obtaining copy of the Notice and Annual Report. Such Members are requested to follow the instructions given under the notes in the Notice of AGM to obtain Login id & Password for remote e-voting.
- The Members who have cast their votes by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend/participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their votes again.
- 5. The Members who shall be present in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility and have not cast their votes through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote during the AGM
- 6. Members who are desirous of inspecting the Statutory Registers/Documents forming part of Annual Reports can write to the Corporation on email id: cs.gic@gicofindia.com stating their DP-ID & Client ID or Folio No. upto the date of AGM.
- Members who would like to ask questions during the AGM need to register themselves as a speaker by sending a request from their registered e-mail address mentioning their names, DP ID and Client ID/Folio number, PAN and mobile number at <u>gicagm.speakers@gicofindia.com</u> between **Tuesday**, **14th December 2021 (09:00 a.m. IST) and Thursday**, **16th December 2021 (05:00 p.m. IST)**. Only those Members who have pre-registered themselves as a speaker will be allowed to express their views/ask questions during the AGM. The Corporation reserves the right to restrict the number of speakers depending on the availability of time for the AGM.
- 8. In case of queries, Members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and the E-Voting User Manual for Shareholders available at the download section of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com. Members may also contact the following:
- Toll free no.: 1800-222-990 or 1800-22-44-30 or contact Mr. Amit Vishal / Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, NSDL at the designated email IDs at evoting@nsdl.co.in.

This public notice is also available on the Corporation's website (www.gicofindia.com).

For General Insurance Corporation of India

Place: Mumbai

on the date of wal within the made through of transfer by n the Deposit	Cash and cash equivalents Bank balances other than cash and cash equivalents Derivative financial instruments Trade receivables	1,383.63 2.13 0.00 720.10	674.53 4.83 171.76 867.18	any cori exp	vever, be distinctly unders responsibility for the ectness of any of the st ressed by the Company ar he Company.	financ ateme
e Deposit (or a	Loans Investments Other financial assets	1,13,089.94 20,169.12 487.33	1,13,417.08 20,138.98 349.51	K.The de	posits shall also be subj ation form.	ect to
is days prior to nearest branch e independent ny. No requests	Total financial assets	1,35,852.25	1,35,623.87	the Re	its may be withdrawn prio serve Bank of India in thi it (including death cases) i:	s rega
eriod. Requests	Non-financial assets Current tax assets (net)	155.07	204.57		o 3 months from date of de	
uly filled in and	Deferred tax assets (net)	919.21	847.61		er 3 months but before 6 m	
t to the rate of renewal. Fixed	Property, plant and equipment	972.44 7.07	1,016.16 0.00		er 6 months but before th	
at the time of	Capital work-in-progress Intangible assets under development	43.99	0.00		er than the rate specified	
	Intangible assets	254.76	211.98		e of no rate being specified	
rough Deposit	Other non-financial assets	134.10	99.38		lower than the lowest rate	
ne depositor(s) itleast 3 (three)	Total non-financial assets	2,486.64	2,379.70		usiness carried on by tl 1es or units if any:	ne Co
equest can be	Total assets	1,38,338.89	1,38,003.57		iness carried on by the Cor	nnanv
courier to the	LIABILITIES AND EQUITY					
al distributors ost the above-	Liabilities				viding consumer finance incing, personal loans, l	
	Financial liabilities Derivative financial instruments	137.87			ipment financing, sma	
Companies &	Payables	157.07			astructure financing. The C nednagar, Ajmer, Akola,	
mended.	Trade payables				reli, Amritsar, Anand, A	
	-Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises	0.27	0.30		alkot, Bangalore, Barama	
	and small enterprises -Total outstanding dues of creditors other than	676.62	636.76		andara, Bharuch, Bhai Ibaneshwar, Bhuj, Bidar,	
	micro enterprises and small enterprises	070.02	050.70		cut, Chalisgaon, Chandi	
three financial dends declared	Other payables				olun, Chitradurga, Chitta	
Jellos decidied	-Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises	-			tack, Dabhoi, Dahod, Dav Irwad, Dhule, Dindigul, I	
(₹in Crore)	and small enterprises -Total outstanding dues of creditors other than	191.08	179.46	Gul	berga, Guna, Guntur, Gv	vailor,
Dividend	micro enterprises and small enterprises	171100			hangabad, Hoshiarpur, H ur, Jalandhar, Jalgaon, Ja	
%	Debt securities	43,071.71	41,713.77		npur, Junagadh, Kadi, Kai	
300	Borrowings (other than debt securities) Deposits	27,092.09	36,923.32	Kar	ad, Karaikudi, Karnal, K	aruna
500	Subordinated debts	25,803.43 3,898.61	21,427.10 4,141.75		ndwa, Kharagpur, Kolar, I tayam, Kurnool, Kuruksl	
500	Other financial liabilities	743.65	669.90		durai, Mandya, Mangalore	
	Total financial liabilities	101,615.33	105,692.36	My	sore, Nabha, Nadiad Na	igarco
e control and	Non-financial liabilities				hik, Navsari, Nellore, New , Phagwada, Pimpalgaon,	
entrusted with	Current tax liabilities (net)	172.78	52.10		ahmundry, Rajgurunagar,	
	Provisions	136.56	78.87		lam, Ratnagiri, Rewa, Rol	
	Other non-financial liabilities	475.48	367.03		ore, Shimla, Shimoga, Si uvalla, Tirunelveli, Tirupa	
CUPATION	Total non-financial liabilities	784.82	498.00	Tut	corin, Udaipur, Udipi, U	jjain,
Industrialist	Equity				yawada, Vizag, Vizianag atmal and all other bra	
	Equity share capital	120.32	119.99		w.bajajfinserv.in=> Scroll	
Service	Other equity	35,818.42	31,693.22		nch or by directly clicking h	
Industrialist	Total assets	35,938.74	31,813.21	2. Locatio	ons where minimum depo	sit size
muustiidiist	Total liabilities and equity	1,38,338.89	1,38,003.57	a) Guj	arat – Bujetha, Kahanva,	Khap
	Contingent Liabilities (Standalone)				arma, Darapura, Dungri, Ida, Bhathi Karambeli, Jit	
Industrialist		As at	As at		thri, Karmal, Handod Chok	
	Particulars	31 March 2021	31 March 2020	b) Ma	harashtra - Baragaon Pim	pri, Kh
Industrialist	Disputed claims against the Company not	51.98	44.18	Ód	ha, War, Shaha, Bhatane J	avkhe
Business	acknowledged as debts				di Bk, Raypur, Bhatpure vbhane, Deur Budruk, Pan	
000111000	VAT matters under appeal	4.29	4.39		ss carried on by the subsid	
	ESI matters under appeal	5.14	5.14	S. Busine		iones
Professional	Service tax matters under appeal			No.	Name of subsidiary	
	- On interest subsidy	1,905.44	1,971.65	1	Baiai Housing Finance	Baia

(i) The Financial position of the Company as disclosed and the representations made in the deposit application form are true and correct. The Company and its Board of Directors are responsible for the correctness and veracity thereof. The financial activities of the Company are regulated by Reserve Bank of India acts on the directors however, be distinctly understood that Reserve Bank of India acts on the undertake any responsibility for the financial soundness of the Company or for the nents or the repr or repayment of deposits/ discharge of liabilities to the terms and conditions as per the deposi the date of maturity subject to the regulations of gard. Please note that premature withdrawal of ject to the following condition: it: Withdrawal is not permitted ns: Interest shall not be payable ate of maturity: The rate of interest shall be 2% the period during which the scheme has run. In the deposit period, interest rate payable shall be ered by BFL Company and its subsidiaries with details of ny and its branche any and its branches: anging from vehicle loans, consumer durable n against property, Home Loans, construction business loans, loan against securities and pany is having its Branches at Agra, Ahmedabad, kot, Alappuzha, Allahabad, Ambala, Amravati, fipur, and Ankaleshwar, Asansol, Aurangabad, Jardoli, Bareilly Baroda, Barshi, Belgiaum, Bellay, da, Bhavnagar, Bhilai, Bhiwandi, Bhopal, apur, Bikaner, Bilaspur, Bokten, Bolpur, Borsad, h, Chandrapur, Chennai, Chhindwara, Chikhli, yian, Chopda, Cochin, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, gere, Behradun, Dewas, Dhanabad, Dharapuram,

ere, Dehradun, Dewas, Dhanbad, Dharapuram Japur, Eluru, Erode, Gandhidham, Goa, Gokak , Haldia, Halol, Hassan, Haveri, Himatnaga , Hubli, Hyderabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Jagadhr b) Huding Huding Audit, Jurkey, miningki, Jurkey, miningki, Jurkey, Jurkey, Hubili, Hyderabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Jagadhi, Janmau, Jammag, Jamney, Jamnshedpur, Jaguki, Jammu, Jamagay, Jamney, Kaputhala, Kannur, Karyar, Kathi, Khamgaon, Ihagur, Kolkata, Kolam, Kopergoan, Korba, Kota, Ita, Latur, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Machilipatnam, Irajusa, Margao, Melisana, Moga, Morbi, Mumbai, rucoil, Nagur, Namakkai, Nanded, Nandurba, Jahangur, Rohata, Sang, Manakai, Panda, Kaihu, Rainandangaon, Raipura, Ranaghat, Patnab, Jalachi, Pandicherry Pune, Puttu, Raihur, Raipur, Jiot, Rainandangaon, Raipura, Ranaghat, Ranchi, K, Ropa, Rourkela, Salem, Sangli, Satara, Satara, uri, Siras, Solgany, Surak, Surendanagat, Tenahi, Triupur, Tichur, Tichy, Trivandrum, Tumakuru, in, Vadakara, Valasd, Yapi, Yanasi, Yidisham, Marangal, Wardha, Warud, Washim, ches mentioned in the official website page bottom of the weblage=>contact us=visiti ou: bottom of the webpage=>Contact us=> :://www.bajajfinserv.in/branch-locator Contact us=>Visit our

ize is ₹5000 (not eligible for online investment)

aparwada, Nandarkha, Sunevkalla, Amadpore Javadi, Harangam, Kotambi, Sarvani, Vanskui Umra, Barkal, Bhatlai, Kanyasi, Pardi Zankhari

Kharde, Manjrod, Jatoda, Mehergaon, Somthane, heda, Lamkani, Chinchkhede, Shewade, Gondur, Yarud MH, Dighawe, Vadjai, Indawe, Vinchur,

es of the Compan

ESI matters under appeal	5.14	5.14	5.003116	33 carried on by the subsid	ianes of the company.	
Service tax matters under appeal			Sr. No.	Name of subsidiary	Address of registered office	Activity
- On interest subsidy - On penal interest/ charges - On others	1,905.44 237.25 6.42	1,971.65 223.15 6.22	1.	Bajaj Housing Finance Limited	Bajaj Auto Ltd complex, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035	Housing Finance Business
Income tax matters: - Appeals by the Company - Appeals by the Income tax department	0.00 0.28	0.32	2.	Bajaj Financial Securities Limited	Bajaj Auto Ltd complex, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035	Stock broking and depository participant

The above text of advertisement has been issued on the authority and in the name of the Board of Directors and has been approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on 20 July 2021 and copy of the same signed by Shri Rajeev Jain, Managing Director, v authorized by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on 20 July 2021 and copy of the same signed by Shri Rajeev Jain, Managing Director, v authorized by the Board to sign on it's behalf, has been delivered to the Reserve Bank of India for registration.

	By order of the Board of Directors for Bajaj Finance Limited
Pune 26 November 2021	Rajeev Jain, Managing Director DIN: 01550158

The amount should be deposited only by net-banking, cheques cheques should be payable to 'fajaj Finance Ltd, A/c 00070350006738' and crossed 'Account Payee only'. The cheques should be payable at par and CTS compliant. Application Form along with the necessary remittance should be sent to the Distributors of the Fixed Deposit Schemes of BFL or be submitted at any of the BFL branches. For NEFT/RTGS, please use the following details. Beneficiary Name: Bajaj Finance Ltd, Bank acc no. ZBAJAJFD (numerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code - ZBAJAJFD). Account type: current account, Bank Name: indusind Bank Ltd, FSC: INDB000006, Bank bhanch: Namian Point, Mumbal. For any investment queries or information about our affiliated partner websites, write to us at Wecare@bajajfinserv.in or call us on +918698010101

Dated: 30th November, 2021



(Satheesh Kumar)

Company Secretary





HOW TO INVEST

Shri D J Balaji Rac

(Independent Director)

D-103 Adarsh Residency, 47th Cross,

8th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore 560082.

Dr. Gita Piramal Piramal House, 61, Pochkhanwala Road, (Independent Director) Worli, Mumbai 400025.

Dr. Naushad Forbes 74 Koregaon Park, Lane No. 3, (Independent Director) Pune 411001

6 MAHARASHTRA

Get Varavara examined at Nanavati hospital, submit report: HC to NIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

THE BOMBAY High Court on Monday directed the NIA to take Elgaar Parishad accused Varavara Rao to Nanavati Hospital for medical examination after Rao's counsel complained that despite the November 18 HC order, the respondents had not taken him to the private hospital.

The octogenarian, who had been granted medical bail for six months on February 22, had earlier been allowed extension from time to time.

The HC, on November 18, while hearing Rao's plea seeking extension of bail term, had dimitted to the court by next rected Nanavati Hospital to examhearing. ine Rao, who has said he suffers

Fire at Pune restaurant, no casualties reported

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, NOVEMBER 29

A MAIOR fire was reported at a restaurant in the Nanded City area of Pune early Monday morning which caused severe damage to the entire dining area of the establishment, according to fire brigade officials. No casualties were reported in the fire, as per initial reports.

The incident occurred at Hotel Bhavvesh on the second floor of a building in the Korde Baug area of Nanded at 2 am.

According to Pune Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (PM-RDA)'s fire brigade officials, the first call from local residents was placed to them at 1.58 am. Three fire tenders from PMRDA fire brigade and one from Sinhagad Road fire station of Pune City Fire Brigade were deployed immediately.

B.Pharm

from several ailments, and submit a report before the next hearing on November 29. The HC had given Rao until December 2 to return to jail, which on Monday was extended till December 6.

On Monday, senior counsel Anand Grover for Rao informed a division bench of Justices Nitin M Jamdar and Justice Sarang V Kotwal that in spite of the November 18 order, the respondents have not got the applicant examined at Nanavati Hospital, which should have taken place at

the earliest. Advocate Sandesh Patil for NIA apologized and stated that the applicant will be examined immediately and the report will be sub-

hearing to December 2 and said that "since the adjournment is necessitated in these circumstances, the time to surrender given to the Applicant is extended till December 6. 2021". Rao's plea said that the six-month period fol-

lowing his release from jail had ended on September 5 and he continues to suffer from various ailments that require treatment. The 81-year-old added that

medical reports show he has asymptomatic Parkinson's Disease, neurological ailments and severe abdomen pain, showing evidence of umbilical hernia.

counsel, the HC adjourned the

The HC had earlier set a condition that Rao would not leave the city. Rao also sought modification of the condition seeking that he be

At the joint request of the allowed to return to Telangana.

One injured in

SANJANA BHALERAO MUMBAL NOVEMBER 29 THE STATE government on Monday issued Standard

Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be followed by schools and parents when classes 1 to 7 in urban centres and classes 1 to 4 in rural areas reopen from December 1. The SOP detailed guidelines in

two divisions -- hygiene, cleanliness, teaching preparation before school reopening and rules when classes are in session.

The state government has mandated for the staff including teachers to be fully vaccinated before resuming their duties. All teachers and staff will have to submit RT-PCR test report 48 hours before joining the school. They should be fully vaccinated before coming to duty. Thermal screening of students, teachers

and staff is mandatory.

CLASSES REOPEN FROM DECEMBER 1

While schools had asked for compulsory attendance, the state government has stated that 100 per cent attendance of students is not mandatory, and parents' consent is necessary for students to attend school. Parents are instructed to not send their children

member has developed fever/cough symptoms. "In the first week, teachers

should not focus on academics and allow the child to acclimatize back to the school. Parent-Teacher Association meetings should be school opening and at regular intervals. Also, do not allow children

held online as well as in-person

sessions over the last two days. Parents attended school for a few days and inspected washrooms, corridors, playground, school gate, etc, where students need to maintain social distance and other protocols.

SOPs call for 6 feet spacing in class,

regular disinfection of common items

"We will reopen the school (classes 1 to 7) in a phased manner after taking consent from parents. We have taken parents' survey and nearly 50 per cent of those are willing to send their children for regular classroom sessions," said Dr Kavita Nagpal, principal, Orchids International school. Masiid Bunder.

To avoid transmission of the tions, sporting events, which will virus, the SOP encourages parents lead to crowding. Schools have to use personal vehicles to drop been encouraged to hold online children at schools. If school bus parent-teacher conferences. services are used, the driver and attendant of the school bus regular disinfection of toilets. should be fully vaccinated and classrooms, benches, door hanensure ventilation in buses and multiple trips to pick up and drop

the children. Temperature of 24couraged to bring their water bot-30 degrees Celsius should be tles, stationery, books. Teachers should ensure that maintained in AC buses. The SOPs

call for re-organising classrooms students follow Covid-approprito allow at least 6 feet spacing ate behaviours like properly wearing masks. In case of bigger among children, with only one student seated on a desk bench. class size, the school can conduct redesigning school premises to classes in two batches and call them on alternate days. Actual prevent transmission and setting up 'school health clinic' (where classrooms will operate for not possible) that should be run by a more than 3-4 hours, and there trained nurse-aide appointed by will be no lunch breaks. the school or a volunteer or doc-

Air conditioned classrooms should maintain temperature between 24 and 30 degrees Celsius. Schools have been instructed to not hold practical exams and sports activities for classes 1 to 4.

Teachers are directed to keep a watch on children appearing very tired or breathless, or with other Covid-19 symptoms like cough, fever, weakness, Such children should be taken to the

dles and other commonly used property. Students should be ennearest clinics and doctors. State administers 10.73 lakh jabs in a day

tor-parent or link the schools to

organising functions, competi-

Schools are prohibited from

The guideline also mandates

nearest health clinics.

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY

MAHARASHTRAON Monday administered 10.73 lakh vaccines the highest single-day inoculation recorded in November. The highest number of immunizations was recorded among partially vaccinated beneficiaries

As per the CoWIN app, 6,11,984 vials were administered for second dosages. The remaining 4,61,607 inoculations were for first-time beneficiaries.

Health officers attributed it to door-to-door surveillance along with growing appreciation about the new variant-Omicron.

"For 7-10 days, we have been conducting 7-8 lakh vaccinations daily. The people who were vacci-

nated in August-September are coming forward for the second MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29 dose, which has boosted the daily number," said Dr Pradeep Vyas, additional chief secretary (health). Pune administered 1,01,959

vaccines on Monday-the highest among the 36 districts. This was followed by Mumbai (1,01,223), Thane (79,037), Aurangabad (62,269), Nashik (60,853).

Speaking to The Indian Express, Ayush Prasad Zilla Parishad Chief Executive Officer said door-to-door immunization in rural areas provided access to those who were finding it inconvenient to travel to a Covid vaccination centre. "We had 77.00.00 voters in 2019, so we kept a target to vaccinate 83,00,000. Almost 97% of them have already taken their first jab," said Prasad.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, NOVEMBER 29

PERSONS UNIDENTIFIED pelted stones on Shivshahi buses of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MRTSC) in Katraj Ghat near Pune recently. Two 'Shivshahi' buses from Swargate to Sangli route were damaged while a passenger in one of the buses sustained injuries.

Ganesh Heganna (28), a bus driver and resident of Kolhapur, lodged the FIR in this case at Bharati Vidyapeeth police station on Sunday.

According to the press release issued Monday, Heganna was driving a 'Shivshahi' bus to Sangli from Swargate on Saturday at 8.30 pm, when unidentified persons pelted stones on the bus, breaking its glass windows A bus passenger, Tejas

Shinde (24), sustained injuries

Heganna was driving a 'Shivshahi' bus to Sangli from Swargate on Saturday at 8.30 pm, when unidentified

persons pelted stones on the bus, breaking its glass windows.

in the incident.

Another bus going to Sangli from Swargate was also pelted

Police have booked unidentified persons under sections 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of others), 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees) and 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions) of the Indian Penal Code.

Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the parents thanked him for understanding the needs of children and reopening in-person classes for Classes 1 to 7 and appealed to reopen schools for pre-primary as well

"Our smallest children who go to pre-primary urgently need

Reopen pre-primary schools too, parents write to CM

SANJANA BHALERAO MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

AFTER THE state government approved the proposal to reopen all classes from 1 to 7 from December 1, a group of parents from the city has now appealed to the state government to reopen pre-primary or kindergarten schools from December 1. In an open letter addressed to Chief

to get back to school. They are in their most formative years and not being in school is causing serious distress as their learning is all sensory through touch, feel. play and experience and they are

mensely." reads the letter. The letter states that 10,000 parents/citizens are in support of the reopening of all the classes. The parents' group has also begun an online campaign, 'Open Mumbai Schools Now', across social media platforms. Parents have stated that the children are safer in school than in crowded play areas, movie theatres, par-

Last week, the state cabinet gave its nod to reopen all classes in the physical mode. Students admitted to Class 1 in 2020 and this year have been attending online classes only. However, a final decision on reopening classes 1 to 7 in the city will be taken by the

Parents have also appealed to the state government to ensure easily able to do so.'

Blotter paper integral part of LSD when **EDUCATION** Chassifieds **BUSINESS OFFERS** COURIER put on it for consumption, rules HC Courier Services for Expert Editing of NEWYEAR: Snacks, Spices, Clothes, Others academic and non academic documents/ **EDUCATIONAL** Advocates Rizwan Merchant, Items USA, Canada, manuscripts. **OMKAR GOKHALE** Taraq Sayed and Gayatri Gokhale Europe, Australia, 100% Passing guarantee WhatsApp GS at MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29 for Anuj Keshwani had submit-FROM ANYTHING TO EVERYTHING Newzealand, UK, Dubai, "Khardikar Classes". VII 9930082738 or ted that 0.62 gm included the Singapore, Hongkongfail...? Direct X. XI fail...? languages.sck@gmail. THE BOMBAY High Court on weight of blot paper, along with 9769691025, 26822572. Direct XII, Dombivli- BA.

the said blotter paper can be licked or put in a glass of water, does not necessarily mean that the blotter paper has to be excluded while determining the LSD on the blotter paper."

Justice Mohite-Dere observed that reliance placed by a special NDPS judge in the Hitesh

0070763119-2 0050187882-1 B.Com., B.Sc. 9820627580, 9820904646. DEADUITMENIT

ties, airplanes.

not able to learn anything on a screen. They have already lost out on 21 months of this important learning and are suffering im-

municipal commissioner.

that schools reopen classes 1 to 7 within a week of December 1. "We need your help to give schools not more than 7 days to start opening up after the allowance of starting classes. If government schools can open diligently, why are private schools unable to do so? They have higher fees and resources and should be

Monday held that blotter paper forms an integral part of the lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) for consumption.

LSD drops. However, the report was silent about the weight of 31 blot papers. As per the NDPS Act,

VENCOBB Ex-Farm FRESH Chicken Trading Big birds 95/- kg., Small Yesterday's Price in

with stones in Katraj Ghat.

MSRTC buses According to the press release issued Monday,

stone-pelting on

if they are unwell or if a family

organized virtually to appraise parents of new procedures before recovered from Covid to be stig-

matized," read the SOP. To solve queries from parents,

many private schools in Mumbai

BUSINESS POULTRY	FRESH Chicken Trading Big birds 95/- kg., Small birds 105/- kg., Turbhe Naka, Navi Mumbai. Mobile: 9769468897. 0070745632-1	VENCOBB Ex-Farm Yesterday's Price in Pune Rs. 83/ Suggested Retail Price is Rs. 101/ 0070753197-1	SERVICES	RECRUITMENT SITUATION VACANT	9820627580, 9820904646. 0070745276-2 "IMPORTANT" Whilst care is taken prior to	forms an integra sergic acid dieth when put on it fo to decide wheth consumed in sm cial quantities.
N.E.C.C. suggested price for 100 eggs in Mumbai on 30/11/2021 Rs. 490/- (Four Hundred Ninety) only. NECC 22834107. 0070760378-1	MEA Mumbai Eggs Association Suggested Selling Rate in Mumbai Rs. 450/- per 100 Eggs. Mobile: 9820057700/ 9820351822/ 7303390009. 0070751976-1	S.K. Patel Small: 115/-, Big: 105/ 8082040343/ 24460095/ 24459098. To subscribe to paper rate & purchase rate. 9320460095/ 9930193010. 0070760487-1	ASTROLOGY RUDRAYANI Jyotishalay Grehkalesh, Court Case, Delay in Marriage, Gupt Shatru Problem, Enemity, Manglik Dosh,	PART TIME JOB TELECOM 4G SMS SENDING JOB, WORK FROM HOME, GOOD	acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P.) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals	A single-jud Justice Revati Mo High Court set a: the special Narc Psychotropic Sul court that direct
AMIR Broiler, Small: Rs. 116/-, Big: Rs. 108/ Contact: Phone: +91-8828895000/ 8080432388/ 022- 25251901/ 022-23860517. 0070762556-1	ZORABIAN Today's Ex- Farm Live Broiler Rate Rs. 82/- Retail Market Rate Rs. 110/ Mobile : 8879050887/ 9372663242 Office : 022-26604937/ 38/ 39. 0070760484-1	NEW Dolly suggested Egg Price Rs. 445/- on 30/11/2021 Good News for Bakery Tich Eggs Rs. 250/ Mobile:- 09110526654, 9542230818. 0070759576-1	Sarp Dosh Nivaran. Contact- 7678068153/ 9372575827. 0070763058-1 To place your ad i Sanjeev: 9 Jitendra : 9	967552226	advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.	of LSD drug sam from an alleged who was booked Control Bureau (the death of acto Rajput last year. The special co
ED	UCATION	AL	ED	UCATION	AL	the agency to sen forensic science l



Students can fill up admission form online also through link

https://forms.gle/zXAmZXzgAvsrVuVf8 on our college website: www.vivapharmacy.org

Admission schedule and other details will be displayed on the college notice board & website.

> Sd/ **Principal**



Applications are invited from candidates for First Year B.F.A Applied Art and First Year B.F.A Painting 4 Year Degree Course (Institute Level Seats)

Course Name	Intake	Institute Level Seats
Applied Art	60	12
Painting	30	06

Eligibility: As per rules of competent authority and Commissioner of State Common Entrance Test Cell, Govt. of Maharashtra.

Application form will be issued and accepted by the institute office from 1st Dec. to 10th Dec. 2021 for B.F.A Applied Art & Painting between (9.00 am to 4.00 pm)

Duly filled application form will be accepted by the institute office.

Students can fill up admission form online also through the link https://forms.gle/zXAmZXzgAvsrVuVf8 on our college website: www.vivapharmacy.org

Admission schedule and other details will be displayed on the college notice board & website. Sd/-Principal

ther the drug was small or commer-

judge bench of /lohite-Dere of the aside an order of arcotic Drugs and ubstances (NDPS) ected re-weighing imples recovered ed drug peddler, ed by the Narcotics u (NCB) following tor Sushant Singh

court had directed end samples to the e laboratory (FSL) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to assess the drug's weight without blot paper and also sought to know whether the weight of the recovered LSD, including the paper's weight.

In this case, a total of 585 gm of charas, 270.12 gm of ganja, 3.6 gm of THC and 0.62 gm of LSD were recovered and seized as per the panchanama dated September 6, 2020.

1985, the commercial quantity for LSD is 0.1 gm.

The NCB, through its appeal argued by Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, sought the High Court to set aside the special court's order. The NCB sought the weight of the paper to be considered while ascertaining whether the LSD's quantity was a commercial amount. It said the term

"narcotics", as per the law, included "mixtures and preparations". It said the most common form

of LSD available on streets is a "drop of LSD solution dried onto a piece of blotting paper or gelatinous sheet" and therefore, "street weight" of the drug should also be considered than just the weight of the "active component".

The HC in its judgement said, "LSD put on a blotter paper, is capable of being swallowed, after placing it on the tongue. It is thus evident that the blotter paper is capable of being swallowed and is used as one of the methods for consuming LSD. Merely because

Malhotra case cannot be accepted. In the said case, another bench of HC on December 7, last year had held that the weight of paper used to carry LSD drops cannot be counted while ascertaining the quantity of the contraband material. The judge referred to

Supreme Court judgement in Hira Singh case along with legislative intent behind the NDPS Act and observed, "I am of the view that the blotter paper forms an integral part of the LSD, when put on a blotter paper for consumption and, as such, the weight of the blotter paper containing LSD will have to be considered i.e., actual weight, to determine the small or commercial quantity of the offending drug."

The court also observed that in the present case, the FSL report was not clear as to whether every blotting paper was checked for LSD or not and the FSL ought to have concluded an individual test of every blot paper to ascertain whether it has LSD on it.

Two cops held

for bribery in

Thane: Two personnel of a police

station in Thane district were ar-

rested on Monday for allegedly

accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000 for

not registering a case, the Anti-

Corruption Bureau said.

Another person involved in the

police sub-inspectors Govind

Ekolwale (32) and Prakash

Kamble (31), both attached to

the Bhayander police station un-

der the MBVV police commis-

sionerate. The third accused is

identified as Mukesh Kotian, a

had demanded Rs 10 lakh from

the complainant for not register-

ing a case of cheating against

him and not arresting him. PTI

According to ACB, Ekolwale

The accused are identified as

Thane: ACB

bribery is on the run.

resident of Mira Road.



Telephone No: 080-2207 2271, E-mail: purchase@cpri.in Website: http://www.cpri.res.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER - CPRIBLR21NIT15 Date: 30-11-2021

Online e-tenders are invited from eligible manufacturers, suppliers / service providers for the following in conformation to National / International standards wherever applicable: -

(1) Measuring and Recording System for 40000 A Temperature Rise Test Facility At High Power Laboratory, CPRI, Bengaluru (2) Clamps & Connectors as per drawings. (3) Procurement of Protocol Analyser stand-alone tool for offline analysis of DLMS traffic as per IS 15959 series with two years warranty period During the warranty period, the software support including interpretation of traffic analysed to be provided through email/phone as & when required. (4) Supply of Copper Finger Contacts For Center brake Series parallel dis-connectors for Short circuit bus bar system (SCBBS) As mentioned below. a. Copper Finger Contact 5mm (Drawing number 001).

b. Copper Finger Contact Support 2mm (Drawing number 002)

Tender documents with detailed specifications, terms 8 conditions, instructions, and other details be kindly availed/ downloaded from CPRI website: http://www.cpri.res.in and CPRI e-procurement portal: www.tenderwizard.com/CPRI from 30-11-2021 onwards.

CPRI/ADVT/34 /2021

Purchase Authority-CPRI

7 EXPRESS NETWORK

Covid victim bodies found after 16 months, 'identified by tag'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 29

Covid variant in

SA traveller not Delta: Karnataka

Health Minister

THE KARNATAKA government has sought clarity from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Union Health Ministry regarding a Covid-19 variant detected in a foreign traveller from South Africa, state Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said here on Monday. The 63-year-old man, who

was among the two persons who tested positive after returning from South Africa mid-November, was earlier reported by state officials as being infected by the Delta variant. However, Sudhakar said it was not the Delta variant and that clarifications had been sought from ICMR.

"I will not comment on the detection of the Omicron variant in a traveller from South Africa. We are holding discussions with ICMR and the Ministry of Health at the Centre. One person...has been infected by a variant different from the Delta variant," Sudhakar said. "We will be getting a report

by December 1 on the new variant and its characteristics and patterns," he said.

KIRAN PARASHAR BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 29

FOR NEARLY a year-and-a-half, Durga's daughters thought their mother who died at the height of Bengaluru's first Covid wave had been given a proper cremation. Their only surviving parent, Durga died last year. On Saturday, her body was among two discovered from an old mortuary building in a governmentrun hospital in the city, after

about 500 days of their death. The housekeeping staff went in to clean the abandoned mortuary at Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Model Hospital, which falls under the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, after complaints of a foul smell. While Durga, 42, a garment worker who lived in KP Agrahara, was declared dead due to Covid on July 5 last year, the other person whose body was found was Muniraju, 68, of

Chamarajpet, a father of three girls, who died on July 2. "Durga's daughters (15 and 10 now) lost both their parents



Durga, Muniraju died in July last year amidst a surge

within two years. After 500 days, police say her body was abandoned at a hospital. What do I tell them?"Durga's sister Sujatha G B said Monday. A police officer said when ESIC Hospital's old mortuary was pulled down and replaced by a new building, officials failed to check the freezer where the bodies were kept.

At the time, Bengaluru was struggling to cope with the Covid spread. The bodies of those who died due to the virus were not handed over to families by the government, amidst fears that this might further transmit the disease, with the last rites either carried out by the BBMP(Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) itself, or in the presence of fam-



Balasundar A S said it seemed the hospital had been negligent. "I have sought a report from the field officers and action will be taken if there was negligence on the BBMP staff's part," he told The Indian Express.

Medical Superintendent Dr Imtiham Hussain's phone was switched off. He did not respond to messages. Durga and Muniraju's families battled shock and anger, as their cremations were carried out Monday.

Sujatha, also a garment worker, said: "Durga lost her husband, an alcoholic, in 2019. She had only started hoping to give a better life to her daughters when she died due to Covid."

She said the municipal authorities sent her a notice regarding the cremation at the time, adding that she could join. "At the time we all feared the virus and I did not want to put the children's lives at risk. We asked them to cremate the body. Later, we performed all the rituals."

Describing her shock on receiving the call that Durga's body

had been discovered, Sujatha said: "Initially, I did not believe it, but then they shared more details.

Sujatha, who is raising Durga's daughters, said she sent the two to school and then reached the Rajajinagar Police Station under which the hospital falls around 9am. The body, moved to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem, was handed over to the family around 5 pm. "All I had to identify her was the tag on her body," said Sujatha.

Rajeshwari, the youngest daughter of Muniraju, who retired as a jewellery store worker, said an official from the Rajajinagar Police Station asked her to identify the body. "We had not been able to perform his last rites, leaving it to the BBMP...We performed the 11th-day rituals as well as observed the first death anniversary."

BJP MLA and former minister Suresh Kumar slammed the "inhumane" episode and demanded an inquiry and action against the officials responsible. He said he had written to the Labour Ministry demanding the same.

MAYURA JANWALKAR PORVORIM, NOVEMBER 29

TARUN TEJPAL PLEA

DIGNITY AND sensitivity are expected from all parties, specifically while reading evidence related to rape cases, the Bombay High Court observed last week while rejecting plea by former Tehelka editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal seeking in-camera proceedings. Tejpal had sought in-camera hearings by the high court after the Goa government filed an appeal against his acquittal in the 2013 rape case against him.

Tejpal was accused of sexually assaulting his junior colleague at a hotel in Goa in 2013. He was acquitted by a sessions court on May 21 this year, with the judge saying that there wasn't "enough evidence to warrant a conviction"

"In proceedings such as these i.e. rape cases in general, it is expected that all parties conduct themselves with dignity, sobriety and some sensitivity that is required, particularly, whilst reading evidence pertaining to intimate details," the High Court said in a 23-page order of Tarun Tejpal

Expect dignity while reading

evidence in rape cases, says HC

November 24. The detailed order was made available on Monday.

"This, we think is not too much to expect from the advocates appearing for the respective parties. Maintaining decorum in the courtroom is not merely a superficial means of protecting the image of lawyers and judges - but it is absolutely essential to the administration of justice." the court said.

Turning down the application, a division bench of Justice Revati Mohite Dere and Justice M S Jawalkar said that Tejpal's application for in-camera proceedings was "devoid of merits".

In August, Tejpal had filed the application asking the HC to hold the proceedings in-camera under Section 327 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) as it would protect both the parties -

Arguing for the Goa government, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had vehemently opposed in-camera hearings and said that protection under Section 327 can only be given in cases of an inquiry or a trial. "The present proceedings can neither be said to be an inquiry nor a trial, by any stretch of imagination." the judges said.

- the accused and the woman.

Under the section, a judge can

decide to hold proceedings in-

camera based on the nature and

had argued that keeping the pro-

ceedings open to the public and

the media will restrict him from

making certain submissions

over fears that those may be

published. The judges, however,

said the argument was not jus-

tified. "There is no embargo or

restriction on the applicant to ar-

gue his case freely nor his right

to argue his case can be cur-

tailed," the court said.

Tejpal's counsel Amit Desai

sensitivity of the case.

Desai also informed the court last week he had instructions to challenge the High Court's decision, rejecting his application for in-camera hearing at the Supreme Court.

COVID DEATH COMPENSATION Few claims, SC tells states, UTs to send details to government

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE SUPREME Court on Monday expressed concern over the low number of claims being filed for compensation for Covid-19 deaths and said this could be due to lack of enough publicity about the scheme or lack of knowledge about where to apply.

A bench headed by Justice M R Shah asked states and Union Territories to furnish details, including on the number of deaths recorded and claims received and processed, what publicity has been given to the compensation scheme and about where and whom to approach, whether they have set up portals for receiving claims and disbursing compensation.

The court directed that these details be supplied to the Ministry of Home Affairs or the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on or before December 3, after considering which it will pass orders laying down a uniform procedure across the country. The bench, also comprising Justice B V Nagarathna, said the model developed

by Gujarat can be applied pan-India. On the previous date of hearing the bench had conveyed displeasure over the Gujarat government notification putting in place a committee to scrutinise the process of receipt of claims. On Monday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the bench that the procedure had been revised and simplified. The bench expressed satisfaction with the revised scheme. It said the fresh resolution dated November 28 "can be said to be absolutely" as per the court's earlier directions. "The procedure to claim

The court directed that these details be supplied to the **Ministry of Home Affairs** or the NDMA on or before December 3, after considering which it will pass orders laying down a uniform procedure across the country

compensation is simplified and absolutely in consonance with our judgment and order dated 04.10.2021, said the bench.

Mehta submitted that the state was putting in place an online portal to resolve such difficulties and make disbursements easier and that "steps shall be taken by the State of Gujarat within aperiod of one week from today".

The court said that all state governments must set up online portals for this as it will "facilitate the applicants to make applications for compensation from their place".

Perusing an affidavit filed by the entre regarding details furnished by

bench said The SG said 10,000 deaths have already been reported in the state's portal and the government has started paying them in Direct Benefit Transfer

mode. The court pointed out that claim figures were low for Haryana and Karnataka as well while it was more than the number of recorded deaths in case of Andhra Pradesh.

Regarding Andhra Pradesh, the court said this might be because of its earlier order which said the claimant can file for compensation if the RTPCR report was positive and died within period of 30 days, irrespective of the cause mentioned in the death certificate. The bench said that the number of claimants may increase in other states as well.

It also noted that many of the states had not provided any information to the Centre or the NDMA and directed the Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal and the UTs of Chandigarh and Jammu and Kashmir to file the compliance report on the directions issued by the Court

Cases of vaccine effect below .01%: government to SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DEI HI NOVEMBER 29

including deaths, in the case of both

Covaxin and Covishield is less than

that sought release of segregated trial data for each of the phases of clinical trials of these vaccines saying that entertaining it will not be in public interest as any misgivings can led to vaccine hesitancy.

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said India has a robust statutory regime in place for regulating vaccine trials and that the procedure

0.01% and sought dismissal of a PIL prescribed under it was "strictly followed" while granting permission to the two vaccines.

It said that the "entire concentration of the Central Government and the state governments should be and is on vaccination drive and encouraging people to get them vaccinated. It is, therefore, not desirable at this juncture to invest time finding out motives behind few elements attempting to act against the interest

of nation at the cost of violating the right of crores of citizens to be protected from pandemic".

The government said that "all cases of serious and severe AEFI...including reported death cases are subjected to scientific and technical review process. This process consists of rapid reviews, analysis and causality assessment done by a team of subject experts who have been trained for doing so....

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

CIN-L65910MH1987PLC042961

Registered Office: Akurdi, Pune 411 035 Corporate Office: 4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv Corporate Office, Off Pune-Ahmednagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune 411 014

FIXED DEPOSIT SCHEMES

'FAAA/Stable' rating by CRISIL AND 'MAAA (Stable)' rating by ICRA.

the two latest audited balance sheet

Property, plant and equipmen

ntangible assets under developmen

-Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises and small enterprises -Total outstanding dues of creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises

The abovementioned ratings indicate highest degree of safety with regard to timely payment of interest and principal on the instrument.

Annualised rate of Interest per annum valid up to ₹5 Crores per deposit (w.e.f. December 01, 2021) Non-Cumulative Minimum Particulars 31 March 2021 31 March 2020 Tenor in months Cumulative deposit (in Rs. Monthly Quarterly Half Yearly Annual On penal interest/ charges 237.25 6.42 223.15 6.22 12 - 23 5.65% 5.51% 5.53% 5.57% 5.65% Income tax matters Appeals by the Company Appeals by the Income tax depar 0.32 0.24 24 - 35 25,000 6.40% 6.22% 6.25% 6.30% 6.40% G. a) Amount which the Company can raise by way of Deposits as per Non Ban Financial Companies Acceptance of Public Deposits (Reserve B: Directions, 2016: ₹49,257.75 Crore 6.60% 6.63% 6.69% 36 - 60 6.80% 6.80% a) Minimum amount for opening a Fixed Deposit ("hereinafter referred as "Deposit") with BFL, is ₹25000/-. b) The aggregate of deposits actually held as on 31.03.2021: ₹25,803.43 Crore NAME ADDRESS OCCUPATION
 "Deposit") with BFL, is ₹25000/-.

 b) For the locations mentioned in point M(2)below, the minimum amount for opening a Deposit) is ₹5000/-(not eligible for online investment).
 Dr. Gita Piramal (independent Directo constraints).

 c) Individual depositor or primary depositor, falling under special category of Senior citizens (i.e. persons more than 60 years of age, subject to provision of proof of (independent Directo age) will be eligible for additional interest at the rate upto 0.25% p.a. per Deposit for an amount up to ₹5 (five) crore.
 Dr. Gita Piramal (independent Directo shri anami Narayan Roy
 H. The aggregate dues from the facilities, both fund and non-fund based, extended to Piramal House, 61, Pochkhanwala Road, In the aggregate dues norm the tachness point that and non-rando based, excluded to, the companies in the same group or other entities or business ventures in which the Director/(company are holding substantial interest are \$2.55 Gcre (Baja) Housing Finance Lid. -\$2.55 Gcre (Baja) Hausing Allianz Life Insurance Company Lid. -\$3.42 C, Baja) Finserv Direct Lid. -\$0.25 (Gr, Baja) Finserv Health Lid. -\$2.07 (G, Baja) Finserv Health Lid. -\$2.07 (G, Baja) Finserv Health Lid. -\$2.07 (C, Baja) Finserv Health Lid. -\$2.07 (C, Baja) Finserv Direct Lid. -\$0.07 (G, Baja) Finserv Direct Lid. -\$0.02 (G) Hausing Hausing Finserv Direct Lid. -\$0.07 (G, Baja) Finserv Direct Lid. -\$0.07 (G) Haja) Hausing Haus (Independent Director Worli, Mumbai 400025 Business 74 Koregaon Park, Lane No. 3, Pune 411001 62 Sagar Tarang, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan Road, Worli Sea Face Retired Civil Rate of interest for Deposits for an amount more than ₹5 Crore per Deposit ma The Company has no overdue dep vary from the published card rate and will be decided on case to case basis but Business I. The Company declares as under Shri Pramit Jhaveri 21C Woodlands Peddar Road, within the cap on Rate of Interest specified by the Reserve Bank of India. (Independent Director) Mumbai - 400 026

SEEKING TO put to rest apprehensions about Covid-19 vaccines, the Centre has told the Supreme Court In an affidavit filed in the SC, the that the percentage of Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) having serious or severe consequences,

other states, the bench termed it "shocking" that Andhra Pradesh too had come up with a scrutiny committee. "One thing is very shocking. Andhra Pradesh says they have constituted a committee. This is what we were against," said Justice Shah.

The bench noted that the number of claims in Gujarat were considerably low compared to the death numbers. Though 10,092 deaths have been recorded, only 1,250 claim forms have been received by the state till date. the

in its earlier judgment. The bench will hear the matter next on December 6.

Responding to the court's directions in a plea seeking payment of exgratia to kin of those who had succumbed to Covid-19, the National Disaster Management Authority had recommended payment of Rs 50,000 per death. The court approved this on October 4. The amount is to be paid from the funds available with the State Disaster Response Fund.

- e). In case of online application for Deposit through BEL online link, the Deposit will
- be booked upon receipt of the funds by the Company from the customer and receive the Deposit will be booked within 5 days from date of the application. F. Summarised Financial Position of the Company (standalone) as appearing in
- Subject to approval of Application by BFL, interest payable on a Deposit will be alculated from (i) the date of application made through BFL portal and associat partner portals, where payment gateway/payment aggregator enabled by BFL s used for making payment by the Customer; (ii) the date receipt of the funds by 3EL where the deposit is placed through associate partner portal and paymer alternary have been appeared and a state of the state of heque or any other mode
- ASSETS Financial assets Cash and cash equivalents Bank balances other than cash and cash Derivative financial instruments
- Other financial assets Total financial assets
- (In) the Gale of reaction of anount of BrC, where the payment is indee by Gala halances othe gala kalances of the galances of the ga Non-financial assets Deferred tax assets (net) Capital work-in-progres
- void post its maturity date. b) In case where the depositor(s) has opted for renewal of Deposit through Deposit depositor(s) should submit a specific written request so as to reach the Company atleast 3 (three) business days prior to maturity date of the Deposit. The written request can be submitted at nearest branch of the Company or sending by post courier to the Company or to the independent financial advisors or national distributors empaneled with the Company. No requests shall be accepted post the above-mentioned next of the Company. No requests shall be accepted post Total non-financial assets LIABILITIES AND EQUIT inancial liabilities ayable he above-mentioned period.
- Particulars to be furnished as per the Non-Banking Financial Companies & Trade payable Miscellaneous Non-Banking Companies (Advertisement) Rules, 1977 as amended. A. Name of the Company: BAJAJ FINANCE LTD. B. Date of Incorporation: 25th March, 1987

C. Profits/Dividends: Profits of the Company before and after making provisions for tax, for the three

-Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises and small enterprises -Total outstanding dues of creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises financial years immediately preceding the date of the advertis dividends declared by the Company in respect of the said years. ent and the Profit (Standalo Dividend Debt securities ended or Before Tax Áfter Tax Borrowings (other than debt securities) 3,890.34 4,881.12 3,955.51 31.03.2019 31.03.2020 6,035.30 6,808.13 300 500 500 Deposits Subordinated debts 31.03.2021 5.362.8 Other financial liabilities Total financial liabilities

D. Brief particulars of the management of the Company:

The Company is managed by the Managing Director, subject to the control and supervision of the Board of Directors. The Managing Director is entrusted with	Non-financial liabilities Current tax liabilities (net)
necessary powers for managing the business and affairs of the Company.	Provisions
E. Names, addresses and occupations of Directors:	Other non-financial liabilities

	ADDRESS	OCCUPATION	Total non-infancial nabilities	784.82	498.00
ijiv Bajaj an)	Bajaj Vihar Colony, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035.	Industrialist	Equity Equity share capital	120.32	119.99
eev Jain ing Director)	D-2, Ivy Glen, Marigold Premises, Kalyani Nagar, Pune 411014.	Service	Other equity Total assets	35,818.42 35,938.74	31,693.22 31,813.21
dhur Bajaj ecutive Director)	Bungalow No. 3, Bajaj Vihar Colony, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035.	Industrialist	Total liabilities and equity Contingent Liabilities (Standalone)	1,38,338.89	1,38,003.57
iv Bajaj ecutive Director)	34/35, Yog Koregaon Park, Lane No. 2, Pune 411001.	Industrialist	Particulars	As at 31 March 2021	As at 31 March 2020
ak Poddar ndent Director)	171, Brij Kutir, Rungta Lane, Off Nepean Sea Road, Mumbai 400026.	Industrialist	Disputed claims against the Company not acknowledged as debts	51.98	44.18

Business VAT matters under appeal

ESI matters under appea

On interest subsidy

Service tax matters under appeal

Other payables

31 March 2021

1,383.63

2.13

0.00

720.10

1,13,089.94

1,35,852.25

20,169.12

487.33

155.07

919.21 972.44

7.07 43.99 254.76

134.10

137.87

0.27

676.62

191.08

43.071.71

27,092.09 25,803.43

3,898.61

101,615.33

743.65

172.78

136.56 475.48

784 8

2,486.64

1,38,338.89

4.83

171.76

867.18

847.61

0.00

99.38

0.30

636.76

179.46

41,713,77

, 36,923.32

21,427.10

4,141.75

105,692.36

669.90

78.87

367.03

2,379.70

1,38,003.57

1,016.16

1,13,417.08

20,138.98

1,35,623.87

- The Company has complied with the provisions of the directions applicable to it.
 The compliance with the directions does not imply that the repayment of Deposits is guaranteed by the Reserve Bank of India.
- iii) The deposits accepted by the Company are unsecured and rank pari passu with other unsecured liabilities. (₹in Crore)
- 31 March 2020
- iv) The deposits solicited by the Company are not insured iv) The deposits solicited by the Company are not insured.
 v) The Financial position of the Company are into sured.
 v) The Financial position of the Company are slucked and the representations made in the deposit application form are true and correct. The Company and its Board of Directors are responsible for the correctness and veracity thereof. The financial activities of the Company are regulated by Reserve Bank of India It must, however, be distinctly understood that Reserve Bank of India to undertake any responsibility for the financial soundness of the Company or for the correctness of any of the statements or the representations made or application expressed by the Company and for repayment of deposits/ discharge of liabilities by the Company. K. The deposits shall also be subject to the terms and conditions as per the deposit Deposits may be withdrawn prior to the date of maturity subject to the regulations of the Reserve Bank of India in this regard. Please note that premature withdrawal of Deposit (including death cases) is subject to the following conditions:) Upto 3 months from date of deposit: Withdrawal is not permitted b) After 3 months but before 6 months: Interest shall not be payable c) After 6 months but before the date of maturity: The rate of interest shall be 2% lower than the rate specified for the period during which the scheme has run. In case of no rate being specified for the deposit period, interest rate payable shall be 3% lower than the lowest rate offered by BFI M.The Business carried on by the Company and its subsidiaries with details of branches or units if any: 1 Business carried on by the Company and its branches Providing consumer finance ranging from vehicle loans, consumer durable financing, personal loans, loan against property, Home Loans, constructior equipment financing, small business loans, loan against securities and

Imancing, personai toans, Gan against property Home Loans, construction equipment linancing, small buriness i Gans, Ioan against securities and infrastructure financing. The Company is having its Branches at Agra, Ahmedhada, Ahmedhagar, Aimer, Akola, Akot Alapuzha, Allahabad, Ambala, Amravait, Amreli, amritsar, Anand, Anantpur, and Ankaleshwar, Asansol, Aurangabad, Bagalkot, Banardh, Bhatinda, Bhavnagar, Bhilai, Bhiwandi, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Bhui, Bidar, Bijapur, Bikaner, Bilaspur, Bokaro, Bolpur, Borsad, Calicut, Chaligsaon, Chandigarh, Chandrapur, Chennai, Chhindwara, Chihkli, Chiputon, Chitradurga, Chitaranjan, Chopda, Cochin, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Cuttack, Dabhoi, Dahed, Davangere, Dehradun, Devas, Dhanbad, Dharapuram, Dharwad, Dhule, Dindigul, Durgapur, Eluur, Erode, Gandhidham, Goa, Gokak, Gulberga, Guna, Guntur, Gwallor, Halda, Halol, Hassan, Haveri, Himatnagar, Hoshangabad, Hoshianpur, Hospet, Hubi, Hyderasd, Indere, Jahala, Karad, Karaikur, Karandi, Karandagapally, Karur, Karvar, Katni, Khamgaon, Khandwa, Kharagpur, Kolar, Kolhshapur, Kolkata, Kollam, Kachiljantam, Madurai, Mandya, Mangalore, Mapusa, Mangapabily, Karur, Karvar, Katni, Khamgaon, Khandwa, Kharagpur, Kolar, Kolhapur, Kolkata, Kollam, Kopergaon, Koba, Kotayam, Kunnod, Kurukshetra, Laur, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Kopergaon, Korba, Kota, Kottayam, Kurnool, Kurukshetra, Latur, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Machilipatnam, Madurai, Mandya, Mangalore, Mapusa, Margao, Mehsana, Moga, Moth, Mumba, Nysore, Nabha, Nadiad Nagaroni, Naggur, Namakkal, Nanded, Nandurba, Nashik, Navsora, Nabha, Nadiad Nagaroni, Naggur, Namakkal, Nanded, Nandurba, Nashik, Navsari, Nellore, New Delhi, Palanpur, Pandharpur, Panipat, Patiala, Patha, Pen, Phagwada, Pimpalgaon, Pollachi, Pondichery, Pune, Puttur, Raindya, Ranchi, Ratiam, Ratnagiri, Rewa, Roltak, Ropar, Rourkela, Salem, Sangli, Satara, Satara, Sehore, Shimla, Shimoga, Siliguri, Sirsa, Solapur, Surat, Surandanagar, Tenali, Thiruvalla, Tirunelveli, Tirupat, Tirupur, Trichy, Tirvandrum, Tunakrur, Tuttorion, Udaipur, Udipi, Ujain, Vadakara, Valsad, Yagi, Varanasi, Vidisha, Vijayawada, Viza, Vizianagram, Wani, Warangal, Wardha, Warud, Washim, Yavatmal and al Other branches mentioned in the Oficial vebsite page www.blajdifinservin.ps. Scoll to bottom of the webpage=contat us=visit our branch or by directly clicking https://www.bajdifinservin/branch-locator Locations where minimum deposit size is 5 3000 (not eligible for online investment).

Locations where minimum deposit size is ₹ 5000 (not eligible for online investment) Gujarat – Bujetha, Kahanva, Khaparwada, Nandarkha, Sunevkalla, Amadpore Asarma, Darapura, Dungri, Godavadi, Harangam, Kotambi, Sarvani, Vanskui, Balda Bhathi Karambeli, Jitali, Umra, Barkal, Bhatlai, Kanyasi, Pardi Zankhari, Pathri armal, Handod Chokdi

Maharashtra - Baragaon Pimpri, Kharde, Manjrod, Jatoda, Mehergaon, Somthane, Odha, War, Shaha, Bhatane Javkheda, Lamkani, Chinchkhede, Shewade, Gondur, Dodi Bk, Raynyr, Bhatpure, Warud MH, Dighawe, Vadjai, Indawe, Vinchur, Devbhane, Deur Budruk, Pandhurli

3. Business carried on by the subsidiaries of the Comp	pany:
--	-------

51.98	44.18	Sr. No.	Name of subsidiary	Address of registered office	Activity
4.29 5.14	4.39 5.14	1.	Bajaj Housing Finance Limited	Bajaj Auto Ltd complex, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035	Housing Finance Business
1,905.44	1,971.65	2.	Bajaj Financial Securities Limited	Bajaj Auto Ltd complex, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035	Stock broking and depository participant

rtisement has been issued on the authority and in the name of the Board of Directors and has been approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on 20 July 2021 and copy of the same signed by Shri Rajeev Jain, Managing ized by the Board to sign on it's behalf, has been delivered to the Reserve Bank of India for registration.

By order of the Board of Directors

to see Sohel." Trupti Jadhav, Superintendent of the Mankhurd Children's Home said, "We suspect that Sohel may have stayed in Nagpur before he came to 26 November 2021

Earlier too, runaway children have been reunited with their parents due

Aadhaar helps to reunite hearing and speech impaired youth with family

YOGESH NAIK

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

A NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD speech and hearing impaired inmate, Shaikh Sohel, of the Mankhurd Children's Home was reunited with his family on Monday thanks to the Aadhaar card. It was really difficult to trace his parents, as the only thing he scribbled was MH-31, which indicated that he was from Nagpur as MH-31 is a code given to all vehicles registered from Nagpur.

Sohel went to his hometown Itarsi in Madhya Pradesh on Monday night.

Vishal Ramose, a social worker with Sahara Charitable society that works with tracing and tracking relatives of inmates for the Mankhurd Children's Home, told The Indian Express, "Sohel was found in Lokmanya Tilak Terminus in Kurla on August 6, 2019. The police brought him to us and tried asking him about his whereabouts. We also got people, who know sign language but failed to get any details. All he scribbled was MH 31 and we felt that he had a residence in Nagpur. We called the district child welfare officer of Nagpur but could not progress at all."

The children's home also summoned a counsellor, but he too failed to get Sohel's address. The lockdown imposed due to Covid-19 hampered the search for his parents and there was a delay in getting permission from the top officers of the women and child welfare department, sources said.

On November 11, Ramose took



Shaikh Sohel (right) was reunited with his mother and uncle on Monday. Yogesh Naik

Sohel to the regional office of UIDAI to make his Aadhar card and the officers realised that he already had one and hailed from Hoshingabad in Madhya Pradesh. "We informed the district child welfare officers in Hoshingabad and also the local police, who confirmed about a missing complaint related to Sohel and also tracked his parents. We made a video call to his uncle and mother, and Sohel immediately

recognised them," said Ramose. His uncle Sheikh Anees said, "Sohel was untraceable since 2018. He used to travel often from his hometown of Itarsi to Khadkia by train to visit his maternal uncle (mama) and we thought he was on a visit to his mama. But later we realised that he was missing. We

complained to the police and also visited some neighbouring states. We were delighted to get a call from Mankhurd Children's Home."

Sohel's mother Akila said, "My husband died on November 16 and in his last days he remembered Sohel a lot. He would have been really happy

Mumbai. He was delighted to see his mother and recognised her immediately."

to UIDAI.

-	(Managing Director)	Kalyani Nagar, Pune 411014.
-	Shri Madhur Bajaj (Non-Executive Director)	Bungalow No. 3, Bajaj Vihar Colony, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035.
	Shri Rajiv Bajaj (Non-Executive Director)	34/35, Yog Koregaon Park, Lane No. 2, Pune 411001.
•	Shri Dipak Poddar (Independent Director)	171, Brij Kutir, Rungta Lane, Off Nepean Sea Road, Mumbai 400026.
/	Shri Ranjan Sanghi (Independent Director)	Flat No. 21, Mistry Court, 4th Floor, Dinshaw Vachha Road, Opp. CCI Club,
1	Shri D J Balaji Rao (Independent Director)	Churchgate, Murnbai 400 020. D-103 Adarsh Residency, 47th Cross,

8th Block, Javanagar

HOW TO INVEST

NAME

Shri Sanji (Chairmai

Shri Raje

Applications can be made online by visiting www.bajajfinservin/fixed-deposit or Bajaj Finance branches or any of our affiliated partner websites or apps or offices. The amount should be deposited only by net-banking, cheque. Cheques should be payable to Bajaj Finance Ltd. A/c 00070350006738 and crossed ¹Account Payee only¹. The cheques should be payable at para and CTS compliant. Application form along with the necessary remittance should be sent to the Distributors of the Fixed Deposit Schemes of BFL or be submitted at any of the BFL branches. For NEFRIFORS, Dease we the following details: Beneficiary Name: Baja Finance Ltd. Bank acro. 28AJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC fournerical account number is replaced by CMS Collection code – ZBAJAPIC f







FROM PAGE ONE

Jack Dorsey steps down as Twitter CEO

summoned by a 31-member committee of Parliamentarians to get his views on "safeguarding citizens' rights on social/ online news media platforms".

This year, Twitter had a runin with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology after the microblogging platform did not remove certain accounts flagged by the government.

In May, following the issuance of the new rules for social media platforms, the Delhi Police visited the company's offices to serve a notice asking top executives to join the probe into a complaint by the Congress against allegations tweeted by BJP leaders of a

"toolkit" plot to malign the Prime Minister and the Government.

The social media giant had termed the Delhi Police's visit as "intimidation tactics" -- and said it was concerned for its employees in India, and by a "potential threat" to free speech of Twitter users.

On Monday, following the news of Dorsey stepping down, Twitter's stock jumped more than 10 per cent on the US exchanges at the opening bell. The 45-year old co-founder of Twitter has been allocating his time to his other ventures including digital payments firm Square, which he also cofounded. According to reports, the board of Twitter had been looking for a full-time CEO for

the social media company since

the past year.

in 2006, and served as CEO till 2008 before he was pushed out of his role at the time. He returned to the company in the executive role in 2015 after for-

> For Agrawal, the appointment has come at a time when Twitter is aggressively pushing for growth. Earlier this year, the firm announced its aim to have 315 million monetisable daily active users by the end of 2023 and to at least double its annual

revenue by then. In an internal mail to Dorsey and Twitter employees, Agrawal wrote: "We recently updated our strategy to hit ambitious goals, and I believe the strategy to be bold and right. But our critical challenge is how we work to execute against it and deliver results".

He posted a copy of his mail Dorsey co-founded Twitter on Twitter.

'Why no action if police knew of riots plan beforehand'

ANAND MOHAN J NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

FORMER JNU student Umar Khalid, through his lawyer, asked a Delhi court Monday why police allowed the Northeast Delhi riots to take place when a protected witness was supposedly in touch with the local SHO, informing him about the planning.

Senior advocate Trideep Pais was arguing for bail on behalf of Umar before Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat. However, his arguments could not be concluded and will con-

During Monday's hearing,

around Umar's arrest. Referring to the statement of a protected witness, who claimed he was in touch with the local SHO. Pais told the court, "He says he is regularly in touch with SHO (Seelampur) who asks him to keep him updated. If you are in touch with SHO, then why did you not ensure that nothing went on? What happened? They are such adarsh citizens... they say such noble thoughts and are in touch with the police... isn't it apparent that these witnesses were procured?"

Pais said this witness met the SHO sometime in January 2020 and that the officer knew everything beforehand. "Sometime in January, I (witness) met him, then he called me and asked me to tell him everything. So Seelampur SHO knew everything. How did we

magistrate

Umar Khalid

have riots in the city? This brilliant intelligence that he had about this and he did not register an FIR," Pais submitted.

Pais apprised the court about the protected witnesses' statements which talk about a 'secret meeting' attended by the riot accused, in which the planning for the riots allegedly took place. Referring to one

starts, a person without documents is put in detention... Is Khalid's lawyer, there a single woman and child Trideep Pais, told the who comes forth and savs we court that a witnessin were cannon fodder?" Pais submitted. the UAPA case had He then read out the statemade improved ment of a witness who told a statements to the Magistrate that Umar gave a speech where words like

such statement, he told the court that the witness, after making his statement to the police, "miraculously remembered the meeting after seven days" in his statement to the Magistrate.

and photos are out on On allegations that women Facebook. How can a secret and children were roped in by meeting have selfies posted on Facebook? Certainly, it is not a the accused as a cover for their protests, Pais told the court, secret. This must mean the pro-"Advocacy against a law is not testers are dumb or the police a crime. It is not in doubt that does not know them," Pais submitted.

chakka jam and "blood must be

present at the meeting but

gives granular details of the

meeting. He doesn't call it a se-

cret meeting, but chargesheet

calls it a secret meeting. Videos

"He doesn't claim to be

spilled" were used.



JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED (MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING) NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003 PHONE: (0291) 2742223 FAX: (0291) 274653

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Tender are invited for purchase of 11 KV CT PT Sets of Ratio 00/5 Amp. & 50/5 Amp. under TN- 1721 (UBN JVV2122GLOB00377), Single Core LT XLPE Insulated and PVC Sheathed Unarmoured Cables 1CX300 Sq.mm & 1CX 185 Sq.mm under TN- 1734(UBN JVV2122GLOB00376), Ungalvanised 36 feet long single rcuit & 42 feet long double circuit Lattice Structure Sets under TN-1737(UBN

S. Name of Work Amount puter Tender No. 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 1 3 1 7 L 400/350/300/250/200/ 150/100 mm dia DI Rs. 7,28,14, water line in Rajiv Nagar Extn. Begampur Rs. 7,28,14,	YT. OF NCT OF D OHINI: DELHI-11008 ideringm3.djb@gma ysical Distancing, M. o. 34 (2021-22) tice Tender tt to Tender / Fee Date soot soli 395/- Rs. 1500/- 2	DELHI 19 ail.com aintain Hand H of release of er procurement	00- 1	C OF AN e-Pro The APTRANSCO invites of 132KV and 33 KV Feat on turn-key basis. Tend 25 11 2021.Ph No.9441: DIPR No.526PP/CL/ADVI/	IDHRA F occurrent bids for the Spi tures at 220KVS ders Available 529947/949011 Sd /1/1/2021-22, D	V- Chief Engineer, Zone	TTED 1 for Erectio Idapa Distric Legov.in fro /KADAPA.
(1307/1639) in AC-07 Bawana under EE(NW)-II (Presently ACE (M)-3). Further details in this regard can be seen at <u>https://govtproc</u> ISSUED BY PRO (WATER)	urement.delhi.gov.in.		d/- (O.P. Gupta)		PCL Head O	office, The Mall, Patiala 3813; Website: www.p	a-147001)
Advt. No. J.S.V.676(2021-22)			ecutive Engineer (T) M-3			il: se-hq-ggsstp-ropar	
5, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS	, KAMARAJAR SALAI, NOTICE 2021 from reputed n Motorised Sewing hair as part of Distr te contract for the dif	CHENNAI - 600 Dated : nanufacturers : Machine, Beh ribution of dev	005. 29.11.2021 /distributors nind the ear rices on the	Chief Engineer/He Roopnagar invites I the work of Seat Re 210 MW 'KWU' Des NIT & Tender eproc.punjab.gov.in	eadquarter (E-Tender ID placement of sign Units at Specificatio from 24.11.2 n & addendur	IPW-11828 dated 22.1 (Procurement Cell-3) No. 2021_POWER_7 if HP Bypass Spray Valv GGSSTP, Rupnagar. F on please refer tr 021 from 05.00 PM on m, If any will be publishe RTP 38/21	GGSSTF 7291_1 fo es E32S c for detaile o https:/ wards.
Under 'e-tender' system, the tenderers "www.tenders.tn.gov.in" website. The participating Tenderers should sub Director for welfare the Differently Al accept or reject the tenders without assigning The rates finalized through this tend Government and other schemes. DIPR/ 3694 /TENDER/2021	nit a sample along wi oled, Chennai - 600 gany reason. Jer is also applicab	ith tender appli 005 reserves le to the sup Deput	ication. the right to plies under y Director	Online tenders in two part biddi manufacture, assembly, testing delivery attic/HPSEBL stores, to HPSEBL and guarantee for tv 50K V A, 100k V A & 125k V A provide the equipment of the ty respect of all items covered und SET/2021/02 as per the followin	"A State Gov Notice Im (E-Tenderin ing system are here atmanufacturer's w complete installation wo (2) years after cook from manufacturer pe specified and he der Scope of Supply 19:	ELECTRICITY BOARD L rt. Undertaking") viting Tender ng Mode Only) by invited on behalf of CMD HPSE orks, packing, dispatch, transportati nor exclon, testing & commissioning mmissioning of DG sets of various r s or authorized dealers who regul ave adequate technical knowledge a in Tender Specification No: HPSEB	1
PUNJAB STATE S (Punjab Gov SCO NO. 116-117, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIO	SPORTS CO Undertaking) GARH, TELEPHON	UNCIL IE NO. 0172-2	2606400, 2668794,	Date and Time of online public Date of pre bid meeting: Start date and time of online Last date and time of online Date of opening of Techno- c bid (Part-I)	bid submission: bid submission:	30.11.2021 (12:00 Hrs.) 06.12.2021 (11:30 Hrs.) 09.12.2021 (11:30 Hrs.) Up to 15.12.2021 (15:00 Hrs.) 16.12.2021 (15:00 Hrs.)	
E-mail ID: directorsportspunjab201 No. 3691	8@gmail.com /sports:	xen@gmail.con	n Dated: 29.11.2021	Cost Of Tandar Desumant		Rs. 1180/-	
Online tenders on item rate basis as per the DNIT a Bid) for the following work:			hnical bid & Financia		e		-
Sr. Name of the Work No.	Last Date of Online Submission		Bidding Documents				
Providing & Laying of 400 Mtr 8 Lane Synthetic Athletic Track (Full PUR Type) and allied works complete in all respects at Guru Nanak Dev Stadium, Amritsar.	of Bidding Document 20.12.2021 at 2.00 P.M.	Technical Bid 20.12.2021 at 03.00 P.M.	Financial Bid To be Intimated later on		0	SBI	
For detail of works, other terms & conditiont https://eproc.punjab.gov.in For participating in the above e-tendering process, https://eproc.punjab.gov.in and get user ID, Password, the a tendering processo Detailed National Justing Tando	the Bidders shall hav Class-3 Digital Sign	ve to get them nature is mand	selves registered with latory to participate in	n Bandra Kurla	STATE DEPAR ank of India, Loo	NK OF INDIA I <mark>TMENT, LHO MUMBAI M</mark> cal Head Office, Synergy Bu dra (East), Mumbai - 400 05	ilding,
the e-tendering process. Detailed Notice Inviting Tende <u>https://eproc.punjab.gov.in</u> . in all payments regarding p ing fee & earnest money shall be strictly through Onli Bank Account with Core Banking Solution Branches (Note: Any Corrigendum/Addendum to website only	ourchase of bid docu ne mode (e-payment	iment i.e., Teno t only). Bidders	der form fee, process s are advised to oper uploaded to	OF ONE NO. 300	0 TR CHILLE (Nergy, BKC	ESTING & COMMISSIC ER AT STATE BANK OF C LHO, MUMBAI EM's & their authorized deale	INDIA,
website only.		Exe	-Sd cutive Engineer (C)	installation, testing and co	ommissioning o	if "300 TR Chiller system at	State Bank

mer CEO Dick Costolo resigned.

tinue on December 9.

Pais submitted that a witnesses in the UAPA case had made improved statements to the Magistrate and that they were "cherry picked" by police

UXU MUSH MAR e-Procurement TENDER NOTICE CO invites bids for the Specification No.APT-e-07/2021 for Erection 133 KV Features at 220KVSS Trumalayapalli in YSR Kadapa District basis. Tenders Available in http://apoprocuremont.gov.in from h.No.9441529947/9490153093 Sd/- Chief Engineer, Zone/KADAPA.

SPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited fice.: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001) 40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in . 96461-07205 E-mail: se-hq-ggsstp-ropar@pspcl.in

CHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED 👔 ("A State Govt. Undertaking") Notice Inviting Tender (E-Tendering Mode Only) I two part bidding system are hereby invited on behalf of CMD HPSEB Ltd. for Design embly, testing at manufacturer's works, packing, dispatch, transportation and insurance PSEBL stores, complete installation/erection, testing & commissioning and handing ove uparantee for two (2) years after commissioning of DG sets of various ratings i.e. 25k V A from manufacturers or authorized dealers who regularly manufacture A & 125k V A from manufacturers or authorized dealers who regularly manufacture the store of the store o ment of the type specified and have adequate technical knowledge and experience in source dunder Scope of Supply in Tender Specification No: HPSEBL/PHE/HEP – DC ser the following: of online publication 0.11.2021 (12:00 Hrs.) meeting 6.12.2021 (11:30 Hrs.) me of online bid submission 09.12.2021 (11:30 Hrs. ne of online bid submission: Up to 15.12.2021 (15:00 Hrs



sting and commissioning of "300 TR Chiller system at State Bank o

tem-wise tenders in two parts i.e. Part A Technical Bid and Part B Financial Bid are hereby invited in two separate sealed envelopes Part A and Part B) for the following work from reputed offset printers Name of Work

(Deemed to be University Under Section-3 of UGC Act 1956) Elite Status & Centre of Excellence - Government of Maharashtra MATUNGA, MUMBAI-400 019.

Invited sealed quotations for 1) Ultrasonic crystallization system 2 Ultrasonic flow cell 3) Computational cluster 4) Multiple reactor system 5) Circular dichroism spectrometer 6) Protein analysis with spectrometer 7) UPLC with FFF detector 8) Bio-analyzer 9 Preparative liquid chromatography & 10) Quaternary HPLC with PDA. The Envelop, prescribing TENDER with name of the instrument and ender due date with DD enclosed in the name of "Institute of Chemica Technology, Mumbai" should be submitted on or before $10^{"}$ December, 2021 from date of advertisement. The Vice Chancellor Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai. Detailed Specifications and instructions are available on www.ictmumbai.edu.in

KPS Malhotra, DCP (Cyber Cell), said, "Our team was surfing the dark web when we came across the gang. Two accused work from Ahmedabad. The third is a technical expert who works from Shaheen Bagh. They helped students appearing for college admissions and jobs in the IT sector." ENS

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER E-Tender Notice No. SNT-JP-24 2021-22 Dated - 26.11.2021 DRM (S&T)/ North Western Railway Jaipur, for and on behalf of th President of India, invites E-Tender rom registered tenderer/bidders for the following work. Name of work with its location : Comprehensive Annua Maintenance contract for Efftronic make 96 nos. of Data Logger and 55 nos. of RTU for period of 36 months (3 years) in Jaipur division. Approx. Cos of work (in Rs.) : Rs. 3,16,27,755.48/



'CITIZENSHIP IMPORTANT' PRAYAGRAJ KILLINGS Gauhati HC sets aside tribunal order **Dalit youth sent to custody as** declaring five of a family as foreigners upper caste members released

ASAD REHMAN PRAYAGRAJ, NOVEMBER 29

WHILE THE eight upper caste members held for the murder of four of a Dalit family in Prayagraj district were released Monday, police have detained three Dalit youths. While one of them was sent to judicial custody on Monday, police sources said that the two others would be released soon.

Police officers did not confirm the evidence they had against the Dalit youth whom they now suspect of the crime, including rape, or any proof regarding alleged accomplices. The bodies of the four, including a couple and their children, had been found on Thursday at their home. Their relatives had accused 11 people of threatening the family, and police of helping them. An FIR naming the 11 was registered on Thursday, and police held eight upper caste members. Two police personnel were suspended after Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited the family and the Yogi Adityanath government faced heat, with the Opposition accusing it of being "anti-Dalit".

The Dalit youth's family said he had been detained by police on Saturday

evening. On Monday, the 19-year-old, who works as a labourer, was presented in court and sent to judicial custody. Two other youths from the 19year-old's village, located around 2 km from the murdered Dalit family's, were picked up along with him. On Monday, their family members gathered outside the local police station asking when the

two would be released. An officer told The Indian Express that the two, 17 and 20, would be released soon as they had not found any evidence.

In a statement Sunday, ADG, Prayagraj zone, Prem Prakash had claimed that the 19-year-old was stalking the girl who was raped and killed. "He was harassing the girl... On the basis of the last message and circumstantial evidence, he was arrested."

However, on Monday, a senior officer who is part of the probe told The Indian Express: "We have not had enough time with the accused as we have to oversee law and order too... We are awaiting forensic and DNA reports." Pressed on the evidence so far, the officer said, "It is part of the investigation, I can't reveal anything.'

On Monday, neither Prakash nor Prayagraj DIG Sarvashresht Tripathi

could be reached for a comment. Tripathi was "on leave".

The relatives of the murdered Dalit family said police were trying to protect the upper caste accused. "How can one boy (the 19-year-old) kill four people on his own? And if others were involved, where are they, who are they?... And if the boy had an issue with my niece, he would have killed her, why the other three?" said the brother of the man who was killed. While his niece who was raped and killed was earlier said to be a minor, police say they had

found proof she was 23. The elder sister of the 19-year-old held by police said he was being targeted "because he is Dalit and poor". Contesting police claims of him stalking the woman, she said: "He was at home the day the murders took place... He is being made a scapegoat as police want to save the upper caste men," she

said. The mother of the 17-year-old Dalit youth detained by police said: "My son cannot do something like this."

The relatives of the murdered Dalit family said they are worried for their safety after the release of the upper caste members. "They will come back for revenge.

TORA AGARWALA AIZAWL, NOVEMBER 29

THE GAUHATI High Court last week set aside an ex-parte order by a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) declaring a Cachar district resident and his family members as "foreigners" and said that the petitioners should be given another opportunity to prove they are Indians. The court also said such opinions declaring people as "foreigners" should be made on the basis of analysis and not as a "default"

In 2018, a tribunal in Cachar declared Rajendra Das and four of his family members as "foreigners" after they failed to appear before it following summons the previous year.

Hearing a writ petition, a bench of Justices N Kotiswar Singh and Malasri Nandi said that the petitioners should be offered another opportunity to "prove that they are Indians and not foreigners". The judges said that if the petitioners were able to prove the authenticity of the documents presented before the court, they "may have a legitimate claim that they are Indians and not foreigners". The petitioner had submitted to the court voters' lists of 1965 and 1970, in which the names of Das' parents were mentioned, and a marriage certificate of Das and his wife issued by the Mahadevpur gaon panchayat in Cachar. The HC asked the five

In 2018, a tribunal in **Cachar declared Rajendra** Das and four of his family members as "foreigners"

people to reappear before the same tribunal on or before December 24.

Das his wife Repubala and three minor children were declared foreigners by an ex-parte order (in the absence of these persons) in April 2018 by the FT-4th of Cachar. At the time, the tribunal said that Das did not appear for the proceedings nor did he file a written statement after seeking time. Das's counsel previously said he could not attend the hearing because of ill health.

In its judgment on November 24, the HC said it was "conscious of the fact that ex-parte orders cannot be interfered in a routine manner" but the case pertained to a very important right of a person: citizenship.

It said that despite an FT being "merely quasi-judicial in nature", an opinion that a person is a foreigner "almost seals the fate of the proceedee as far as the issue of citizenship is concerned". For this reason, Foreigners' Tribunals should pass an opinion only after "analysing the evidence" and "not by way of

default", as it had in Das' case, the judges said.

Last week's order emphasised on the importance of citizenship in today's world and said: "It is through citizenship that a person can enjoy and enforce fundamental rights and other legal rights conferred by the Constitution and other statutes, without which a person cannot lead a meaningful life with dignity... A person stripped of citizenship would be rendered a stateless person..."

Human rights lawyer Aman Wadud said the verdict was "exactly how a constitutional court should protect the most important right of a citizen". "Assam is staring at a major statelessness crisis, I am glad that the High Court has acknowledged the risk of statelessness of the petitioners in the case," he said, adding that he hoped that FTs across Assam would follow the observations of the court.

Wadud said the order was significant because many people were declared foreigners by ex-parte because of non-delivery of notices or they fail to appear before the tribunal due to ill health and financial problems. "This is a major obstacle," he said.

In 2019, Minister of State for Home G K Reddy told Parliament that between 1985 and February 28, 2019, FTs in Assam have declared 63,959 people as foreigners in exparte proceedings.

BJP's poster showing slum dwellers has curious addition: **Tamil author Perumal Murugan**

ABHINAV RAJPUT NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

A PHOTOGRAPH of Tamil author Perumal Murugan has inadvertently made it to the posters of a campaign being run by the Delhi BJP for the capital's slum dwellers. Part of a campaign called the Jhuggi Samman Yatra, the poster - shared by the Delhi BJP on its Twitter handle and also put up in parts of the city – shows Murugan among a group of people, ostensibly meant to represent residents of slums.

When contacted about the faux pas, BJP Delhi vice-president Rajan Tiwari said. "We will check with the design team about what happened."

Murugan, when contacted, told The Indian Express: "I myself belong to slums, so I am delighted. I am happy to have featured along with them."

The posters even made it to a Delhi BJP event held in Patel Nagar on Monday, addressed by party president JP Nadda and Delhi unit chief Adesh Gupta

Murugan has authored 10 novels and several collections of short stories and poems



The poster (left) showing Murugan among a group of people, ostensibly meant to represent residents of slums, also made it to a Delhi BJP event held in Patel Nagar on Monday. (Right)

Bihar teachers' body protests over delay in appointments

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PATNA, NOVEMBER 29

AN ASSOCIATION of candidates selected as teachers on Monday went on an indefinite strike in Patna to protest against an alleged delay in appointments of around 38,000 school teachers.

These teachers were selected after counselling five months ago. Another round of counselling is due. Around 500 members of the

Bihar State Teachers Eligibility Test (BTET)/ Central Teachers Eligibility Test (CTET) Uttirn Abhayarthi Sangh began their protest at Gardanibagh

in the state capital.

State president of the teachers' body Rajendra Singh said the Bihar government had assured appointment letters by August 15. "We cannot understand reason for the delay.

process will be completed soon. Bihar Additional Secretary (education) Sanjay Kumar, told The Indian Express: "The process of counselling has to be completed. About 1200 niyojan units are yet to conclude counselling. Once it is done, we will begin the process

Government officials said the of appointments."

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED CIN-L65910MH1987PLC042961

said

Registered Office: Akurdi, Pune 411 035

Corporate Office: 4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv Corporate Office, Off Pune-Ahmednagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune 411 014

FIXED DEPOSIT SCHEMES

'FAAA/Stable' rating by CRISIL AND 'MAAA (Stable)' rating by ICRA.

The abovementioned ratings indicate highest degree of safety with regard to timely payment of interest and principal on the instrument.

Systematic Deposit Plan (SDP) (for Resident Individuals only):

Tenor in	Cumula	Cumulative rates of interest (% p.a)			Equity Equity share capital Other equity	120.32	119.99
months	For Depositors other than Senior Citizens		For senior citizen	For senior citizens		35,818.42 35,938.74	31,693.22 31,813.21
12 - 23	5.65%		5.90%		Total liabilities and equity	1,38,338.89	1,38,003.57
12 - 23	5.05%		5.90%		Contingent Liabilities (Standalone)		
24 - 35	6.40%		6.65%		Particulars	As at 31 March 2021	As at 31 March 2020
36 - 60	6.80%		7.05%		Disputed claims against the Company not	51.98	44.18
Ainimum deposit amount under		E. Names, addresses	and occupations of Directors:		acknowledged as debts VAT matters under appeal	4.29	4.39
The SDP is offered only to Indian r In SDP, each Fixed Deposit (refe	erred as "Deposit") will be treated as separate Deposit and	NAME	ADDRESS	OCCUPATION	ESI matters under appeal	4.29	4.37
the date of such respective Depo		Shri Sanjiv Bajaj (Chairman)	Bajaj Vihar Colony, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035.	Industrialist	Service tax matters under appeal	5.14	5.14
umber of monthly Deposits und	me, the Depositor will have option to choose between 6 to 48 er SDP. ne, the Depositor will have option to choose between 6 to 47	Shri Rajeev Jain (Managing Director)	D-2, Ivy Glen, Marigold Premises, Kalvani Nagar, Pune 411014.	Service	 On interest subsidy On penal interest/ charges On others 	1,905.44 237.25 6.42	1,971.65 223.15 6.22

Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi

34/35, Yog Koregaon Park, Lane No. 2, Pune 411001.

171, Brij Kutir, Rungta Lane, Off Nepea Sea Road, Mumbai 400026.

Flat No. 21, Mistry Court, 4th Floor,

Dinshaw Vachha Road, Opp. CCI Club, Churchgate, Mumbai 400 020.

D-103 Adarsh Residency, 47th Cross,

Piramal House, 61, Pochkhanwala Road,

аль оюск, Jayanaga Bangalore 560082.

Pune 411035.

Chandigarh resident from SA tests

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 29

A 39-YFAR-OLD male resident of Sector 36 had returned from South Africa on November 21 and was RT-PCR negative on arrival at the airport.

He was quarantined at home on his arrival in Chandigarh and as per protocol, was tested again today and it was confirmed by the Health Department that he is Covid-19 positive.

His one family member and domestic help are also positive for Covid-19. Two other family members are reported to be negative and the report of one family member is awaited.

As per protocol, he is currently kept in isolation in GMCH-32. According to Dr. Suman Singh, Director of Health Services, samples of the positive cases have been sent for whole genome sequencing to NCDC, Delhi to ascertain the variant/variant of concern (VoC), if any.

His one family member and domestic help are also positive for Covid



EXPRESS NETWORK

Covid positive

9

ABJP leader said that usually, the design work for such posters is either outsourced to a private agency or is handled by the party's IT team, but it first has to be approved by the party's top functionaries. "As per procedure, an original photograph from a previous BJP programme or rally should have been used, instead of such a photograph whose source is not known," said the leader.

BJP Delhi president Gupta and vice-president Ashok Goel, who were coordinating the programme, did not respond to repeated attempts seeking a comment.



The Jhuggi Samman Yatra is a month-and-a-half-long outreach programme to be held in slums of Delhi ahead of the MCD polls. Nadda, while addressing Monday's

event as part of the initiative, said, "Only false propaganda was done in the name of development in Delhi; blaming others has become a habit of Delhi government. If work was not

Politics has taken over public interest: Delhi govt in HC on ration scheme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

DEFENDING ITS home delivery of ration scheme, the Delhi government argued before the High Court that "politics has taken over public interest" and termed objections against it "egotistic". Terming it a progressive scheme, the government said there was no explicit prohibition against it under the National Food Security Act.

"It would require a very very strange legislation to suggest that in this time... of doorstep delivery of almost anything and everything, be it Amazon or non-Amazon, be it food articles like Swiggy or other deliveries, your lordship is told that ration delivery to the deserving and the entitled should not be done by this methodology," argued senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who represents the government, during the hearing of a petition challenging the scheme.

Terming the petition filed by Delhi Sarkari Ration Dealers Sangh a proxy litigation, the government contended that while NFSA is a central Act, the same is premised upon the operational work being handled by the state government and not the union.

'Your lordships have to see through this. Ultimately politics has taken over public interest. 'Don't call it mukhya

mantri' is the objection. You (those objecting) don't want a scheme which is both beneficial and will get support from the public," submitted Singhvi, referring to the initial objection of the central government against the scheme's name. He also said "an overwhelming percent of people" in Delhi had opted for the scheme through the 'call system'.

However, the division bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh observed that the question was not of it being a better scheme but whether it was covered under the NFSA. It recalled that the central government in its arguments had principally opposed the ouster of fair price shops (FPS) from the system.

"Even ASG did not say that doorstep delivery cannot be there, but what is being said is there is an architecture... What are you proposing to do? If you are proposing to take grain from central government, give it to tendered contractors for cleaning and conversion, and they will deliver it to the beneficiaries, which means the FPS are nowhere," said the court.

Singhvi submitted that one FPS would be in every circle. "It is from these circles that home delivery person picks up... not bypasses," he said. The arguments will continue in the case on December 3.

The poster in the background as BJP president JP Nadda addresses the audience. Express

done, it was said that the central government did not do it. Whatever work Modi *ji* did, they (the AAP government) campaigned by pasting their picture on that work.'

"The Centre fought the fight against corona all over the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi fought this fight against corona by taking the government as well as the society along," he said.

Delhi govt releases EV charging norms for corporates

New Delhi: The Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDC) launched a guidebook for EV Charging in workplaces for corporates, Monday.

DDC vice-chairperson Jasmine Shah said research suggested that 90% of EVs are charged at home or workplace. "This guidebook details the processes involved for effective decision-making to install workplace charging and is aimed at making corporates an integral part of the EV movement." he said.

Delhi at present has 380 public EV charging points and this will be increased to 500 points in the next six months.

"To build charging infrastructure at mass scale, we are also subsidising private installation of chargers. The private sector showed great interest and we heard their concerns regarding planning and implementation of EV charging stations at workplaces...," Shah said. ENS

Delhi at present has 380 public EV charging points and this will be increased to 500 points in the next six months

(Non-Executive Director)

- number of monthly Deposits under SOP. 1) The maturity period of each monthly deposit created under Monthly Maturity Scheme of SDP shall be for a minimum period of 12 months to a maximum period of 60 months 9) In case of Singh Adurity Scheme of SDP the SDP Enrue shall be for a minimum of 19 months to maximum of 60 months. All Deposits under the said Single Maturity Scheme of SDP will mature on a same date. Accordingly, the tenure of first Deposit under the said Single Maturity Scheme will be as per the SDP Tenure selected by the depositor and the tenure of each Deposit placed after the
- This to be store that sectors by the depoind ato are entire of early and the material sectors and the point ato are entire of early and the sector by the depoint at the same towards for equivalent terms of the sectors are the same towards for equivalent terms of the same term
- bady rinking to Company Twin Look Deposit on the late of interests prevaining on the safet of interests prevaining on the safet of interests prevaining on the safet of interest prevaining on the safet prevai

- be applicable from date of booking of Deposit. The Deposits under SDP will be considered as cumulative deposit and interest will be paid on maturity only.

- The same sequence for use serious structure uperient for subsequent monthly deposits made under the same SDP
 The Depositor category will not change during the SDP and will remain same as on the date of pring for SDP. The same category will be applicable throughout the SDP terrure.
 The contrast for deposits for more than 15 Crote per Depositin may vary from the published card the device of interest section of the deposite of the date of maturity. The terret many will make repayment of Deposit to the date of maturity. The terret many will make repayment of Deposit on the date of maturity of such Deposit units.
 The Company will make repayment of Deposit on the date of maturity of such Deposit units.
 Derivative financial instrut receives any request for renewal within the prescribed period before the date of maturity. The trade receivables payment will be made through NFT OR KTS or account payce charge (in case of rejection).
 On case of dishonr of NACH madate, Deposit will not be booked for such monthas add.
 The Company madate, Deposit will not be booked for such monthas add.
 The Company control of the depositor renewal madate.
 The control of the deposition provide madate.
 The term of the deposition provide madate.

 proment win see made through NET or RTGS or account preventioned in the deposit application.
 in case of distonor of NGM inmadiate, Deposit will not be booked to such month and NGM investments
 in case of distonor of NGM inmadiate, Deposit will not be booked to such month and NGM investments
 in case of distonor of NGM inmadiate, Deposit will not be booked to such month and NGM investments
 in case of distonor of NGM inmadiate, Deposit will not be booked to such month and NGM investments
 in the present balance of the capal number of nonthol for which the ACI stood distonor of NGM inmadiate set of the capacitation of the deposit of the NGM is not be and the NGM is not distonor of the Capacitation of the sident Indians. No renewal is permitted for Deposits created under singue warumy scine case where the depositor(s) has opted for renewal of Deposit created under Monthly A heme through renewal application form, however, wishes to cancel the renewal requ epositor(s) should submit a specific written request so as to reach the Company atleast 3

- depositor(s) should submit a specific written request so as to reach the Company atleast 3 business days prior to maturity date of the Deposit. The written request can be submin nearest branch of the Company or sending by post; courier to the Company or independent financial advisors or national distributors empaneled with the Compa request shall be accepted post the above-mentioned period. so in case of death of the individual primary depositor, the SDP will come to an end and NA not be presented for further creation of deposits after receipt of such information ab death. The death claims will be settled in accordance with the terms and conditions applic fixed functions.
- Encode Deposit. Particulars to be furnished as per the Non-Banking Financial Companies & Miscellaneou Banking Companies (Advertisement) Rules, 1977 as amended.

A. Name of the Company: BAJAJ FINANCE LTD.
B. Date of Incorporation: 25th March, 1987
C Profits/Dividends:

Pune 26 November 2021

HOW TO INVEST:

Profits of the Company before and after making provisions for tax, for the three financial years
immediately preceding the date of the advertisement and the dividends declared by the Company
in respect of the said years.

ended on	Before Tax	After Tax	%	Deposits Subordinate
31.03.2019	6,035.30	3,890.34	300	Other finan
31.03.2020	6,808.13	4,881.12	500	
31.03.2021	5,362.88	3,955.51	500	Total finan
				Non-finance

D. Brief particulars of the management of the Company The Company is managed by the Managing Director, subject to the control and Subject to the control and Subject to the control and Provisions supervision of the Board of Directors. The Managing Director sentrusted with necessary of the Tonton-financial liabilities preserves for managed by the Subject to the sentrust of the Subject to t Total non-financial liabilities

ineach	Current tax assets (net)	155.07	
usiness anch of	Deferred tax assets (net)	919.21	
dvisors	Property, plant and equipment	972.44	
it shall	Capital work-in-progress	7.07	
rate of	Intangible assets under development	43.99	
xisting	Intangible assets	254.76	
post its n. such	Other non-financial assets	134.10	
osits of	Total non-financial assets	2,486.64	
me laturity	Total assets	1,38,338.89	1,3
est, the	LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
(three) tted at	Liabilities		
to the	Financial liabilities		
ny. No	Derivative financial instruments	137.87	
	Payables		
CH will	Trade payables		
out the able to	 Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises 	0.27	
able to	and small enterprises		
s Non-	-Total outstanding dues of creditors other than	676.62	
	micro enterprises and small enterprises		
	Other payables		
	 Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises 		
l vears	and small enterprises		
mpany	-Total outstanding dues of creditors other than	191.08	
	micro enterprises and small enterprises		
n Crore)	Debt securities	43,071.71	
dend	Borrowings (other than debt securities)	27,092.09	
%	Deposits	25,803.43	
00	Subordinated debts	3,898.61	
00	Other financial liabilities	743.65	
00	Total financial liabilities	101,615.33	10
	Non-financial liabilities		

Worli, Mumbai 400025. 74 Koregaon Park, Lane No. 3, Pune 411001 Business Ine upposts under Sur-Will be considered as cumulative deposits and interest will be paid off maturity only. The amount towards the first Deposit under the SDP shall be made through internet banking, e-mandate or account payce cheque: the subsequent deposits will have to be made by issuing National Automated (Dering House (NACH) mandate duly registered with depositors Bank, which will be presented once in a month on the date positis throwey, unit successful registration of NACH mandate, no subsequent Deposit shall be booked by the subsect of the presented once in a month on the date positis is not acceptable through any other payment mode, except through NACH mandate, and present deposit or grain grained presented once in a month on the date positis is not acceptable through any other payment mode, except through NACH mandate, and grain grained present on the subsect of the present on the subsect of the paylicant benefit for subsecuent deposits in a not acceptable through any other payment mode, except through NACH mandate, and grain grained present on the subsect of the paylicant benefit for subsecuent of posit and grain grain three terms (i.e., individual depositor or primary depositor, failing under special category of Senior citrzens (i.e., individual depositor or primary depositor, failing under special category of Senior citrzens (i.e., individual depositor or primary depositor, failing under special category of Senior citrzens (i.e., individual depositor or primary depositor, failing of first Deposit, the applicant benefit for subsequent to failing of first Deposit, the applicant benefit for subsequent on the subsequent deplication of the of Dapa subsequent monthly deposits made under the same SDP.

Industrialist

Industrialist

Business

Professional

Business

		(kin crore)		nion expressed by the Compa
	As at	As at		Company.
	31 March 2021	31 March 2020	K. The de	posits shall also be subject to t
			Bank o	ts may be withdrawn prior to 1 f India in this regard. Please r is subject to the following con
nts	1,383.63	674.53		o 3 months from date of depos
an cash and cash	2.13	4.83		er 3 months but before 6 mont
ruments	0.00	171.76		er 6 months but before the dat specified for the period du
	720.10	867.18		cified for the deposit period, i
	1,13,089.94	1,13,417.08		ered by BFL.
	20,169.12	20,138.98	M The Bu	siness carried on by the Compa
	487.33	349.51		iness carried on by the Compa
	1,35,852.25	1,35,623.87		viding consumer finance rangi
				ns, loan against property, Hor ns, loan against securities and
	155.07	204.57		Aqra, Ahmedabad, Ahmedna
)	919.21	847.61		ravati, Amreli, Amritsar, An
ipment	972.44	1,016.16		jalkot, Bangalore, Baramati, B
5	7.07	0.00		ıruch, Bhatinda, Bhavnagar, B
development	43.99	0.00		aner, Bilaspur, Bokaro, Bolp
	254.76	211.98		nnai, Chhindwara, Chikhli, Chi Idalore, Cuttack, Dabhoi, Dah
ets	134.10	99.38		irwad, Dhule, Dindigul, Durga
sets	2,486.64	2,379.70	Gur	ntur, Gwailor, Haldia, Halol, Ha
	1,38,338.89	1,38,003.57		oli, Hyderabad, Indore, Jabalı ınaqar, Jamner, Jamshedpur,
				pur, Kapurthala, Karad, Karaik
ſ				indwa, Kharagpur, Kolar, Kolh
				nool, Kurukshetra, Latur, Luckr
	127.07			pusa, Margao, Mehsana, Moga nakkal, Nanded, Nandurbar,
ruments	137.87			ipat, Patiala, Patna, Pen, Ph
				chur, Raipur, Rajahmundry, F
				ichi, Ratlam, Ratnagiri, Rewa, I
of micro enterprises	0.27	0.30		mla, Shimoga, Siliguri, Sirsa, S
				pati, Tirupur, Trichur, Trichy,
of creditors other than	676.62	636.76		lakara, Valsad, Vapi, Varanasi, rdha, Warud, Washim, Yavatm
mall enterprises				e www.bajajfinserv.in=> Scrol
				lirectly clicking https://www.b
of micro enterprises	-	-	2. Bus	iness carried on by the subsidi
of creditors other than	191.08	179.46	Sr.	Name of subsidiary
mall enterprises			No.	
	43.071.71	41,713,77	1.	Bajaj Housing Finance
debt securities)	27.092.09	36,923.32		Limited
ocor secondes)	25,803.43	21,427.10		
	3.898.61	4,141.75	2.	Bajaj Financial
	743.65	669.90		Securities Limited
, 25	101,615.33	105,692.36		
c5	101,015.55	103,092.30	<u> </u>	1

Income tax matters:		
- Appeals by the Company	0.00	0.32
 Appeals by the Income tax department 	0.28	0.24
G. a) Amount which the Company can raise by way of Companies Acceptance of Public Deposits (Reser Crore		
b) The aggregate of deposits actually held as on 31	.03.2021 : ₹25,803.43 Cro	re
# The aggregate dues from the facilities, both fund companies in the same group or other entities Director/Company are holding substantial interest are ₹ 5.36 (x, Baja) Allianz Life insurance Company Lid. – ₹ 9.32 (x, Baja) Inserv Direct Lid. – ₹ 0. Baja) Auto Lid. – ₹ 0.23 (x, Hind Musafir Agency Lid. – ₹ jamnala] Sons Pxt. Lid. – ₹ 0.21 (x)	or business ventures 52.55 Crore (Bajaj Housin 4.51 Cr, Bajaj Allianz Ger 25 Cr, Bajaj Finserv Health	in which the g Finance Ltd. – neral Insurance Ltd. – ₹ 7.70 Cr,
. The Company has no overdue deposits other than unclain	ned deposits.	
. The Company declares as under:		
i) The Company has complied with the RBI directions ap	pplicable to it.	
ii) The compliance with the RBI directions does not i guaranteed by the Reserve Bank of India.	mply that the repayment	of Deposits is
iii) The deposits accepted by the Company are unse unsecured liabilities.	ecured and rank pari pas	su with other
iv) The deposits solicited by the Company are not insure	d.	
v) The Financial position of the Company as disclose deposit application form are true and correct. The responsible for the correctness and veracity thereon are regulated by Reserve Bank of India. It must, Reserve Bank of India dees not undertake any respon Company or for the correctness of any of the stat opinion expressed by the Company and for repayme the Company.	Company and its Board of f. The financial activities of however, be distinctly un nsibility for the financial so ements or the representa	If Directors are f the Company nderstood that undness of the itions made or
K. The deposits shall also be subject to the terms and condi	tions as per the deposit ap	plication form.
 Deposits may be withdrawn prior to the date of maturity. Bank of India in this regard. Please note that premature cases) is subject to the following conditions: 		

sit: Withdrawal is not permitted.

ths: Interest shall not be payable.

te of maturity: The rate of interest shall be 2% lower than the uring which the scheme has run. In case of no rate being interest rate payable shall be 3% lower than the lowest rate

any and its subsidiaries with details of branches or units if any any and its branches

pany and its branches: inging form vehicles ass, consumer durable financing, personal tome Loans, construction equipment financing, small business infinastructure financing. The Company is having 15 Branches Indinastructure financing. The Company is having 15 Branches Indinastructure financing. The Company is having 15 Branches Indinastructure financing. The Company is having 15 Branches Jand, Anantpur, and Ankaleshwa, Kansol, Aurangabad, Bardial, Bhavand, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwa, Bhub, Bida, Bipany, Bhub, Bhibwand, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwa, Bhub, Bida, Bipany, Dipur, Borsad, Calicut, Chalisgaon, Chandigath, Chandagou, Jogur, Bury, Toede, Gandhidham, Goo, Gokak, Guiberga, Guna, Jangur, Japut, Jang, Jacha, Jangaon, Japaigura, Janmu, Jangur, Japut, Jang, Jang, Jangaon, Japaigura, Jannu, Jangur, Jangadh, Kadi, Kaithal, Kakinada, Kaka, Kannu, Jangur, Jangadh, Kadi, Kaithal, Kakinada, Kaka, Kannug, Jangur, Jangadh, Kadi, Kaithal, Kakinada, Kaka, Kannug, Jangur, Jangadh, Kadi, Kaithal, Kakinada, Kandya, Jangalore, Jaguurangadh, Kadika, Kajinatangang, Kangur, Janhanyu, Phagwada, Pimpalgaon, Pollachi, Pondicherry, Pune, Puttu, Jandharyu, Katon, Kalon, Kalon, Kalon, Kangadora, Jangura, Kapat, Ravanchang, Katon, Kalon, Kangadore, Jagukan, Kapat, Ravanda, Kalon, Kalon, Kangadore, Jangura, Jangkan, Kalon, Kalon, Kalon, Kangadar, Jandharpur, Phagwada, Pimpalgaon, Pollachi, Pondicherry, Pune, Puttu, Ja, Kohka, Kapat Rourelans, Baten, Sangli, Satas, Schner, Jandharyu, Tunaduka, Kangadangan, Wani, Warangal, Kohka, Kapat, Rourelans, Saten, Sangli, Satas, Sahne, Sologa, Satos, Sutendanaga, Tenag, Hawadha, Jinnevlel, Ja, Kohka, Kapat, Rourelans, Saten, Satan, Schner, Solaga, Satos, Jasenden, Saten, Sangli, Satas, Schner, Solaga, Satos, Satendanaga, Tenag, Hawadha, Jinnevlel, Ja, Kohka, Kapat, Kalana, Katos, Katus, Kangadan, Jangaber, Jang Jang, Jang Jang, Pollachi, Pondicherry, Jandhargur, Jang Jang, Jang Jang, Pollachi, Pondicherry, Jandhargur, Jandhardan, Jatos, Katos, Katos, Katas, Katas, Katas, Katos ing from vehicle loans, consumer durable financing, per

liaries of the Compan

other than ses	191.08	179.46	Sr. No.	Name of subsidiary	Address of registered office	Activity
es)	43,071.71 27,092.09 25.803.43	41,713.77 36,923.32 21,427.10	1.	Bajaj Housing Finance Limited	Bajaj Auto Ltd complex, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035	Housing Finance Business
	3,898.61 743.65	4,141.75 669.90	2.	Bajaj Financial Securities Limited	Bajaj Auto Ltd complex, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi,	Stock broking and depository
_	101,615.33	105,692.36			Pune 411035	participant
	172.78	52.10				
	136.56	78.87				
	475.48	367.03				

The above text of advertisement has been issued on the authority and in the name of the Board of Directors and has been approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on 20 July 2021 and copy of the same signed by Shri Rajeev Jain, Managing Director, who is d by the Board to sign on it's behalf, has been delivered to the Reserve Bank of India for registrat

784.82

498.00

By order of the Board of Directors for Bajaj Finance Limited	
Rajeev Jain, Managing Director	
DIN: 01550158	

Applications can be made online by visiting www.bajajfinservin/fixed-deposit or Bajaj Finance branches or any of our affiliated partner websites or apps or offices. The amount should be deposited only by net-banking or cheque. Cheques should be payable to Bajaj Finance Ltd. A/c 00070350006738' and crossed' Account Payee only'. The cheques should be payable to a more strain to a strain of the BFI branches for HPR/RtGS, please use the following details: Beneficiary Name: Bajaj Finance Ltd. Bank actor. ar BAJAJFD (numerical account number is replaced by QMS Collection code - ZBAJAJFD). Account Payee Intervine the strain of the BFI or be submitted and to the BFI context actor. Brain actor and the BFI context actor and the strain actor and the strain actor and the BFI context actor. Brain actor and the BFI context actor actor and payable at the actor actor actor and by a strain actor ac







THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 10 IN PARLIAMENT WINTER SESSION

FROM THE GALLERY

FROM THE CHAIR RAJYA SABHA

"On my part, I was expecting and waiting for the leading lights of this august House to take lead in expressing their outrage over what had happened during the last session... But unfortunately, it was not to be."

MVENKAIAH NAIDU, Chairman in his opening remarks

LOK SABHA

"Today is the first day. Everyone has high expectations from this session... Please do not come to the well of the House..."

RAJENDRA AGRAWAL, in the Chair, to Opposition members before he adjourned the House till Tuesday



5 QUESTIONS KODIKUNNIL SURESH. CONGRESS CHIEF WHIP IN LOK SABHA, TELLS LIZ MATHEW WHY HIS PARTY DID NOT WANT TO BE IN THE WELL OF THE HOUSE WHEN THE FARM LAWS REPEAL **BILL WAS TAKEN UP**

Congress MPs returned to their seats when the Farm Laws Repeal Bill was taken up while some other opposition members were still in the well.

Yes. It was the party's decision not to disrupt during the passage of the Bill But we wanted to discuss a number of issues related to the farm Bills... We had decided to raise the Lakhimpur Kheri incident also. But we did not want to be in the well of the House when the Bill was tabled, otherwise BJP would have accused the Congress of disrupting the repealing process.

Did the party make the demand for a debate earlier?

In speeches, PM called for 'quality debates'; in House, Govt pushed 15 Bills in under 10 mins last session

MANOJCG NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

NINE MINUTES in Rajva Sabha and three minutes in Lok Sabha: that's how long the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021, took to be passed Monday – without any discussion. Just a few hours before the Bill was passed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted that the government was willing to discuss all issues with an "open mind" and ready to answer all questions - a statement he has often repeated, advocating debate and discussions in Parliament.

"Victory teaches us many things and we should learn also. Victory teaches us to be humble. I give my trust to this Parliament, I believe that the seniors here, from whatever group they may be, with their blessings, we will get that strength which will save us from arrogance. It will teach us every moment to be humble. Whatever be the number here. but I will not move forward without you. We should not move on the basis of numbers. We should move on the basis of the power of collective approach (samoohikta). We want to move forward with the feeling of collective approach," Modi said in his maiden speech in Lok Sabha on June 11, 2014.

Just a few days ago, addressing the inaugural session of the 82nd All India Presiding Officers' Conference on November 17, Modi said "meaningful discussions in the House are very important". "How to add value to debates and how to set new standards for quality debates? Can we think of setting aside time for quality debate? Such a debate in which there is dignity and seriousness and there is no political slander. In a way, it should be the healthiest time of the legislature. I'm not asking for everyday. It can be two hours, half-a-day or a day sometimes. Can we try something like this? It should be a healthy day, healthy debate and quality debate, a debate that does value addition and which is absolutely free from everyday politics," he had said.



Opposition leaders stage a protest in Rajya Sabha on Monday. RSTV/PTI

On September 15, speaking at the launch of Sansad TV, he said his experience was that "content is connect". "When you have better content, people automatically engage with you. As much as this applies to the media, it is equally applicable to our parliamentary system. Because there is not only politics in Parliament, there is also policymaking. When Parliament is in session, debates are held on diverse subjects, and there is so much for the youth to learn. When our honorable members also know that the country is watching them, they also get inspiration for better conduct, better debates inside the Parliament. This also increases the productivity of Parliament, and public interest works also become popular," he said.

In 2019, speaking in Rajya Sabha, Modi had asked members to draw a distinction between "checking and clogging" legislation. "In a way, many of our dignitaries say this again and again, that the House should be for discussion, dialogue and debate. There can be debates in loud voices; there is no harm in it. However, it is necessary that we choose the path of dialogue instead of interruptions," he said.

On Monday, he said: "This session should be rich in ideas and positive debates, should have far-reaching impact... Parliament should be judged on how it functions and its significant contributions, rather than who disrupted Parliament forcefully. This cannot be the benchmark. The benchmark would be how many hours Parliament worked and how much positive work was done. The government is willing to discuss every issue with an open mind. The government is ready to answer every question. And we would like that there should be questions in Parliament and peace should also prevail."

The passage of the farm laws in the Monsoon Session of 2020 was marred by disruptions, with the Opposition in Rajya Sabha alleging their demand for a division of votes was ignored. But there was a debate then. Lok Sabha discussed the farm Bills on September 17, 2020, for two hours and 48 minutes; three days later, the Rajya Sabha discussed the Bills for two hours and eight minutes. While 44 members participated in the discussion in Lok Sabha, 32 members took part in Rajya Sabha. The BJP government has often faced crit-

icism for rushing Bills. The last session saw 15 Bills – 14 in Lok Sabha and one in Rajya Sabha - being passed in less than 10 minutes, and 26 Bills in less than half-an-hour. In its second term, over six Parliament sessions, the Modi government has passed 42 Bills in less than half-an-hour, and 19 in less than 10 minutes, according to PRS Legislative Research data. While many of the Bills were ordinary in nature, some deserved serious discussion.

For instance, the 14 Bills passed in less than 10 minutes in Lok Sabha in the Monsoon Session included the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill (discussed for 8 minutes), The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill (5 minutes), The Tribunals Reforms Bill (9 minutes), and The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill (6 minutes). The Opposition wanted the general insurance Bill to be referred to a standing committee; in Rajya Sabha, the Bill was passed in 22 minutes.

According to the PRS data, the Monsoon Session perhaps holds the worst record when it comes to Bills being rushed through in Parliament. The other Bills passed in under 10 minutes were: The National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, The Inland Vessels Bill, The Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill, The Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment)Bill, The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes)Order(Amendment)Bill, The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, The National Commission for Homoeopathy (Amendment) Bill and The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine

(Amendment) Bill. In Rajya Sabha, the Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill was passed in less than 10 minutes.

Govt ready to discuss all issues, answer all questions: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

MINUTES BEFORE the start of the Winter Session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the government was ready to discuss all issues and answer all questions in the House.

Calling on lawmakers to maintain the dignity of the House, Modi told reporters outside Parliament in Delhi that the benchmark for success should be based on discussions. and not disruptions. "Our government is ready to answer all questions during the Winter Session of the Parliament. It is also ready to answer all questions... We should debate in the Parliament, and maintain the decorum of the proceedings," he said.

Modi also reminded the MPs that they are in Parliament to fulfill the dreams of the crores of people in the country.

Pointing out that Parliament has renewed its pledge to protect the spirit of the Constitution last week, Modi said: "Everyone in the country would hope that the spirit of the Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav will be maintained. And that the House should debate on the issues of national interest, explore new ways for development and make constructive decisions that would have far-reaching impact.

The Prime Minister also urged people to be alert about Omicron, the new variant of Covid-19 that has triggered fears over another potential wave of infections across the world

NO DEBATE ON FARM LAWS REPEAL BILL, 2021 'Shameless': Opp mounts attack on Govt



together demanded a discussion after the Bill was introduced. We made our case in the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting.



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

WITH THE Opposition accusing the govern-Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said on Monday that there was "consensus" on the issue. He also said a discussion on the Bill could have started in Lok Sabha but protests by Opposition parties ruled it out. Tomar said the government had enacted the three farm laws for the benefit of farmers. "The government had held discussions with the protesting farm unions, but we are sorry that we could not succeed in explaining the benefits of the farm laws." he said.



BKU leader Rakesh Tikait at Ghazipur border after the Bill to repeal the three farm laws was passed. PTI

Repeal of farm laws: Punjab unions hail 'historic day'

But the government rejected your demand.

The government knew that it would be exposed if we discussed the issues. We were all prepared for the discussions. But last evening they said they would not allow a debate. It would have been on defensive if the debate took place.

The Opposition was not together and TMC MPs were still protesting... But the TMC also made the same

demand in the BAC. TMC's Kalyan Banerjee stood for it very aggressively in the Speaker's meeting.

Do you think there will be unity among the Opposition in the Winter Session?

The Congress is trying to talk to other party leaders also to put up a united opposition against the government.... There are many issues... we can be on the same board in the coming days.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi, senior party leader Rahul Gandhi and other Opposition leaders protest at Parliament House on Monday; (right) Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar. Anil Sharma

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE OPPOSITION parties criticised the government for stonewalling their demand for a discussion on the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021, which was passed by Parliament on Monday.

While the Congress said the government was "terrified" of having a discussion, the CPI(M) called it a "murder of India's parliamentary democracy", the Trinamool Congress called it "shameless", and the RJD said it was "undemocratic".

Speaking to reporters, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the Congress had predicted that the government would have to take back the farm laws as it knew that the "might of three-four large crony capitalists cannot stand against the might of farmers and labourers"

"What is unfortunate is how the Bills have

been repealed without any discussion, without any conversation. We wanted to have a conversation about the forces behind these Bills, because these Bills don't just reflect the view of the Prime Minister, they reflect the power behind the Prime Minister, the power of people and forces behind the Prime Minister. and that is what we wanted to discuss," he said.

On the BJP's argument that there was no need for a discussion since the farm Bills were being repealed, he said: "Then what is the need for Parliament. Shut it down. Then the Prime Minister can say whatever he wants and enact whatever laws he wants to enact."

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said while the Prime Minister sermonises on debates in Parliament, no discussion was allowed in both Houses. "It is a murder of India's parliamentary democracy," he said.

"ModiI(2014-19): Repealing & Amending Bill 2017 was one instance. Six MPs participated in the discussion. A fig leaf of democracv then. Some shame. Modi II (2019-today): #FarmLaws Repeal Bill 2021 taken up and passed. No debate allowed. Not even a figleaf of democracy. Shameless," tweeted TMC Rajya Sabha floor leader Derek O'Brien.

BSP chief Mayawati said the passage of the Bill was a "real victory of democracy" but questioned the government's "silence" over the demand for a legal guarantee for minimum support price.

'People cannot forget the manner in which farm laws were passed and they would always remember the 'undemocratic' style in which farm laws were repealed... the only consistent feature of this regime is to decimate democratic processes and procedure 24X7. Yet this 'phase' too shall pass," said senior RID leader Manoj Iha.

"Passed without discussion; repealed without discussion. A new model of democracy for a new India," National Conference leader Omar Abdullah tweeted.

Tomar said the Opposition wanted the laws repealed, and when the government agreed to it, there was consensus.

In Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla repeatedly requested Opposition members to return to their seats so that a discussion could take place, said Tomar. If there was a discussion, the government would certainly have responded, he said.

Tomar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had kept his word as the Bill was passed on the first day of the Winter Session. He said the Centre had tried to take forward the agriculture sector through several schemes over the last seven years.

He said the government has implemented the MSP as per the Swaminathan Committee's recommendations, and MSPbased procurement has almost doubled as compared to 2014.

RAAKHI JAGGA LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 29

AS PARLIAMENT approved the repeal of the three farm laws on Monday, the 32 farmer unions of Punjab called it "a historic day" and declared "victory of the most peaceful struggle", but added that the Centre has time till Fuesday to reply on its other demands, including legal guarantee for MSP. They also said an emergency meeting of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on December 1 will decide their future course of action.

"This is a victory for us and a historic day. We want withdrawal of cases against the farmers. We want a committee to be formed on the legal guarantee of minimum support price for crops. The Centre has time till tomorrow (Tuesday) to reply to our demands. We have called an emergency meeting on Wednesday to discuss the future course of action," the SKM said in a statement.

The SKM said important demands are still pending. "History was made when the antifarmer laws got repealed. However, the development was marred by the fact that there was no debate allowed on the Bill tabled to repeal the three laws," it said.

Buta Singh Burjgill, president BKU (Dakaunda), said, "We have won this agitation. It is time to celebrate now. People used to say that Modi hai toh mumkin hai, but no one is above people's power.'

Sources hinted that if the government expressed its intention or gave guarantee to consider the farmers' remaining demands, the agitation at Delhi's borders might be called off.

Harmeet Singh Kadian, president BKU (Kadian), talking to The Indian Express, termed the year-long agitation as "the biggest andolan (movement)" after Independence. "It is our victory, but a decisive announcement will be made at the SKM meeting," he said. "Our other demands - repeal of Electricity Amendment Bill 2020, cancellation of FIRs against protesters, and suspension of Ajay Mishra from Union Cabinet – are pending. The most important demand is MSP ... "

MPs' suspension: Opp didn't present its side, believes govt

KRISHN KAUSHIK NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

JUSTIFYING THE suspension of 12 Opposition members from Rajya Sabha on the first day of the Winter Session, government sources said the Opposition leaders could have presented their side of the story had they agreed to be part of a committee to look into the events of August 11.

They also argued that since the events happened on the last day of the previous session, Monday was the first opportunity for the government to bring in a motion to suspend them. Sources also said should the suspended members apologise for their actions, the government might reconsider its stand.

Government sources pointed out that soon after the end of the previous session, Union minister Piyush Goyal had written to Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu complaining against the con-

duct of 20 MPs in the House, and seeking a special disciplinary committee to decide "exemplary disciplinary action" against them and formulate a code of conduct. However, a senior government source said, "many Opposition parties refused to be a part of it" even after the Chairman requested them. "If such a committee would have been formed. each party could have had a chance to explain their position and raise their concerns."

The source admitted that there was "no precedent of such action (of suspension) after a session", but added, "there is also no precedent to such unruly and obnoxious behaviour".

The source also called what happened in the Monsoon Session "a planned attack" to ensure that the House did not run, and said the MPs concerned had not just obstructed Prime Minister Narendra Modi but also others from speaking.

Referring to Naidu "breaking down" on August 11 morning, the source mentioned that "the Chairman's trauma was literally the last straw and action had to be initiated at the first available opportunity, which was the opening day of the Winter Session."

Claims that disruptions happened when Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj led the Opposition were lies, the source said. "The BIP never used force or resorted to violence or impinged on the privileges of other MPs.'

On Monday morning, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi wrote a threepage letter to Naidu to be allowed to bring the motion to suspend the 12 Opposition MPs, highlighting several instances of alleged unruly behaviour on part of several members.

Mentioning the events of August 11, he alleged that the CPM's Elamaram Kareem "physically assaulted and tried to asphyxiate a marshal on Duty" and the Congress's Phulo Devi Netam and Chhava Verma "pulled dragged and assaulted a female marshal". He called these instances "unfathomable and nothing short of sacrilege", and said these "demand exemplary remedy".

Monsoon Session: Govt push to pass Bill led to chaos in Rajya Sabha

supposed to be the last day of the Monsoon Session – the government's push to pass the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) EXPLAINEI Amendment Bill, 2021 at around 6 pm led to chaotic scenes in Rajya Sabha. The House was adjourned sine die later that day.

The government intended to

amend the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, allowing it to reduce its stake in insurance companies – a Bill passed by Lok Sabha on August 2. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

introduced the Bill without making any re-





amendment to send it to a select committee was negated. As Opposition members stormed into the well, additional marshals were called in. When the protestors tried to make their way to the Table of House, there was some jostling between them and the marshals. ENS



by CPI's Binoy Viswam, CPI(M)'s Elamaram Kareem, TMC's Derek O'Brien









New Delhi: On August 11 – which was not marks. There were four amendments listed

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 EXPLANATION OF THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021

90 @ieExplained #ExpressExplained

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

Can an RT-PCR test detect infection with Omicron?

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS PUNE, NOVEMBER 29

THE OMICRON variant of SARS-CoV2 is being seen as a big threat, with the World Health Organization (WHO) on Sunday assessing the global risk as "very high". Preliminary data has indicated that Omicron could have higher transmissibility, and also a greater ability to evade the immune response generated either through prior infection or through vaccines.

Timely detection of this variant is, therefore, key to containing its spread. The WHO has said one positive thing about this variant is that it could be detected in some of the RT-PCR diagnostic tests being used across the world, unlike other variants whose presence can be determined only after genetic sequencing. This can speed up detection and help in controlling the spread.

But as scientists told The Indian Express, this is not straightforward; most RT-PCR tests in India might not be able to distinguish between Omicron and other variants.

How a 'miss' by RT-PCR helps

RT-PCR tests can only confirm whether the person has an infection or not. They are not designed to determine which particular variant has infected the person. For that, a genome sequencing study has to be done.

Not all infected samples are sent for genome sequencing, because it is a slow, complicated and costly process. Normally, only a very small subset of all positive samples – about 2 to 5 per cent – is sent for gene analysis.

RT-PCR tests look for the presence of some specific identifiers in the genetic material (not the entire gene sequence) of the virus in the human body. Usually, two or more identifiers are searched to increase the probability of finding a match. If one of the identifiers has mutated, the other one can still return a positive result.

Many of the RT-PCR tests look for an identifier in the coronavirus spike protein, the protruded area that allows the virus to enter the human body. If there are mutations in the spike protein, as is the case with the



Omicron variant, then there is a possibility that such RT-PCR tests, looking for identifiers in this region, would not recognise the mutation as the identifier it is looking for, and would thus give a negative result

But as mentioned above, RT-PCR tests look for more than one identifier. So, if the test finds the identifier in the other region (which would mean the person has coronavirus infection) but does not find the iden-

tifier in the spike protein, then it could be an indication that the infection is with the Omicron variant.

The problem is that Omicron is not the only variant that has mutations in the spike protein. A few others, notably the Alpha variant, also have mutations in this region, and therefore could show similar behaviour in **RT-PCR** tests.

airport. Reuters

Nonetheless, such a result can be seen as

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

a screening mechanism for the Omicron variant, especially since the prevalence of the Alpha variant in the Indian population has gone down significantly. Such screening at the diagnostic test stage can be vital in identifying and isolating the potential infections with the Omicron variant.

Gene sequencing for certainty

As Anurag Agarwal, director of Delhi based Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) explained, such a result would only be indicative of the presence of Omicron variant, and would need to be confirmed through gene sequencing. But it is still an important head start.

The WHO said one of the widely-used RT-PCR kits, developed by Thermo Fisher Scientific, can detect the presence of Omicron variant. Some of the kits being used in India can also potentially detect the variant. As Vinod Scaria, a scientist at IGIB, said, the ability of kit to detect the variant depended on the primers (chemicals that will pick up the identifiers) being used.

"Unfortunately, the primer details for a

majority of kits used in India are not publicly available. So, one cannot say whether a particular kit being used will be able to detect this variant or not," Scaria said.

If the diagnostic tests do not offer any indication, the detection of Omicron, or any other variant, would have to await the result of gene sequencing exercise that takes anywhere between 24 and 96 hours, depending on the technology being used. But since all samples are not sent for sequencing, it is possible that the Omicron variant will have started circulating but not been picked up. One way to counter this is by increasing the number of samples sent for sequencing.

R R Gangakhedkar, former head of epidemiology at ICMR, said a smart strategy needed to be worked out since it was not possible to send all samples for gene sequencing. He said that in India, it was still the Delta variant that was most prevalent and, therefore, wherever applicable, the diagnostic test laboratories should look out for the missing identifier in the spike protein region, and immediately mark these for gene sequencing.

Holding social media platforms accountable for trolls: what a draft Bill in Australia proposes

MEHRGILL NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

ON MONDAY, the Australian government released the draft of a Bill aimed at holding social media companies accountable for the content posted on their platforms, and protecting users from trolls.

In a statement on the Social Media (Basic Expectations and Defamation) Bill 2021 issued on Sunday, Prime Minister Scott Morrison's office said: "The reforms will ensure social media companies are considered publishers and can be held liable for defamatory comments posted on their platforms. They can avoid this liability if they provide information that ensures a victim can identify and commence defamation proceedings against the troll."

Morrison said, "Social media can too often be a cowards' palace, where the anonymous can bully, harass and ruin lives without consequence. We would not accept these faceless attacks in a school, at home, in the office, or on the street. And we must not stand for it online, on our devices and in our homes."

What it proposes

Australians and Australian organisations with a social media page will not be legally considered publishers of content posted there

Australians will be able to file a complaint if they have reason to believe that they are being defamed by material posted

required to disclose identifying details of trolls to victims without consent, which will enable a defamation case to be lodged.

The trigger

The Bill comes in response to a Australian High Court judgment that media companies could be held liable for comments that were left by third parties on their social media pages.

Dylan Voller, who was the subject of various news stories about youth detention, had brought defamation proceedings against media companies including The Sydney Morning Herald and Rupert Murdoch's The Australian. He alleged that after the media companies published posts about the news stories that referred to him on their Facebook pages, various third-party users made defamatory comments against him. Lawyers for the media outlets, for their part, argued that they could not be held liable for third-party comments since they were not the publishers of those comments.

On September 8, the High Court of Australia ruled in favour of Voller. It dismissed an appeal by the three media outlets against a decision by the Court of Appeal of the New South Wales Supreme Court, which had said that, "by posting content relating to news stories about Mr Voller, the respondent, on their respective Facebook pages, the appellants were liable for the publication of allegedly defamatory 'comments' that were posted by third-party Facebook users in response to the content." The statement from the PM's office guoted Attorney-General Michaelia Cash as saying: "Since the High Court's decision in the Voller case, it is clear that ordinary Australians are at risk of being held legally responsible for defamatory material posted by anonymous online trolls... The reforms will make clear that, in defamation law, Australians who operate or maintain a social media page are not 'publishers' of comments made by others.

How, when MPs are suspended

12 Opposition MPs have been suspended for the rest of the Winter Session for disruptions in Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session. What had happened then? What are the rules for dealing with disruptions?

CHAKSHUROY NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE WINTER Session of Parliament began on a stormy note on Monday. Both Houses saw disruptions as Lok Sabha passed the Bill repealing the three farm laws without any discussion, and Rajya Sabha passed it after a brief intervention by Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge.

After that, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Prahlad Joshi sought the approval of the House for suspending 12 Rajya Sabha MPs (six of the Congress, two each of the Trinamool Congress and Shiv Sena, and one each of CPI and CPI-M) for the remainder of the session. The reason for their suspension was "their unprecedented acts of misconduct, contemptuous, unruly and violent behaviour and intentional attacks on security personnel" on the last day of the Monsoon Session.

So, what had happened in Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session?

Parliament has seen continuous disruptions since the passage of the farm laws in the 2020 Monsoon Session too. When the Bills came up for discussion in Rajya Sabha, Opposition MPs demanded their scrutiny by a Select Committee. Amid slogan-shouting, MPs hurled papers at Deputy Chairman Harivansh. This led to the suspension of six







(From left) Shanta Chhetri and Dola Sen of Trinamool Congress during a protest in Parliament on Monday, and Priyanka Chaturvedi of Shiv Sena speaking after her suspension. Photos: Anil Sharma & ANI

this rule for suspending 25 Congress MPs.

of parliamentary etiquette. For example the Lok Sabha rulebook specifies that MPs are not to interrupt the speech of others, maintain silence and not obstruct proceedings by hissing or making running commentaries during debates. Newer forms of protest led to these rules being updated in 1989. Now, members should not shout slogans, display placards, tear up documents in protest, and play a cassette or a tape recorder in the House. Rajya Sabha has similar rules. To conduct the proceedings smoothly, the rulebook also gives certain, similar powers to the presiding officers of both Houses. The presiding officer of each House can direct an MP to withdraw from the legislative chamber for grossly disorderly conduct. The MP then has to remain absent from the proceedings of the House for the remainder of the day. The presiding officers can also "name" an MP for "persistently and wilfully obstructing the business" of the House. In such a case, usually, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister moves a motion for suspending the offending MP from the service of the House. The suspension can last until the end of the session.

How often have disruptions led to suspension of MPs? The first instance occurred in 1963. A few Lok Sabha MPs first interrupted President Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan and then walked out while he was delivering the joint address to both Houses. Lok Sabha ended in reprimanding these MPs. In 1989, 63 MPs were suspended from Lok Sabha on the discussion of the Thakar Commission report. More recently in 2010, 7 MPs were suspended from Rajya Sabha for snatching the women's reservation bill from the minister. Since then, MPs have raised slogans, used pepper spray in the House and displayed placards.

offences and deliberate disturbances for publicity or for political motives." In 2001, during a national conference in the

difficult to tackle is planned parliamentary

online on a particular social media service.

Individuals will also be able to give the provider of the service a defamation notice, provided they are able to give evidence that the material in question was the subject of a complaint.

Social media platforms will be required to establish a standardised complaints system whose purpose will be to ensure that defamatory remarks can be removed and trolls can be identified with their consent.

Social media companies will also be

SHUBHRA RANJAN ADMISSIONS OPEN AT ALL OUR REGIONAL CENTERS ANTHROPOLOGY OPTIONAL

Live Batch

By SOSIN THAYYABA REVELLA

Starting From: 15th December 2021

For more details: +91-9910812719 | www.shubhraranjan.com

Opposition MPs. Parliament passed the Bills without scrutiny by a committee.

Then, in this year's Monsoon Session, Opposition parties were asking for a discussion on the alleged Pegasus hacking and farm laws issues. When Electronics & Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw was making a statement on Pegasus in Raiva Sabha, Trinamool Congress MP Shantanu Sen snatched the papers from him. This was followed by a heated exchange between Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Sen, who alleged that the minister threatened and verbally abused him. Rajya Sabha suspended Sen for the rest of the Monsoon Session.

Disruptions marred both Houses throughout the session, which ended with a melee in Rajya Sabha. Opposition MPs accused security staff of manhandling them, and in turn, Leader of the House Piyush Goel accused Opposition MPs of attacking the security staff and demanding a special committee to investigate the incident. The session then ended two days ahead of schedule.

What powers do presiding officers have to deal with MPs disrupting proceedings? MPs are required to adhere to certain rules

In 2001, the Lok Sabha rule was amended to give the Speaker one additional power. A new rule, 374A, empowers the Speaker to automatically suspend an MP for a maximum of five days for disrupting the business of the House. In 2015, Speaker Sumitra Mahajan used

How difficult has it been to solve the problem of disruptions?

Presiding officers have grappled with it. Over numerous conferences, they have deliberated on ways of addressing the issue.

Former President K R Narayanan, who also chaired Rajya Sabha from 1992-97, explained the difficulty involved: "In most cases, disorders in the House arise out of a sense of frustration felt by members due to lack of opportunities to make his point, or clear his chest of grievances of the people that move him or out of the heat of the moment. They are perhaps easier to deal with. What is more

Central Hall of Parliament organised on the issue of disruptions, different political leaders summed up their positions. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said the majority party is responsible for governing and should take other parties into confidence. He said the Opposition should play a constructive role in Parliament and be allowed to put forward its views and express itself in a dignified manner.

Sonia Gandhi, the then leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, emphasised that debate is central to democracy, and therefore there should be more debate and fewer disruptions. She identified "the reluctance and procrastination" of the treasury benches to face discussions as a cause for disorder in Parliament. She sought the support of the presiding officers to help the Opposition in raising issues uncomfortable to the government.

Mamata Baneriee, leader of the Trinamool Congress, said that in a democracy, power is transient and that a party ruling at the Centre may not be in control in the states. She stressed the need for cordial and respectful relations between the Opposition and ruling parties.

> Chakhsu Roy is Head of Outreach at PRS Legislative Research

Division of assets between UP, Uttarakhand : old dispute, new agreement

AVANEESH MISHRA DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 29

MONTHS AHEAD of Assembly elections in their states, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Uttarakhand counterpart Pushkar Singh Dhami recently reached an agreement on the division of assets and liabilities, a subject the two states have discussed and debated ever since Uttarakhand was carved out of UP 21 years ago.

History of the dispute

Uttarakhand was formed on November 9, 2000 following the Uttarakhand movement in undivided UP. This was soon followed by disputes over assets and liabilities, mainly of the irrigation, transport, housing, forest, food & civil supplies and tourism departments.

Uttarakhand leaders would cite the

Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2000, under which any property should be owned by the state where it is situated, and would allege that UP had not handed over control of even 41 canals which flowed from and back into Uttarakhand. They cited the examples of Tehri Dam, Nanak Sagar Dam, Baigul Dam, Tumaria Dam (out of six dams located in Uttarakhand and controlled by UP) and Haridwar's Alaknanda Guest House (controlled by UP Tourism, and now being handed over to Uttarakhand).

Successive governments in both states have made attempts to resolve these issues over meetings between their chief ministers, other ministers, and bureaucrats. On some occasions, disputes related to irrigation, transport and sharing of employees and liabilities have reached the courts. While the case on sharing of employees has since been resolved, the other matters are pending.

In 2018, when Trivendra Singh Rawat was Uttarakhand CM, a formula was proposed that irrigation department assets will be divided in the ratio 75:25, with Uttarakhand getting the larger chunk.

The newest agreement

Under the agreement signed between Dhami and Adityanath on Thursday, the irrigation Department officials of the two states would meet within 15 days to conduct a joint survey of 5,700 hectares of land and 1,700 buildings in Uttarakhand that are under the control of the UP Irrigation Department. The study would identify the properties that will be useful for UP, and the rest would go to Uttarakhand.

UP has granted permission to Uttarakhand conduct tourism and water sports activities in the Dhaura. Baigul and Nanak Sagar water bodies in Udham Singh Nagar district and the Upper Ganga canal at

Roorkee. The UP irrigation Department will soon release an order on this.

Following the division of the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, UP had paid around Rs 77.31 crore to Uttarakhand; another Rs 13 crore will be deposited in a joint escrow account. The meeting also decided that the UP

Transport Department's dues will be decided as per the circle rate in 2003, along with interest; this comes to Rs 205.42 crore. As Uttarakhand owes Rs 105.43 crore to the UP Food and Civil Supplies Department, the amount will be adjusted. The states also resolved that the UP Irrigation Department's bus stand land in Kichcha in Udham Singh Nagar district would be handed over to Uttarakhand within 15 days.

The two governments also decided to equally share the incomes and liabilities generated by the assets and properties of

the Uttar Pradesh Awas Vikas Parishad located in Uttarakhand. The Alaknanda Guest House will be transferred to Uttarakhand, and inaugurated next month.

The Chief Ministers agreed to withdraw cases pending in courts and resolve them through mutual consent. It was also decided that the UP Irrigation Department would reconstruct barrages at Banbasa on the India-Nepal border and Kichcha that were damaged in natural calamities.

Issues raised by Opposition

After the two state governments claimed to have resolved their disputes, former Uttarakhand CM Harish Rawat of the Congress alleged that Dhami had "surrendered" to his UP counterpart over the agreement on the division of assets and liabilities.

He alleged that not only have the present rights of Uttarakhand been sold out to UP, but the future rights related to water, too, have been handed over. In 2018, when the BJP governments in both state governments had agreed on dividing the Irrigation Department assets in a 75:25 ratio with Uttarakhand getting the larger chunk, the Congress had opposed in then too, he said.

Congress organisation general secretary Mathura Dutt Joshi said the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act clearly states that a property will be owned by the state where it is situated, and the Uttarakhand government need not have given in to Uttar Pradesh. He also guestioned why the dues of the UP Transport Department were decided as per the circle rate in 2003 and not as per the current, higher rate.

The Congress has said it will protest against the agreement in the Assembly, call on Governor Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh, and explore legal ways to oppose the agreement.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE COMEDY IS AN ESCAPE, NOT FROM TRUTH BUT FROM DESPAIR; A NARROW ESCAPE INTO FAITH.

- Christopher Fry

The Indian **EXPRESS**

∽ Founded By ∽ Ramnath Goenka BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

DIMINISHING HOUSE

ATV address to nation, unctuous tweets do not a debate make. The way the farm laws have been repealed dents Parliament

T JUST TOOK four minutes for the Lok Sabha on Monday to pass a bill that sought to repeal the three controversial farm legislations which saw farmers mobilise at the Delhi borders for over a year. It is shocking - but hardly a surprise - that the government refused to heed the Opposition's demand for a discussion in the House on the subject that had been debated extensively on different platforms across the nation. This is reminiscent of the manner in which the controversial laws were rammed through in Parliament in September 2020 without due consideration, as demanded by the Opposition, leading to deep distrust about the reforms itself in the society, particularly among a section of the farmer community. In fact, the obstinacy of the government was a major reason why it failed to convince the protestors despite 11 rounds of talks and the intervention of the Supreme Court about crucial reforms.

The decision to repeal the Acts was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Guru Purab. But a televised address to the nation is no substitute for a detailed statement and discussion in Parliament since these Acts had been passed by the House. Union ministers had taken to social media and hailed the PM's climbdown as a great gesture in the national interest - what was against the national interest was never explained. So, what were the imperatives? Was the government's failure merely a case of miscommunication? What has been the outcome of similar "reform" measures in the states? Should the Centre henceforth let the states decide their own agriculture reform paths as per the demands of local political economy rather than push centralised solutions on a sector rich in diverse cultivation practices and markets? Then, there is the continuing demand among farmers for making the minimum support price a legal right, which raises several fraught issues. It also seems even those who had opposed the farm laws agree that Indian agriculture is in a crisis and needs radical solutions. So what is the way forward? All these and much more - the tragedy in Lakhimpur Kheri where a central minister's son was arrested on allegations that a SUV owned by him ran over a march killing five persons - needs vigorous debate in Parliament. By now the government should know that agriculture is a deeply contested territory and policymaking in the sector calls for conversations across fences. In fact, the farming community itself, including those in the forefront of protests, have, by their own admission, gone through a period of education and deep introspection about farm practices.

Prime Minister Modi is wont to call the Constitution a holy book and Parliament a temple. But his government has been found wanting in living up to the letter and spirit of that holy book and has frequently used its electoral majority to impose its will on Parliament by stomping out dissenting voices and ignoring custom and procedure. Debates are the lifeline of Parliament; their absence will diminish the institution, put a question mark on the next set of laws and deepen already hardening fault lines.

TRAGEDY OF ERRORS

Bengaluru police disgraces itself by shutting down Munawar Faruqui's show. State must not succumb to mob's veto

ENGALURU POLICE COMMISSIONER Kamal Pant must answer: Why did the police force of one of India's most cosmopolitan cities, where the future is daily reimagined and innovated on, disgrace itself by submitting to and enforcing a heckler's veto? How else does one describe the act of the Bengaluru police writing to the organisers of a ticketed comedy show by Munawar Faruqui and "suggesting" that they cancel it because "organisations opposed to" Faruqui's comedy "could create chaos ... and lead to law and order problems"? Faced with threats from right-wing organisations, Faruqui and the show's organisers found they could not depend on what is taken for granted in functional democracies - that the state would defend their right to stage a show against a mob. Instead, the police were found upholding the right to be offended of those who have repeatedly used the threat of violence to force a majoritarian consensus. The police is, indeed, responsible for keeping peace but that does not empower it to impose a prior restraint on an act of speech. The Supreme Court has several times spoken against the use of such pre-censorship - most recently, in a case last year involving a provocative show by Sudarshan TV. In the 1989 S Rangarajan case, when a Tamil film was sought to be denied clearance on the grounds that it would lead to violent protests, the SC had asked: "What good is the protection of freedom of expression if the state does not take care to protect it? ... it cannot be suppressed on account of threats of demonstration and processions or threats of violence. That would be tantamount to ... a surrender to blackmail and intimidation." Unfortunately, the hounding of Munawar Faruqui, which began last year in Indore over a joke he might not have even cracked, illustrates precisely a surrender to this politics of "blackmail and intimidation". An organised campaign of harassment has brought the young comic to the brink of quitting his career. In the last several months, Farugui's shows have been cancelled in several cities, from Mumbai to Raipur to Surat, after threats of violence by Hindu right-wing organisations. The political class, irrespective of the party in office, has silently allowed this campaign to grow louder, even while making lofty declamations on Constitution Day. The Constitution promises Faruqui - and all citizens - the freedom of speech and liberty. The state and its police must go back to its job of defending those rights.



These are hard times

From jobs to household budgets, slump in MSMEs to gathering debt, distress looms, Need is to course correct

Feroze Varun Gandhi

IN EARLY NOVEMBER, three troubling reports came in. Approximately 5.46 million Indians lost their jobs in October as per CMIE data. In particular, our youth unemployment rate was 28.26 per cent in 2020-21, compared to 15.66 per cent in 2016-17. By August 2021, around 33 per cent of all employable youth were estimated to be unemployed. With 20 million Indians entering the job market annually, there are few jobs being created. All this, in a period when the informal sector, which was a natural back-up, is roiled by a push for formalisation, driven by demonetisation, GST and the lockdown.

Ideally, India could have capitalised on an opportunity to create millions of jobs by developing a competitive ready-made garment industry(similar to Bangladesh). This could have been done by providing incentives to the informal sector and MSMEs to acquire scale, while pursuing trade deals with Europe, Canada and the US that unlocked access to such markets.

Instead, India's textile exports were virtually flat between 2015 and 2019; the unit labour cost of producing a shirt in India is \$0.5 compared to \$0.22 in Bangladesh – much of this is due to an unproductive workforce and poor logistics. The consequence of policy inaction is stark: As per a World Bank estimate in 2017, 12 million jobs shifted from China to Bangladesh in the past decade. Much of this could have refurbished a textile ecosystem in India.

Meanwhile, for Indians with jobs, the daily commute is pinching hard. Petrol prices were above Rs 100/litre in most cities in November, driven by high taxes. India is likely to have Electric Vehicle (EV) sales rising optimistically to just 8 per cent of all new car sales by 2030a clear case of lack of policy incentives leading to high-cost EVs. This is an opportunity lost. Countries like China, which seek to solve such structural issues (like dependence on foreign oil), have spent the past decade focused on building an EV industry, incentivising production and pursuing a rapid growth in charging stations. China is now on track to have EVs comprise 40 per cent of all car sales by 2030. The average India's kitchen budget has

been hit by rising retail inflation. LPG prices have risen sharply (almost 30 per cent between January and Oct 2021). With almost 300 million registered domestic LPG consumers, the

Over the past decade, our policymakers have grandly announced hundreds of ineffectual policies to promote manufacturing in India, create jobs and raise farmer income; meanwhile, Bangladesh simply made clothes. They are richer than us now. A simple example highlights how policy inaction, apathy and mistakes have brought us to this moment. MSMEs have had a rough decade, being dislocated by the impact of demonetisation and being hit by a complex GST system. Meanwhile, a slowing economy, with little to no demand-side policy measures, has meant poor revenue growth for such firms tipped over into steep decline

impact on personal and fiscal finances has been significant. Some of this is also due to policy missteps - the state has pushed for greater adoption of LPG cook-stoves; instead, a push for electric cook-stoves could have helped reduce import demand and shielded the ordinary consumer from price hikes. Meanwhile, edible oil has seen significant hikes: Almost 30 per cent for packed mustard oil and vanaspati in Delhi between June 2020 and June 2021; almost 40 per cent for sunflower.

This is partly due to a dependence on imports for palm oil. A push for biodiesel production is also having a concomitant impact. In an ideal world, policymakers would have sought to increase the average yield of an oil-seeds farm in India and cut duties on imports. Campaigns to shift edible oil demand to locally produced edible oil types, such as mustard and sunflower, could have broken the linkage with international prices. We are now actively promoting deforestation in the Northeast by a push for palm oil plantations. Additionally, even ordinary vegetables are now pricier; daily essentials, from key FMCG players, have be-

come dearer over the past few years. Put together, such factors have made Indians poorer. An average farmer's net worth declined by 33.8 per cent between 2013 and 2019; an average entrepreneur's declined by 30.5 per cent, on a real-value basis.

To cope, Indians have taken to personal debt, en masse. Between 2012 and 2018, prior to Covid-19, the number of Indian households with debt rose significantly, with an incidence of indebtedness (percentage of households with any outstanding debt in 2018) in rural households of 35 per cent, and in urban households of 22.4 per cent (All India Debt and Investment Survey, NSS 77th Round, 2019). The average rural household in India had an outstanding debt of approximately Rs 59,728; the average urban household was twice as much. Increasingly, the poorest Indians are given the worst conditions for new loans - 44.8 per cent of all new borrowers in April-June 2019 were from the sub-prime/ near-prime category (having higher credit risk). Such citizens are charged loans at 25-40 per cent annual percentage rate and then chased by recovery agents. As a consequence, many Indians have had to flog off their family gold - gold loans

outstanding have risen by 77.4 per cent between August 2020 and July 2021.

All this, in a vicious cycle, has led to a return to mass poverty. The number of Indians who are poor (with a daily income less than or equal to \$2 per day) rose to 134 million in 2021 from 59 million in 2020. The middle class is shrinking, from 99 million in 2020 to 66 million in 2021 (Pew Research, March 2021). All this has happened in an era of extreme inequality with India's top 1 per cent holding 73 per cent of the national wealth in 2017.

There seems to be a palpable loss of hope. Going forward, we should chart out a new journey for India, one where policymakers skew away from supply-side measures (for example cutting taxes for corporates, monetising state assets, burdening MSMEs) and pursue demand-side measures, seeking to help the common man

Over the past decade, our policymakers have grandly announced hundreds of ineffectual policies to promote manufacturing in India, create jobs and raise farmer income; meanwhile, Bangladesh simply made clothes. They are richer than us now. A simple example highlights how policy inaction, apathy and mistakes have brought us to this moment. MSMEs have had a rough decade, being dislocated by demonetisation and being hit by a complex GST system. Meanwhile, a slowing economy, with little to no demand-side policy measures, has meant poor revenue growth for such firms tipped over into steep decline. Across sectors, a whiff of oligopoly is emerging, where MSMEs have no place and where the state is comfortable with large corporates dominating the value chain.

In select sectors, the share of the top five firms in total revenues of the sector can be quite stark - for FMCG, it is 64 per cent; for cement 65 per cent, for infrastructure 73 per cent, for power 81 per cent, for electricals 75 per cent. Amidst all this, India's policymakers could have intervened to conduct antitrust actions, enhance competition, open up greater financing towards MSMEs and offer a simplified taxation system. There is still time, only just, to course correct.

Gandhi is BJP MP from Pilibhit, UP, and the author of A Rural Manifesto



POWERLESS TO PAY

Use of bankruptcy code to recover discom arrears will require careful thinking

KIM DEAN

For years, Kim Jong-un forced North Koreans to emulate his style. Now that he has a cool jacket, he wants no copycats

IM IONG-UN, SUPREME Leader of North Korea, just can't seem to figure out what kind of fashion icon he wants to be. For years, there have been reports coming out of the mysterious, tragicomical totalitarian state of the lack of choice for the people. A great symbol of that unfreedom was the fact that people could only get their hair cut in state-approved styles and many men and boys were encouraged to emulate Kim's hairdo - a sort of bowl cut with an odd middle parting. It's a hairstyle only a dictator can pull off: Most regular people will be teased out of it. Now, it seems that North Korean authorities have decided that imitation is no longer a form of flattery.

Since December 2019, Kim has been seen sporting a leather trench coat. Unlike the haircuts, this fashion choice reportedly has more takers and many North Koreans have been spending relatively exorbitant amounts - the country has an abysmal per capita income - to rock a leather jacket. But, it seems Kim now wants to be unique in his look and the police have been cracking down on the trench coat. Copying his look, it appears, is now an insult to Kim's sacred personality.

At first glance, it appears that Kim is confused - it seems that he can't decide between wanting to be the leader of the fashion pack or just a cool, leather-jacket-wearing, James-Dean-like lone wolf. After all, if a leather jacket becomes a uniform, is it even a leather jacket anymore? But perhaps there is more of a method to the sartorial diktats. When all people spoke about was a dated, somewhat unflattering bowl cut, he wanted everyone to be like him. Now that he's cool, he wants to go it alone. Misery, Kim knows, loves company. And when you finally get a look right, you don't want any copycats.

PRATIK DATTA

THE CENTRAL government has recently clarified that IBC proceedings could be triggered against state government-owned electricity distribution companies (discoms). This could have major implications for the electricity sector. Successful resolution of discoms would, however, require further policy thinking.

Electricity is a concurrent subject under the Constitution. Yet, state governments have played a critical role in this sector since pre-Independence times. The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 established State Electricity Boards (SEBs) for the development and operation of generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. In 1991, electricity generation was opened-up to the private sector. However, state government control over electricity distribution continued. Push came to shove in 2001 when SEBs had to be bailed out due to their mounting arrears towards central public sector generation companies. This paved the way for the Electricity Act, 2003. It mandated all SEBs to be unbundled into separate generation, transmission and distribution companies.

Since then, most states have unbundled their electricity utilities with varying market structures. While around 47 per cent of electricity is now being generated privately, most discoms are still state government owned.

States have strong incentives to favour important political constituencies by charging lower tariffs, selectively enforcing against unauthorised use etc. Discoms have, therefore, been used as a tool of redistribution. Despite

Privatising discoms could potentially solve problems. Some states have opposed this idea. The central government is, therefore, considering delicensing of electricity distribution itself. This idea has also been met with opposition. Against this backdrop, enabling creditors to trigger IBC proceedings against state discoms assumes significance. Threat of IBC would compel states to either reform their financially distressed discoms or yield to privatisation efforts through insolvency resolution.

four bailouts in the last two decades, they continue to suffer from precarious financial health.

Privatising discoms could potentially solve problems. Some states have opposed this idea. The central government is, therefore, considering delicensing electricity distribution itself. This idea has also been met with opposition. Against this backdrop, enabling creditors to trigger IBC proceedings against discoms assumes significance. Threat of IBC would compel states to either reform their financially distressed discoms or yield to privatisation efforts through insolvency resolution.

Successful privatisation of discoms through IBC would depend on multiple factors. The consumer mix and geography are important determinants of a discom's commercial viability. A recent Niti Aayog report argues that privatisation would be difficult when a discom's service area is more rural. Given the tariff differential and difficulty of billing, collection, and in some cases, metering, the cost of servicing rural and agricultural consumers becomes commercially challenging. Additionally, state regulators, which issue distribution licenses and set tariffs, have not turned out to be as independent of state government control as needed. This remains a major risk for investors. Given such sectoral factors, a going concern sale of some discom assets through IBC may be challenging.

Policymakers need to also think through the interplay between the electricity regulators and the insolvency tribunal. For instance, the US bankruptcy code explicitly preserves the regulatory agencies' rate-setting authority under a plan of reorganisation. There is no similar provision in the IBC. Therefore, clarity is needed on the NCLT's power to approve a discom resolution plan that proposes a tariff change. If the NCLT could do so, tariff changes through resolution plans would be binding on the State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC). The policy on this issue may have significant implications for discom resolution.

Insolvency of such utility service providers may need special treatment to ensure continuity of supply. Wide-scale disruption of such services could have disastrous consequences for an economy. For this reason, the UK restricts the rights of energy suppliers and their creditors to initiate insolvency proceedings. They must first notify the financial distress to the Secretary of State and Ofgem, the energy regulator. Ofgem assesses whether a supplier of last resort could be appointed to take over the responsibility of the failed supplier. If that is not feasible, Ofgem or the Secretary of State may apply to the court to initiate a special administration regime that ensures continuity of supply. Comparable institutional safeguards may be required in India, while being mindful of state capacity constraints. The policy solutions that emerge should be informed by foreign precedents but rooted in Indian realities.

The writer is senior research fellow, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co, New Delhi

NOVEMBER 30, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO GURDWARA EXPLOSION THREE PERSONS WERE killed on Sunday in an explosion in Gurdwara Gurdarshan Prakash at Mehta Chowk, headquarters of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. At the time of the explosion, the Sant was away in Barer village in Gurdaspur district. He returned to his headquarters, about 40 km from Amritsar, on hearing about the incident. The explosion brought down a major part of the gurdwara complex. The three dead were disciples of Sant Bhindranwale. A case under section 302 IPC and section 4 of the Indian Explosives Act was registered on a complaint lodged by Dhara Singh, a confidant of the Sant and establishment in-charge at the gurdwara. The explo-

sion, which occurred at 12.30 pm, killed Jaswant Singh (20), Sukhmandhir Singh (13) and Gajjan Singh (27). It destroyed the community kitchen in the gurdwara.

ASSAM TENSE

THE ARMY STOOD by to help the civil administration and CRPF units were deployed at sensitive points in Assam on Sunday, on the eve of the 13-hour "Rasta roko" programme beginning at 5 am on Monday. This is the first time since the suspension of the stir last year that the agitation leadership has asked the people to agitate actively in the face of heavy police arrangement and the possibility of violence. The Governor of

Assam and Meghalaya, Prakash Mehrotra, has already announced that all highways will be kept open.

MEETING DISRUPTED

CONGRESS (I) WORKERS indulged in fistfighting and snatched the microphone from the dais at the meeting of the Hindu Raksha Sammelan in Jalandhar on Sunday when Sankaracharya Niranjandev Tirath of Puri was speaking. The provocation for the Congress(I) workers to disturb the meeting was the Sankaracharya's criticism of the Congress (I) for "downgrading Hinduism" in the country. The Sankaracharya held Mrs Gandhi responsible for the present plight of Hinduism.



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021

3 THE IDEAS PAGE

Beijing's blunder

Xi Jinping's aggressive regional policies are driving many countries that were hopeful of deeper ties with China towards the US



ONE OF THE many consequences of China's assertive posture in Asia has been the emergence of geopolitical coalitions to limit the prospects for Beijing's regional dominance. Two new coalitions that have got a lot of political attention are the Quadrilateral framework involving Australia, India, Japan and the US, and the AUKUS, which brings together Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Until recently, China was quite contemptuous of the new political formations. It had compared the Quad to "seafoam" that is here now but gone in a second. China's dismissive attitude has now yielded place to denunciation. In Beijing's diplomatic lexicon, Quad and AUKUS are "small cliques". "Small cliques" are not new to international politics; nor is China unfamiliar with them. You could argue that forums such as RIC and BRICS – the former brings together Russia, India and China and the latter has, in addition, Brazil and South Africa – are "small cliques". Hypocrisy is endemic in international life. "My cliques are great - they are about promoting a 'multipolar world' but your cliques are dangerous because they threaten regional security". Where you stand depends on where you sit.

Two big factors are behind China's rethinking. One was the surprising emergence of American domestic political consensus on challenging China. Beijing was convinced that President Joe Biden would reverse his predecessor's confrontation with China. Beijing believed that Donald Trump was an exception to the longstanding US policy of deeper economic integration with China and sustained political engagement. But Biden has simply reinforced Trump's strategy. China is perhaps the only issue that cuts across the deepening political divide in the US. That brings us to the second big factor.

Trump thought that alliances are a bur-den on US taxpayers and relentlessly trashed long-standing allies in Europe and Asia. Biden, in contrast, has made alliances a critical element of his China strategy. The idea was to create "situations of strength" vis-avis China by rebuilding US alliances and developing new coalitions.

In Asia, the Biden administration moved quickly to strengthen the traditional security ties with its allies in northeast Asia – Japan and South Korea. It also elevated the Quad to the leaders-level within weeks after Biden took charge and had a physical summit in Washington six months later. It also announced the AUKUS. Not only has Washington backed the British aspirations to regain a security role in Asia, but also encouraged the Europeans to focus on the China question and contribute to Indo-Pacific security. Biden travelled to Europe in June this year to revitalise the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Biden also decided on an early summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin that took place in Geneva at the end of his European tour. While the idea of America separating Russia from China continues to look fanciful, Washington now recognises the importance of keeping channels open to



Moscow. It was only after getting his ducks in a row that Biden had his first summit with Xi Jinping earlier this month

Biden's team believed that the greatest strength of the US was its wide network of allies and partners. And that mobilising them was the key to rebalancing relations with China. What about China's own alliances and partnerships?

While China's economic reach is now global and deep, political and military alliances have not been part of Beijing's tradition. To be sure, Beijing's ties with Moscow have never been as close as they are. China also has strong alliance-like relations with North Korea and Pakistan. But there can be little comparison though between the kind of strengths that American allies bring to the table with those of China's partners.

Although the US has more allies and partners, Beijing was betting on the proposition that the Asian geopolitical structure was turning, irretrievably, in China's favour. This is based on a number of propositions.

One, America, located far from Asia, will have trouble overcoming the tyranny of geography in a conflict with China. Two, China's hard power - both economic and military - relative to the US is growing rapidly and shifting the local balance of power in its favour. Three, the proximity of China and Asian regional integration have made Beijing the most important economic partner for the whole region. Beijing believed that few Asian nations would want to spoil their commercial relations with China and align with Washington. If someone did make the mistake of embracing the US, Beijing was confident economic punishment would bring them back to their senses.

Four, the vast imbalance in military power between Beijing and its neighbours it presumed would dissuade most Asian states from considering armed confrontations

C R Sasikumar

Chinese policies have driven the US towards an unanticipated internal consensus on containing Beijing.

Making a friendly America into an enemy prematurely could go down as one of Xi Jinping's egregious strategic errors. For all claims about America's decline, history points to the dangers of underestimating US capacity for self-renewal and the will to retain its primacy.

China's aggressive regional policies are driving many countries like Australia, India, Japan, the Philippines and Vietnam, towards the US. All these countries who were hopeful of deeper ties with China are now under pressure to find external support to cope with Beijing's threats.

While the military balance of power in Asia has certainly turned in China's favour, it has not cowed down its neighbours. Many are pursuing stronger national military capabilities to limit some of the threats from China. The US, in turn, has begun to strengthen the defence capabilities of Asian nations at the receiving end of Chinese military power. China's expansionism has led to the inevitable militarisation of its periphery.

China's aggressive policies have not brought the political acquiescence that Beijing expected from all its neighbours. In fact, it has had the opposite effect with key neighbours. China, which never stops to emphasise its own nationalism, appears to have underestimated the depth of similar sentiment in other Asian states. In the past, Asian nationalism was easily mobilised against the US and the West. Today, it is driving many of China's neighbours into the US camp. It is America and not China that today talks about the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Asian nations.

Meanwhile, Chinese diplomacy, once hailed as wise and far-seeing, has now become the textbook case of how not to conduct busi-

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"It will be weeks before we understand just how much a risk Omicron presents. If it is much more infectious than the Delta variant of Covid, its global spread is to some degree inevitable, though it will of course be slowed by vaccines and travel restrictions." - THE OBSERVER

Prejudice in the schoolyard

Our schools and textbooks cannot pretend that the inequalities of society do not permeate them



DISHA NAWANI

THERE IS NO reason to believe that there is a connection between "what children learn in schools" and recent events such as the lynching of a Dalit youth to death in Punjab, social media tweets against actor Shah Rukh Khan for the arrest of his son, Aryan Khan and uproar over Fabindia advertising Diwali as lashn-e-Riwaaz. Underlying these events are deep-rooted prejudices, stereotypes, expressions of self-righteousness, mistrust and hatred for those "different" from us - in terms of gender, religion, caste and class. A more appropriate question to ask perhaps would then be, "what is the role of schools" in the formation of prejudices/stereotypes

We must begin by acknowledging that schools are a microcosm of the larger society. If there are cleavages in society, they will get reflected in schools. For example, a Dalit girl's experience will be different from a Brahmin boy, even if they go to the same school. This is because, for each child, the social reality outside of school will also impact what he experiences inside schools because of messages, either manifest or hidden, transmitted in schools.

Now let us examine how schools treat their students. On the one hand, they have homogenising rituals such as mandating a school uniform, common assembly and common modes of teaching, evaluating and disciplining imposing the same code of conduct/expectations from everyone. On the other hand, there are rituals that are meant to mark/grade and separate students from each other. This is most evident in the way high achievers are rewarded, made to wear marks of distinction, sometimes even physically separating them from the so-called weaker sections.

This would lead us to believe that schools give little weightage to different forms of capital - economic, social and cultural resources that students may or may not possess depending on where they come from and how that influences their performance in school. Instead of acknowledging diversity, stratification and associated inequality and discrimination schools pretend that all is well in the world outside and shut themselves off from divergent experiences that different children may have. There are safeguards in the form of syllabi, prescribed textbooks and focused examinations that ensure the child's world – knowledge, language, culture, experiences

- is not allowed entry into the school. While

this is made explicit in all formal and infor-

mal communication to students and their

parents, there is another way in which most

students' experiences are distorted in the

misrepresenting them. For instance, women, and other social groups on the gender spectrum, people with disabilities, hardly find any presence in textbooks. If they do, they are caricatured or presented in a poor light. There are examples galore of women shown as being dumb, people with disabilities as helpless or even wicked, people from lower classes as being dirty and lazy, Dalits as being inferior and deserving of hardships and tribals as being steeped in orthodoxy and superstition. Minorities, either linguistic or religious, also meet the same fate. Loose, irresponsible statements are made in textbooks, which are then reinforced by teachers in the classroom. Social inequalities present in the real world are thus replicated inside schools.

Another serious limitation with our textbooks is the tendency to keep them sanitised, with no mention of any social evil or conflicts. This is done to keep young minds away from the ill effects of all that is bad in society. Ironically, a child experiencing discrimination day in and day out in his real life is transported to a make-believe world where all is well. A child wearing a skull cap being teased outside the class and accused of being a terrorist on entering the classroom reads a textbook, which says, "Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Isai apas mein bhai bhai". Nazia Erum, in her book Mothering a Muslim, based on systematic research in schools across several cities in India shows how Muslim children are teased by being called "terrorist" and "Pakistani". Similarly, a Dalit child living a life on the fringes of his village is given to believe that all is well with school and society. Sociologists, Murali Krishna and Govardhan Wankhede, in their autobiographies, poignantly present experiences of discrimination and humiliation they faced in their childhood both inside and outside school.

Added to this is the pedagogic necessity to passively accept whatever is taught in schools. Prejudices become our lens, shaping the way we look at the world and others around us. As adults, we cling to them as they help us justify our misdeeds against others.

The National Curriculum Framework 2005 radically tried to shift the nature of schooling in India. Social science textbooks, particularly Social and Political Life, were outstanding in several ways. Instead of adopting an attitude of an ostrich they acknowledged inequity in society, brought in subaltern literature and voices, and accorded legitimacy to multiple world views. Contrary to the spirit in which NCF was written, one finds it difficult to understand why sacrifice is espoused and valued in the National Education Policy, 2020. Eklavya's sacrifice of his thumb as gurudakshina to Dronacharva is celebrated in our textbooks rather than being condemned. In a grossly unequal society,

with China.

Five. China counted on the fact that it is easier to break up coalitions than build them. The country trying to construct a coalition will need to maintain unity of purpose among a diverse set of countries. That is not easy to do in a sustained manner even in the most favourable circumstances. A capable disruptor can offer valuable bilateral deals to individual members of the opposing coalition.

China has been confident, at least until now, that it can tempt the US into a bilateral deal in the name of shared great power interests and joint management of the world. But Asian states. In the past, Asian nationalism was easily mobilised against the US and the West. Today, it is driving many of China's neighbours into the US camp. It is America and not China that today talks about the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Asian nations.

China's aggressive policies

political acquiescence that

neighbours. In fact, it has

key neighbours. China,

which never stops to

emphasise its own

Beijing expected from all its

had the opposite effect with

nationalism, appears to have

underestimated the depth of

similar sentiment in other

have not brought the

ness with other states and societies, thanks to its crude "wolf warriors".

It has been guite fashionable in the West as well as in the East, to proclaim that China's hegemony is inevitable, American decline is terminal, and Asian coalitions are unsustainable. Those conclusions are premature at best. For Xi Jinping has squandered many of China's natural geopolitical advantages.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

M P NATHANAEL

Broken bonds

CAPFs must address structural issues to overcome stress among personnel

THE RECENT KILLING of four personnel of the 50th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) by one of their colleagues, Constable Reetesh Ranjan, at their camp in Maraiguda Lingalapalli village of Sukma district of Chhattisgarh has once again highlighted the need for an overhaul of the grievances redressal mechanism in the force. The constable. who was to take the post at 4 am on November 8, got ready and began firing at his sleeping colleagues around 3.30 am, seriously injuring seven of them. After he had emptied the magazine, he was overpowered by other personnel in the barrack.

Of the seven injured, four succumbed to their injuries while the remaining have been admitted to a hospital. Preliminary reports and a video recording indicate that the constable was irked by certain jokes targeting him and his wife. Two personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) were killed at Khagrachari post in Gomati district of Tripura on September 24 when a constable turned his gun on a head constable, killing him on the spot. The constable was then shot by another constable, when he trained his gun on a sub-inspector.

As many as 18 deaths due to incidents of fratricide in CRPF alone have been reported in the last four years. Coupled with a growing number of suicides, the conclusion drawn is that the personnel are on a short fuse that only needs a trigger. As many as 29 CRPF personnel committed suicide in 2016. The figure rose to 38

during the following two years. In 2019, 43 personnel committed suicide with the figure touching 60 last year.

Brainstorming sessions held by senior officers in the past have resulted in decisions that have, to some extent, helped ameliorate the situation. While voga was introduced in almost all the battalions over a decade back, it has had little effect. Mobile numbers of senior officers are prominently displayed in recreation rooms and messes of the men, allowing them access for airing their grievances directly to senior officers. Personnel are even allowed to seek personal interviews with senior officers to explain their problems and seek redressal.

There can be no denying that stress has contributed to the escalation of fratricide and suicide cases in Central Armed Police Forces. While CRPF officials attribute the recent incident in Sukma to "emotional stress" leading to "sudden psychological disbalance", the reasons for such stress call for a thorough study and remedial action. Large number of vacancies in the forces make it difficult for supervisory officers to send men on leave even twice a year. Any effort to increase leave entitlement of the CAPFs is turned down on the plea that they are civilian forces and are to be governed by the relevant rules. Defence personnel are entitled to 60 days of annual leave, apart from 30 days casual leave, while CAPF personnel are entitled to only 15 days casual leave, apart from 60 days earned leave. Before the strike by CAPF personnel in 1979, they were entitled to just 34 days of earned leave.

Frequent changes of company commanders and even company second in command (inspector) have adverse impacts on cohesiveness, which is essential for maintaining high morale. Though it is ideal to have both in every company, one of them always has to be necessarily present. Incidents of fragging were very rare until a few decades back because of the bond that existed between the supervisory officers and the men. Vacancies then were minimal.

The vacancies in CAPFs were nearly a lakh as of January 1, 2019, which shot up to 1, 27, 120 on January 1, 2020, with CRPF alone having nearly 25,000 vacant posts, including 550 for gazetted officers (GOs). BSF had 27,423 vacancies including 487 for GOs. Such large-scale vacancies also affect the smooth functioning of the organisations.

The post of one subedar major(SM) is sanctioned in all battalions and institutions. This is a very important post which, in recent years, has not been fully used. The SM keeps the battalion commanders in touch with the pulse of the men on various issues, the most important being the morale of men of the unit. This post needs to be activated to avert such incidents. Though the CRPF rules provide for the granting of the honorary company commander (now assistant commandant) posts to exceptionally deserving subedars/SMs, this perhaps has never been implemented. Conferment of

such honorary ranks who do not make it to the posts of regular assistant commandants will boost their morale.

Over a decade ago, the battalions moved as one cohesive unit from one place to another. These days, a third of the personnel of a battalion is transferred out, adversely impacting the bonding. The personnel are expected to adjust themselves frequently in a new environment and cultivate a new set of friends to share their woes and joy. Restoration of the system of posting personnel in a battalion until they attain the rank of sub-inspectors would instil a sense of belonging. In their wisdom, senior officers of yore decided to end the moving of battalions in the pursuit of economy. But economising cannot be at the cost of morale.

The CRPF has introduced the concept of holding "chaupals" where the personnel will be free to air their grievances in informal settings with senior officers. This is a creditable step. However, not many may open up in the presence of their colleagues, who may later use those disclosures to mock them. Complete privacy should be ensured when personnel meet their senior officers, so that they can come out with their domestic problems candidly.

Losing lives in incidents of fratricide is deplorable and all steps should be taken to arrest repeat of such incidents.

> The writer is a former inspector general of police, CRPF



it is not difficult to imagine that who will be expected to sacrifice and to whom, and the "we" in school and society will continue to engage in acts of violence. While we take pride in inflicting violence on those weaker than us, with each such act, we become more dehumanised.

The writer is professor, School of Education, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNDERMINED

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Making the House work' (IE, November 29). The government's backtracking on the farm laws has cast the spotlight on the functioning of Parliament yet again. In recent times, a number of laws have been passed with little discussion, purely on the strength of the ruling party's majority. The Opposition and civil society have been painted, more often than not, as a nuisance and their protests suppressed. The regular defection of MPs and MLAs to rival parties, lack of critical debate on proposed laws, and the interference of the executive pose a threat to the independence of the Parliament. The repeal of the farm laws should prompt the government to take cognizance of this fact.

COMEDY DENIED

Ila Railkar, Mumbai

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Faruqui show in Bengaluru cancelled; he says: hate has won, I'm done' (IE, November 29). It seems like comedy has no place in Indian society. Stand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui has announced he will hang up his boots after several shows across the country were cancelled. Vir Das is facing the heat for his "two Indias" comment. Where are we heading? Some of these comedians may have stepped on certain sensitive issues but do we need to keep targeting them to such an extent that they are forced to give up? It's time we broaden our perspective. It's time we accept the little "comedy of errors" committed by our stand-up comedians. Life is one big

comedy, let's live it! Melville X D'Souza, Mumbai

CATEGORY CLARITY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'New horizons' (IE. November 29). It is no doubt a matter of satisfaction to see the status of our two neighbouring countries being upgraded from LDC to developing countries. It is also time to have a look at the multiplicity of classifications for countries by different agencies such as the UN, WTO and World Bank and the different methods and different terminology used by them. Some developed countries also classify others, using their own criteria. The case of the Trump administration deeming India to be a developed country and not a developing one is an example. The status of a country has important trade, resource allocation and other implications and it is, therefore, important to have a consistent approach to country classification. All countries should take this matter up in earnest.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

TMC hypocrisy

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'In TMC candidate list, family ties run deep' (IE, November 28). Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Baneriee always accuses the Congress of dynastic rule while the list of her party's candidates for the KMC elections shows that wards, relatives of the ministers, leaders close to her were nominated, including her sister-in-law. This proves that she doesn't practice what she preaches.

SS Paul, Nadia



were said to be dissatisfied with

the response, and Facebook was

asked to provide more details in

been criticised by political lead-

ers for not taking into account

the plurality of the nation while

dealing with such issues. Leaders

have said it did not have linguis-

tic or ethnic diversity among

those who flagged such issues -

it has content reviewers only in

sponse to The Indian Express,

Facebook said it has, in the last

two years, hired more people

with language, country and topic

expertise. "Adding more lan-

guage expertise has been a key

focus area for us. They are part of

the over 40,000 people we have

working on safety and security

including global content review

teams in over 70 languages, in-

cluding 20 Indian languages," a

Meta spokesperson had told The

moned Facebook for seeking ex-

planation on a report in The Wall

Street Journal, which said the so-

cial media company had delib-

erately turned a blind eye to-

wards hate speeches by a BJP

leader from Telangana and did

not take them down from its

platform, fearing that it may hurt

the firm's business interests in

India, its biggest market.

The IT panel had earlier sum-

Indian Express.

Recently, in a written re-

Hindi, Tamil, Urdu and Bangla.

The social media giant has

writing on the safeguards.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 14 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



SELF-IE GOAL

UNDER FIRE for a selfie (above) with six women MPs, which he posted with the caption "who says the Lok Sabha isn't an attractive place to work?", Congress leader Shashi Tharoor received support from TMC MP Mahua Moitra on Monday. While many, including Supreme Court advocate Karuna Nundy, pointed out that Tharoor's caption attempts to "reduce elected political leader to their looks", Moitra tweeted that the criticism seeks to "detract attention from this non-attractive government's decision to not allow a discussion on the farm Act repeal." Tharoor thanked Moitra for showing "solidarity", in a rare show of camaraderie at a time when ties between their parties are strained.

ACTION, REACTION

IT IS a race for the Opposition space. On Monday, minutes after Congress MPs including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi staged a protest in the Parliament complex, a senior TMC leader received a call, reportedly from Kolkata, asking him why TMC MPs were not holding a demonstration. The TMC had made it clear last week that it was not interested in joining hands with the Congress in Parliament. The TMC leader immediately called some of the party's MPs and staged a demonstration at the same venue

TWO-IN-ONE

WITH THE government trying to find new ways to celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, commemorating 75 years of independence, the onset of winter has presented a new opportunity. The Department of Personnel and Training has sent out communications asking government employees to donate warm clothes for the poor. Collection centres have been organised at multiple places including North Block. In fact, the government has clubbed two of its campaigns in this drive, linking it to Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav as well its Swachhta (cleanliness) mission.

WARNING NOTE

WITH THE adoption of FASTag and electronic toll collection growing exponentially over the last few months, a new problem has surfaced. Fake FASTags are reported to have entered the market, especially the online space. The National Highways Authority of India has issued warnings that fraudsters are selling counterfeit tags online, and asked the public to avoid ordering online.

PEGASUS SC-appointed panel seeks devices of petitioners for technical checks

AASHISH ARYAN NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

A THREE-MEMBER panel constituted by the Supreme Court to look into allegations of unauthorised phone surveillance using Pegasus, the spyware from Israeli company NSO, has asked the petitioners to submit the targeted devices for "technical evaluation", The Indian Express has learnt.

According to sources, the panel asked the petitioners in an email to submit the devices "within the week", which will then be tested. The sources said the email informed the petitioners that they would be given the option of "making submissions

To induct leaders

in top panel, TMC

to amend its rules

from outside Bengal

under oath" before the panel supervised by retired Supreme Court judge, Justice R V Raveendran.

The members of the panel are Dr Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Dean of National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar; Dr Prabaharan P. Professor at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Kerala; and Dr Ashwin Anil Gumaste, Institute Chair Associate Professor at IIT, Bombay.

The sources said the email mentions that the devices will be collected in New Delhi but does not specify the exact address, adding that "it could be communicated later".

Earlier this year, following reports that Pegasus had been

used to snoop on journalists, activists, officials and even Union Ministers, some of the activists and journalists moved the

Supreme Court seeking the formation of a committee to look into the issue On October 27, a three-judge

bench of Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, ordered the formation of a three-member technical committee to be overseen by Justice Raveendran. The apex court had then

listed a six-point term of reference for the committee, asking it to determine, among other things, whether Pegasus was used on phones or other devices of citizens to access stored data, eavesdrop on conversations, in-



committee to determine whether the software was acquired by a state or the Central Government, and that if a state, Centre, or any of its agencies had used the software. what laws and procedures were followed.

In its order on October 27, the Supreme Court observed that selection of the three-member committee was "an extremely uphill" task since they had to "find and select experts who are free from prejudices, are independent and competent" -- and that "some of the candidates politely declined this assignment, while others had some conflict of interest".



LIZ MATHEW NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE IT parliamentary committee is learnt to have unanimously decided Monday to record the statement of Facebook whistleblower Sophie Zhang even as panel members questioned Facebook India officials over its safeguards to prevent hate mongering, polarisation and tweaking of the democratic process.

The committee will approach Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for permission to invite Zhang for recording her statements - the Speaker's permission is required to allow persons from overseas to appear before the panels. Zhang, the first former Facebook employee who had made public the company's alleged unethical working, had shared dossiers with the House panel led by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor. On Monday, representatives

of Facebook India including Shivnath Thukral, its head of policy, were questioned by MPs for almost two hours. They were summoned following allegations by whistleblowers and numerous studies on how social media platforms whip up sentiments to enhance activities on their platforms to promote business interests.

Panel members, it is believed,

Badal family loyalist Harjinder Singh Dhami is new SGPC president

Amritsar: Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) honorary chief secretary Harjinder Singh Dhami was on Monday elected as its president. Dhami is the 44th president of

the SGPC and succeeds Bibi Jagir Kaur who was named the Shiromani Akali Dal candidate from the Bholath Assembly seat in Kapurthala district for next vear's Assembly polls.

rection.

TRIPURA CIVIC POLLS CPM hits out at

Punjab ex-CM Amarinder Singh with Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday. Express

'Will form next govt in Punjab with BJP'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH. NOVEMBER 29

FORMER PUNJAB chief minister Amarinder Singh Monday said his Punjab Lok Congress will form the government state in 2022 in alliance with the BJP and a breakaway Akali faction. He made the remarks after paying a visit to Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, which he described as "a courtesy call".

"God willing, we and with our

seat adjustment with the BJP and with Mr (Sukhdev Singh) Dhindsa's party (SAD Sanyukt), we will form the government," he said, replying to media queries.

His meeting with Khattar came on a day when a Bill to repeal the three contentious agri laws, against which farmers have been protesting for over a year, was passed by Parliament.

EXPLAINED

Amarinder, however, said there was no political development. "I had a very nice cup of coffee with the chief minister. It is not that whenever you meet anybody, it is a political meeting. It was just a courtesy call".

Asked if he will meet BJP leaders for a seat sharing arrangement, the former Congress leader said he will go to Delhi and certainly call on Union ministers.

To a question on the registration of his party, he said they should be getting information regarding it any time. "We are also expecting the party symbol in a couple of days. The process was started 10 days ago".

'Communal' violence: SC

Sham Chaurasi segment of Hoshiarpur district.

ongoing religious preaching campaign, health and education services would also be given a new di-



Dhami, a Badal family loyalist,

is a member of the SGPC from



ATRI MITRA KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 29 AS THE Trinamool Congress (TMC) aims to increase its footprint at the national level, the party on Monday said it would

change its constitution and reconstitute its working committee to induct more members from outside West Bengal. However, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee will have the "last word" regarding both these TMC MP Derek moves, O'Brien said.

"The working committee of the party, which met today, gave veto power to our leader Mamata Banerjee. It was unanimously decided in the meeting that our leader Mamata Banerjee is the last word," said O'Brien, who is also TMC spokesperson.

The party also decided that its next working committee meeting will be held in New Delhi. However, the date of the meeting will be finalised later, party sources said.

UP Assembly polls: BJP fields OBC,

Dalit leaders for outreach programme

seeks to rope in consultants via lateral entry

Bengal govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 29

THE STATE government on Monday put out advertisements calling for applications from serving and retired professionals as senior consultants and consultants for 50 posts in various departments through lateral entry. The age limit is 35-70 years and the successful candidates would be absorbed in the government on contractual basis with remuneration of Rs 1.5 lakh-2 lakh a month, official sources said

A decision in this regard was taken just after Durga Puja earlier this year after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee agreed.

According to officials, in the initial stage, the government has decided to recruit such professionals for 30 major departthe state ments of administration.

They will be given the status of special secretary in each department. They will be absorbed in the posts of consultant and senior consultant, government sources said

A source in the state government said, "This is not a new concept. The Central government also recruited such professionals in key departments. However, the absorption of these professionals will help the government to solve many complex problems raised in different dayto-day government work. They will also help to make new policy guidelines...

However, another senior official said, "This will create confusion and hierarchical problems because, in many cases, these consultants will have more power and remuneration than the Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary and special secretaries.'

LALMANI VERMA LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 29

Dalit communities as part of its

'samajik sampark (social out-

reach)' campaign. These leaders

have been instructed to interact

with small groups of people

from their communities in one

to 10 Assembly constituencies,

Express on Monday that such a

campaign could help the party

bag the Assembly seats that it nar-

rowly lost in the 2017 elections be-

A BJP leader told The Indian

excluding their own seats.

can consolidate the support of various castes scattered in such THE RULING BJP in Uttar Pradesh constituencies, we can even defeat the SP and BSP in constituenhas deployed more than 175 MLAs, MPs, former state legislacies dominated by Yadavs, Jatav tors and other leaders from Dalits and Muslims," he added. Other Backward Class (OBC) and

Among the constituencies that BJP lost by less than 4,000 votes in 2017 are Matera, Mahmoodabad, Najibabad, Lalganj, Kannauj, Dholana and Chhaprauli.

Jatav Dalits and Muslims. "If we

A senior BJP leader said 25-30 events were being held every day as part of the programme. Before this campaign, the party also organised 27 samajik pratinidhi sammelans with OBC and Dalit groups. "Localities in urban areas and pockets in rural

cause of the dominance of Yadavs, areas have been identified according to the presence of particular castes there. The focus is on OBCs and SC/ST-populated areas. Each of those over 175 MLAs. MPs. and other senior leaders who have been assigned 1-10 Assembly constituencies outside their constituencies to visit and address samajik sammelans of a group of people of their caste." said a BIP leader associated with the campaign.

BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said, "Such programmes also create enthusiasm among party workers." Apart from MLAs and MPs, current and former, the ruling party has also roped in chairmen of boards, corporations, district panchayat chairpersons and block chiefs.

BJP eyeing

floating votes

HAVING NARROWLY lost in seats dominated by Yadavs, Jatav Dalits, and Muslims in the 2017 Assembly polls, the BJP's campaign is a move towards making a better connect with the floating votes from non-Yadav OBCs and non-Jatav Dalits. Such outreach will also enable BIP to get their own leaders with strong support among different sub-castes.

> According to reports, a mosque and some shops were vandalised in North Tripura at a

seeks Centre, Tripura response on plea for probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE SUPREME Court on Monday issued notice to the Centre and the Tripura government on a plea seeking an independent probe into alleged communal violence in the state, and sought their responses within two weeks.

A bench Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna issued the notice on a plea by Advocate Ehtesham Hashmi, who, along with two other advocates, claims to have gone on a "fact-finding exercise" to the state in the aftermath of the alleged communal flare-up.

time that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad was holding a rally in the area last month. Tripura government and police have denied the reports and said these were attempts to disturb communal harmony in the region.

In the plea, Hashmi said he was constrained to approach the court to seek its urgent intervention "in respect of a series of hate crimes that took place between the 13.10.2021 to 27.10.2021 in Tripura. The said hate crimes were perpetrated by organised mobs and included damage to mosques, burning of business establishments owned by Muslims, organising rallies shouting Islamophobic and genocidal hate slogans and delivering hate speeches targeting Muslims in various parts of Tripura".

TMC, claims 2nd largest vote share Agartala: A day after Tripura civic poll results were announced,

CPI(M) state secretary Jitendra Chaudhury said on Monday that his party retained the secondlargest vote share after the BJP and is the main Opposition in the state, contrary to claims made by

the Trinamool Congress (TMC). "Where did they (TMC) get this data from? EC statistics say CPI(M) is the second-largest party," Chaudhury said.

When contacted, Tripura Trinamool Youth Congress convener Baptu Chakraborty said his party contested 120 seats across different civic bodies and secured "24 percent votes". "TMC didn't contest in all the seats. We contested in 120 seats and secured 24 percent votes. Had we contested from all seats, we would have got 100 percent votes," Chakraborty said. ENS

Among poll-bound states, UP trails on poverty index, Goa best

SUNNY VERMA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

OF THE seven states headed into Assembly elections next year, Uttar Pradesh has the highest proportion of people who are multidimensionally poor, at 37.79 per cent of its population, while Goa has lowest ratio at 3.76 per cent.

There is wide variation between rural and urban poverty in five of the seven states - Goa, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. There is also

wide divergence in performance on the 12 indicators used to calcuthe first late ever Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) by the NITI Aayog. The national MPI, as per the 2015-16 NFHS, is 25.01 per cent. Of UP's 71 districts, as many as

64 have MPI higher than the na-

BY THE NUMBERS

Election bound states	Multidimensional Poverty ratio (%)	Rural poverty%	Urban poverty %				
Goa	3.76	4.44	3.34				
Punjab	5.59	6.4	4.32				
HP	7.62	8.24	1.46				
Uttarakhand	17.72	21.94	9.89				
Manipur	17.89	22.95	9.9				
Gujarat	18.60	27.4	6.59				
Uttar Pradesh	37.79	44.32	18.07				
Source: NITI Aayog National MPI Report							

tional average. In Gujarat, 9 of 26 districts fall in this category; in Manipur, 4 of 9; and in Uttarakhand, 1 of 13. On the other hand, all districts of Punjab (20), Himachal (12) and Goa (2) have lower MPI than national average. The MPI is an indicator of deprivation across multiple dimen-

sions and complements poverty statistics based on per capita consumption expenditure. It has three equally weighted dimensions - health, education, and standard of living – based on 12 indicators such as nutrition, school attendance, years of schooling, drinking water, sanita-

tion, housing, bank accounts, among others. While urban MPI in UP, the

country's most populous state, is 18.07 per cent, that in its rural areas is more than double, at 44.32 per cent. The state fares the poorest on the cooking fuel indicator, with 68.9 per cent population deprived of it, followed by housing

63.7 per cent. Goa is the best among pollbound states in MPI, with hardly (4.44 per cen per cent) areas ance is in the

at 24.6 per cent by sanitation at 21.4 per cent. Less than 1 per cent of the population is deprived in indicators such as school attendance (1%), child and adolescent mortality (0.6%).

www.indianexpress.com

Omar: Detentions after Aug 5 a conspiracy to wipe out NC

ARUN SHARMA JAMMU, NOVEMBER 29

NATIONAL CONFERENCE (NC) vice-president and former J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that senior leaders of his party, including president Farooq Abdullah and himself, were detained after August 5, as part of a conspiracy to ut the NC".

ressing a public rally in r, he added that the govnt had invoked the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) against him while he was in detention "on the charge that he persuaded people to cast their votes and defeat Pakistan's poll boycott conspiracy".

In February 2020, after Omar



Omar Abdullah at a rally in Kishtwar, Jammu. PTI

had spent six months in preventive detention, he was booked under the provisions of PSA along with former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti.

The PSA dossier prepared by the police on Abdullah said: "the capacity of the subject to influence people for any cause can be gauged from the fact that he was able to convince his electorate to come out and vote in huge numbers even during the peak of militancy and poll boycotts."

He said that the purpose of detaining NC leaders was not only to stop them from meeting people, but "they wanted to finish our organisation during the period we remain under detention".

He slammed the Congress for not supporting the demand to restore statehood and special status. Referring to Ghulam Nabi Azad's statement limiting his demand to restoration of statehood and not the special status, he said "even parties whom we expected to speak out in support of our demand have been silent".

at 67.5 per cent, and sanitation at

any difference

FULL REPORT ON

e between rural rate	2019, "a
t) and urban (3.34	wipe ou
s. Its worst perform-	Addr
nutrition category,	Kishtwa
t deprived, followed	ernmen

SILVER

International market data till 1900 IS

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 **15** ECONOMY

SENSEX: 57,260.58 ▲ 153.43 (0.27%) NIFTY: 17,053.95 ▲ 27.50 (0.16%) NIKKEI: 28,283.92 ▼ 467.70 HANG SENG: 23,852.24 ▼ 228.28 FTSE: 7,128.70 ▲ 84.67 DAX: 15,365.63 ▲ 108.59

- EMPLOYMENT WATCH -**ALL-INDIA SURVEY**

2020 lockdown: Most job losses in blue-collar sectors; finserv, IT stem fall

SECTORS NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (IN LAKH) Prior to lockdown | As on July 1, (before March 25, 2020 2020) Male Male Female Female Manufacturing 98.7 26.7 87.9 23.3 Construction 5.8 1.8 5.1 1.5 Trade 16.1 4.5 14.8 4 11.3 1.9 11.1 1.9 Transport Education 38.2 29.5 36.8 28.1 15 10.6 14.8 10.1 Health 7 1.9 6.2 1.7 Accommodation & restaurants IT/BPOs 13.6 6.3 12.8 6.1 **Financial services** 11.5 5.9 11.3 5.7 Total* 217.8 90.0 201.5 83.3

*Total also includes 66 establishments in survey belonging to other than nine sectors, source: Ministry of Labour and Employment

duced to 1.5 lakh from 1.8 lakh,

and male workers fell to 5.1

lakh from 5.8 lakh during the

lockdown. Female employ-

ment in the trade sector re-

duced to 4 lakh (as on July 1,

2020) from 4.5 lakh (as on

March 25, 2020), while male

employment was down to

14.8 lakh (as on July 1, 2020)

from 16.1 lakh (as on March

AQEES. The revamped Quarterly Employment

Survey was conducted during

the first quarter (April-June

2021) to collect the informa-

tion on the impact of the pan-

demic on the operational and

employment status of the es-

tablishments in the nine sec-

tors - manufacturing, con-

struction, trade, transport,

education health accommo-

dation & restaurants, IT/BPOs,

The new quarterly em-

ployment survey, released in

September, had shown em-

ployment in key nine sectors

rising to 3.08 crore in April-

in 2013-14, the base year cho-

impact of the pandemic of

and financial services

The findings are part of

25,2020)

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

ABOUT 7.5 PER CENT job losses were seen during the nationwide lockdown to spread the Covid pandemic last year, with the manufacturing, construction, education and trade sectors bearing the brunt more than white-collared employment in IT/BPOs, financial services and health sectors, government data presented in Parliament on Monday showed.

Among the nine key sectors covered for the All India **Ouarterly** Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES), the manufacturing sector recorded job losses of 14.2 lakh between the prelockdown (March 25, 2020) and post-lockdown period (July 1, 2020). Construction sector recorded a loss of 1 lakh while trade and education sectors registered job losses of 1.8 lakh and 2.8 lakh, respectively.

On the other hand, job losses in the financial services June this year from 2.37 crore sector, considered white-collared, were recorded at 0.4 sen based on the sixth ecolakh and at 1 lakh for the nomic census. Assessing the sector during the

NO PROPOSAL TO RECOGNISE BITCOIN AS CURRENCY: FM RBI for widening scope of 'bank note' to include digital currency Reliance Capital

What is

• CBDC?

THE CENTRAL Bank Digital

Currency(CBDC) is a digital

form of fiat currency

which can be transacted

using wallets backed by

blockchain and is regu-

lated by the central bank.

form. RBI has been examining use

cases and working out a phased

implementation strategy for intro-

duction of CBDC with little or no

Finance Pankai Chaudhary said in

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has proposed amendments to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, which would enable it to launch a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). The move comes amid the government's plans to introduce a Bill on cryptocurrencies in the current Parliament session that seeks to prohibit "all private cryptocurrencies in India" with "certain exceptions".

"Government has received a proposal from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in October, 2021 for amendment to the Reserve Bank of India Act. 1934 to enhance the scope of the definition of 'bank note' to include currency in digital

reply to a query in Lok Sabha. The CBDC is a digital form of

EXPLAINED

fiat currency which can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain and is regulated by the central bank. Though the concept of CBDCs was directly inspired by bitcoin, it is different from decentralised virtual currencies and crypto assets, which are not issued by the state and lack the 'legal tender' status. CBDCs enable the user to conduct both domestic and cross border transactions which do not require a third party or a bank. "Introduction of CBDC has the potential to provide significant benefits, such as reduced dependency on cash, higher seigniorage due to lower transaction costs, reduced settlement disruption," Minister of State for

risk. Introduction of CBDC would also possibly lead to a more robust, efficient, trusted, regulated and legal tender-based payments op-

tion. There are also associated risks which need to be carefully evaluated against the potential benefits," Chaudhary said.

Meanwhile, in response to a separate query in Lok Sabha, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government does not collect data on Bitcoin transactions and on trading in cryptocurrencies. She added the government has no proposal to recognise Bitcoin as a currency.

"A CBDC is the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. It is the same as a fiat currency and is exchangeable one-toone with the fiat currency. Only its form is different," as per the RBI. CBDC is a digital or virtual currency but it is not comparable to the private virtual currencies that came up globally over the last decade.

of India had granted its approval

to LIC, for increasing its holding in

the bank up to 9.99 per cent of the

The stake hike is subject to

paid-up equity share capital of

RBI's master directions on prior

approval for acquisition of

shares or voting rights in private

sector banks and on ownership

in private banks. It is also subject

to Sebi's Foreign Exchange

Management Act norms. Kotak

Bank shares traded at Rs 2,020

on BSE, up 2.91 per cent from the

previous close. WITHPTI

the bank," it added.



on Monday superseded the board of directors of Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL), belonging to the Anil Ambani group, in view of the defaults by RCL in meeting the various payment obligations to its creditors and serious governance concerns which the board has not

RUPEE

₹75.07

 \odot

OIL

976.45

OWES 721,781 CR TO LENDERS AS OF OCT 31

board of default-hit

DELAY IN

SERVICING DEBT

The company,

belonging to the Anil

continuous delay in

servicing of debt

Ambani group, reported

obligations on account

file of the group continues to be

under stress on account of delay

in raising funds from the asset

monetization plan and impend-

ing debt payments," Care Ratings

said while giving default rating - D

Lenders had put several assets

of RCL, including its insurance

ventures, asset reconstruction

firm, and securities arm on sale.

SBI Caps and IM Financial had re-

ceived over 90 expressions of in-

terest for the company's nine key

assets, but the deal could not be fi-

nalised due to the ongoing litiga-

tion. RCL was among the leading

NBFCs at one time, but came un-

der pressure when the financial

sector faced a crisis two years ago. RCL's consolidated debt is Rs

40,000 crore and the resolution of

the two lending businesses - RCF

and RHF – will have an impact on

the consolidated debt of the com-

pany, its chairman Anil Ambani

had said. "Between these two

companies, there is a debt of over

Rs 20.000 crore, and this will be

deconsolidated from Reliance

Capital's balance sheet," he said at

RCL's AGM in September.

– to the company.

of stretched liquidity

File

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of November 26

RBI supersedes

The central bank has appointed Nageswar Rao Y, former Executive Director, Bank of Maharashtra. as the Administrator of the company under Section 45-IE (2) of the RBI Act. "The Reserve Bank will shortly initiate the process of resolution of the company under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Rules, 2019," it said.

The RBI will also apply to the National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai for appointing the Administrator as the Insolvency Resolution professional. On October 5, the RBI superseded the boards of Kolkata-based NBFCs Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance. Earlier, it had superseded the board of Dewan

Housing Finance (DHFL). RCL owes Rs 21,781.01 crore, including interest, as on October 31 to lenders. It has also defaulted on repayment of inter-corporate deposits taken from various parties aggregating to Rs 562 crore and interest Rs 120 crore for which maximum days of default ranges from 510 days to 567 days.

RCL made a loss of Rs 10,971 crore on a revenue of Rs 563 crore during the fiscal ended March 2021. Its shares fell 5 per cent at Rs 19.05 on the BSE on Monday.

The company reported continuous delay in servicing of debt obligations on account of stretched liquidity. "The liquidity pro-

DIPR/C/12052/2021

Bureau of Investment Promotion BIP/MP/1019

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for Procurement of MOU Folder with Ashok Stambh and Governme Rajasthan in Golden metal pasted on the front are invited from interested bidders upto 2:00 PM of 03/12/2021. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state UBN No.:- BIP2122GLOB00007 Samwad/C/21/8858

Commissioner (Inv. & NRIs)

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT CUM MEMBER SECRETARY, RMRS. SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR [Sawai Man Singh Road Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302001]

'Over 5L cos shut down, 7L new ones registered in six yrs'

7 lakh new companies were set up in the last nearly six years, as per data from Corporate Affairs Ministry on Monday

IN A REPLY to the Lok Sabha, MoS Singh said the ministry does not "maintain data on event base

companies would be struck off after following due process of law

SECOND STRATEGIC STAKE SALE THIS FISCAL Panel clears ₹210-crore bid by Nandal Finance for Central Electronics

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHL NOVEMBER 29

A MINISTERS' panel on disinvestment on Monday cleared a winning bid of Rs 210 crore for selling 100 per cent government equity in Central Electronics Ltd (CEL) to Nandal Finance and Leasing Pvt Ltd. The Alternative Mechanism - comprising Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari Minister of State (Independent charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh – approved "the highest price bid" for strategic sale of government stake in CEL. "The next step will be to issue the Letter of Intent (LoI) and then sign the Share Purchase Agreement following which, the conditions precedent would need to be satisfied by the successful bidder. the company and Government. It is expected that the transaction will be completed during current FY2021-22," the Finance Ministry said in a statement. CEL recorded sales of Rs 245.99 crore in 2019-20, as compared to Rs 232.55 crore in 2018-19, as per latest available data in the company's annual reports. It recorded net profit after tax of Rs 3.13 crore in 2019-20, up from Rs

The term 'closed company' is not defined under the Act and

Year

Sales

Net Profit

after Tax

Production

More than 5 lakh companies went out of business while over

for Corporate Affairs Rao Inderiit



The response was to a query on state-wise companies closed down after demonetisation, GST and Covid-19 pandemic

RBI clears LIC stake hike in Kotak Mahindra Bank To raise holding in lender to nearly 10%

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

LIC WILL increase its stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank to nearly 10 per cent, having received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the private bank said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

Kotak said it has received an intimation from LIC for the same. "Kotak Mahindra Bank has received an intimation from Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) stating that the Reserve Bank

GOLD

₹47.242

been able to address effectively.

same period.

Female workers registered a job loss of 7.44 per cent among the nine key sectors while the figure for male workers between the prelockdown and post-lockdown periods (July 1, 2020) stood at 7.48 per cent, the data showed.

Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha said that female employment in the manufacturing sector reduced to 23.3 lakh (as on July 1, 2020) from 26.7 lakh (as on March 25, 2020). Male workers in manufacturing during the same period dropped to 87.9 lakh from 98.7 lakh. Female workers in the construction sector re-

employment in the organised non-farm segment, the report had said employment deestablishments.

creased in 27 per cent of the As much as 81 per cent of the workers received full wages during the lockdown period (March 25-June 30, 2020), 16 per cent received reduced wages and only 3 per

cent were denied any wages, it said. The earlier version of QES was suspended in 2018, citing a gap in numbers with the payroll data. There are two compo-

nents under AQEES, QES and Area Frame Establishment Survey (AFES), which covers the unorganised segment (with less than 10 workers).

1.69 crore in 2018-19. The company has a total debt of Rs 42.96 crore at March-end 2020, as per the annual report. The company is also carrying unpaid wage revision arrears for the year 2007 amounting to around Rs 19 crore.

CEL FINANCIALS (*in* ₹ *cr*)

Gross Margin 14.01 11.69

3.13

Source: Annual reports

Gross Profit 9.06

Profit before 6.36

2020

2019- |2018-

249.09 229.73

245.99 232.55

2019

7.21

4.07

1.69

Set up in 1974, CEL operates in four key areas - railway safety & signalling systems, defence (strategic)electronics, solar photovoltaics, and security surveillance solutions. Its paid up capital at March-end 2020 was Rs. 70.87 crore. This is the second strategic stake sale by the government after Air India this fiscal. After receipt of sealed financial bids, a reserve price of Rs 194 crore was fixed based on valuations by the transaction adviser and the asset valuer, the government said.

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE P.B. No.8066, Sadashivnagar PO, Bengaluru-560 080

Telephone No: 080-2207 2271, E-mail: purchase@cpri.in Website: http://www.cpri.res.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER - CPRIBLR21NIT15 Date: 30-11-2021

Online e-tenders are invited from eligible manufacturers, suppliers / service providers for the following in conformation to National / International standards wherever applicable:

(1) Measuring and Recording System for 40000 A Temperature Rise Test Facility At High Power Laboratory, CPRI, Bengaluru. (2) Clamps & Connectors as per drawings. (3) Procurement of Protocol Analyser stand-alone tool for offline analysis of DLMS traffic as per IS 15959 series with two years warranty period. During the warranty period, the software support including interpretation of traffic analysed to be provided through email/phone as & when required. (4) Supply of Copper Finger Contacts For Center brake Series parallel dis-connectors for Short circuit bus bar system (SCBBS) As mentioned below. a. Copper Finger Contact 5mm (Drawing number 001).

b. Copper Finger Contact Support 2mm (Drawing number 002)

Tender documents with detailed specifications, terms 8 conditions, instructions, and other details be kindly availed downloaded from CPRI website: http://www.cpri.res.in and CPRI e-procurement portal: www.tenderwizard.com/CPRI from 30-11-2021 onwards.

Purchase Authority-CPRI

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer 154 (Project) PHED Bharatpur (Rajasthan)

E-Notice Inviting Bid No. 01/2021-22 No.:- PHED/ACE (P)/JJM/Tender/2021-22/1270-78 Dated:- 18.11.2021 On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, NIT no. 01/2021-22 online tender nereby invited from eligible bidders for work of "Retrofitting of Dang area

Water Supply Project of District Dholpur to provide FHTC including 10 year O&M, after defect liability period of one year on percentage rate pasis single point responsibility turnkey contract, under JJM" as pe iteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/tender document: available on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. Tenders are be submitted online in electronic format on websit http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in as per prescribed schedule

NIT No. Name of work Estimated cost (Rs in Lakh) UBN no. Date & time for online downloading / submission of bid 01/2021 Retrofitting of Dang area Water Supply 7948.36 PHE2122WL From 24.11.2021 (6.00PM) to 27.12.2021 (6.00PM) to 27.12.2021 (6.00PM) to 27.12.2021 (6.00PM) to 27.12.2021 (6.00PM) -22 area Water Getect liability period of one year on percentage rate basis single point responsibility turnkey contract, under JJM Gave Water Save LIFE UBN NO.:- PHE2122WLOB09652 Sd/- (Hemant Kumar) Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur					
-22 area Water Supply Project of District Dholpur to provide FHTC including 10- year O&M, after defect liability period of one year on percentage rate basis single point responsibility turnkey contract, under JJM UBN NO.:- PHE2122WLOBO9652 Sd/- (Hemant Kumar) Additional Chief Engineer (Project)	NIT No.	Name of work	cost (Rs	UBN no.	for online downloading / submission
UBN NO.:- PHE2122WLOBO9652 Sd/- (Hemant Kumar) Additional Chief Engineer (Project)		area Water Supply Project of District Dholpur to provide FHTC including 10- year O&M, after defect liability period of one year on percentage rate basis single point responsibility turnkey			24.11.2021 (6.00PM) to 27.12.2021
دی (Hemant Kumar) Additional Chief Engineer (Project)			TER- SAVE	LIFE	
Additional Chief Engineer (Project)	UBN NO .:- I	PHE2122WLOBO9652			Sd/-
		02/2021	Addi	tional Chief En	gineer (Project)
	DIFR/C/119	03/2021		F	

[Phone 0141-2518308, 0141 2565647, Email-ms.smshospital@gmail o. 3922/Store/SMS/MH/2021 Jaipur dated, the 25.11.202

Notice Inviting Bid Bids for rate contract for procurement of Neuro Spine Naula nation system for Neurosurge lepartment are invited from interested bidders up to 30.12.2021 on 5.00 pm. Other particular f bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.ir ttp://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. UBN No. MCJ 2122GLOB00178

Member Secretary RMRS S.M.S. Hospital Jaipu

K	KMML, The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.						
April	(A Govt. Of Kerala Undertaking)						
(Ar	(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)						
S	ankaramangalam, Ch	avara -691583. Kollam, Kerala, India					
+9	+91-476-2651215 to 2651217, Fax: +91-0476-2680101, 2686721						
	Email:contact@kmml.com, URLwww.kmml.com						
	Competitive Tender are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com						
No	Tender Id	Tender Id Items					
1	2021_KMML_456267_1	For supply of 20,402 MT of Calcined Petroleum Coke					
2	2021_KMML_456443_1	For fabrication and Supply of Tickle Condenser (Methanol Chiller)					
	Chavara sd/- DGM(Mtls) 29.11.2021 For The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd						
Our p	Our products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon&Sillimanite						
	मारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड						



DISPOSAL OF UNCLEARED/UNCLAIMED IMPORTED CARGO **THROUGH E-AUCTION**

Container Corporation of India Ltd. shall be auctioning scrap items and unclaimed/uncleared imported cargo landed at the terminals of Area 1 and Area 4 those ntainers arrived on or before 31.03.2021 through e-auction on 15.12.2021 & 30.12.2021 o "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". All details along with Terms & Conditions of auction sale a cargo details will be available on www.concorindia.co.in & www.mstcecommerce.cor w.e.f. 01.12.2021 & 20.12.2021. All importers including Government Undertakings Departments whose containers/goods are lying unclaimed/uncleared and falling in the said lis uploaded in website at respective terminals, because of any dispute, stay by Court/Tribuna others or any such reason may accordingly inform the concerned Executive Director at Area and Area 4 CONCOR as well as Commissioner of Customs of the concerned Commissionaire and file their objections/claims regarding disposal of such goods within 7 (Seven Days) o this notice failing which the goods will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" without any further notice. For full details please log on to www.concorindia.co.in www.mstcecommerce.com Executive Director, Area



MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD. PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT

01, The Orion, Opposite Don Bosco Youth Centre, Koregaon Park, une - 411001. Telephone: 020-26051072 -mail: tenders.pmrp@mahametro.org | www.punem

Tender Notice No. P1S-03/2021 Dated: 29.11.2021

Name of the Work: Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Platform Screen Doors System of Pune Metro Rail Project. Cost of Documents: INR 47,200/- (INR Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Only) incl. GST

Interested bidders may visit Pune Metro Rail website www.punemetrorail.org or download the bidding documents and obtain further details regarding the tender from our e-tender portal https://mahametrorail.etenders.in from 16:00 Hrs. on 29/11/2021. **Executive Director**

Maha Metro, Greenest Metro

(Procurement & Contracts) MAHA-METRO

BRIEFLY — **ADB** loan

New Delhi: The Asian Development Bank(ADB) approved a loan of \$125 million for water supply and sanitation projects in Uttarakhand.

RIL, BT Group

New Delhi: Reliance Industries on Monday denied any intent to bid for the UK telecom group, BT, dismissing a report as "completely speculative and baseless".

Penalty on UBI

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Union Bank of India (UBI) for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

PNB stake buy

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank (PNB) will invest as a promoter in Open Network for Digital Commerce by picking up over 9 per cent stake in the company. PTI

SC gives two more Relief rally: Oil rebounds 3% as weeks to CCI to decide **Future-Amazon case**

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE SUPREME Court on Monday extended by two weeks the deadline for Competition Commission of India (CCI) to decide on the Confederation of All India Traders' (CAIT) plea seeking revocation of approval granted to the Amazon-Future Group deal in 2019. It also gave liberty to Amazon to raise ob-

iections before the Commission. Earlier, on November 16, the Delhi High Court had directed CCI to decide in the matter within two weeks instead of January 4, the earlier scheduled date of hearing. The CAIT had moved the HC demanding the annulment of CCI's approval that was granted to Amazon in 2019 and wanted protection of its 6,000 traders who

had supplied goods worth Rs 10,000 crore to the Future Group. On Monday, a Bench led by



The SC gave the extension beyond the 2-week deadline set by the High Court. File

Chief Justice NV Ramana while disposing of Amazon's appeal against the HC's order said it does not want to express any opinion on the merits of the case or the CCI proceedings, but gave an extension of two weeks beyond the two-week deadline set by the HC.

The judges during the hearing also asked about the "tearing hurry" for the Commission to complete the proceedings when it is already hearing the case. **FE**





OIL REBOUNDED by more than

\$76 a barrel as some investors viewed Friday's slump in oil and financial markets on concern about the Omicron coronavirus variant as overdone.

Brent crude was up \$2.28, or 3 per cent, at \$75.02 a barrel by 12:29 pm Eastern (1729 GMT) having slid by \$9.50 on Friday. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was up \$2.93, or 4.3 per cent, at \$71.08, having tumbled by \$10.24 in the previous session.

Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman al-Saud said on Monday he was not worried about Omicron, Asharq Business reported, while his Russian counterpart said he sees no need for urgent action on the market.

CPRI/ADVT/34 /2021 investors see 'fall overdone' 5

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 16 THE WORLD

MEANWHILE

RARE WHALES NEAR NYC: SHIPS TOLD TO SLOW DOWN

Scientists have detected a rare species of whale southeast of New York City, and the US government is using a voluntary protected zone to try to keep them safe. There are fewer than 350 North Atlantic right whales left, according to scientists. An acoustic array detected the presence of the whales in the area on Nov20.

CHARLIE SAVAGE

list of targets like Al Qaeda and

the Taliban. A decade later, a

court found the defendants li-

able by default and ordered

them to pay damages now

the judgment seemed symbolic.

back in control of Afghanistan.

The group's leaders say their

country's central bank account at

the Federal Reserve in New York,

in which the former government

accumulated about \$7 billion

from foreign aid and other

sources, is rightfully theirs. And

that in turn has raised a question:

If the money is the Taliban's,

shouldn't the plaintiffs in the Sept

11 lawsuit be entitled to seize it?

administration are now debating

the answer to that question, which

presents a complex knot of na-

tional security, legal, diplomatic

and political problems - the lat-

est example of how thorny issues

stemming from the terrorist at-

tacks remain unresolved more

worked out is whether and how

the United States can sidestep

any legal requirement to recognise the Taliban as the legitimate

Afghan government in order to

use the money in the central

bank account to help resolve the

uled to tell a court by Friday what

outcome would be in the national

interest, even as the US grapples

with broader issues arising from

the end of the American military

presence in Afghanistan. In addi-

tion to recognition, they include

how to provide humanitarian aid

that might forestall a mass exo-

The administration is sched-

claim by the Sept 11 families.

Among the specifics to be

than two decades later.

High-level officials in the Biden

But with no way to collect it,

Today, however, the Taliban is

worth about \$7 billion.

TOPOFTHE _ WORLD



JAPAN BANS ALL FOREIGN TRAVELLERS; AUSTRALIA DELAYS REOPENING More travel bans, curbs as Omicron cases found in Portugal, Scotland

Virgil Abloh

USA

Fashion designer Virgil Abloh dies of cancer at 41

VIRGIL ABLOH, a leading designer whose groundbreaking fusions of streetwear and high couture made him one of the celebrated most tastemakers in fashion and beyond, has died of cancer. He was 41. Abloh's death was announced Sunday by the luxury group LVMH (Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy) and Abloh's own Off-White label, which he founded in 2013. Abloh was the artistic director for Louis Vuitton's menswear, but his ubiquitous, consumer-friendly presence in culture was wide-ranging and dynamic. In 2018, Abloh became the first Black artistic director of men's wear at Louis Vuitton in the French design house's storied history.

NYT & AP NOVEMBER 29

JAPAN ON Monday joined Israel and Morocco in barring all foreign travellers, and Australia delayed reopening its borders for two weeks, as more countries sealed themselves off in response to the new Omicron variant of the coronavirus. The variant continued to spread around the world, with Scotland, Portugal and Spain identifying new cases.

The Japanese prime minister, Fumio Kishida, said that Japan would reverse a move earlier this month to reopen its borders to short-term business travellers and international students.

The emergence of the Omicron variant in southern Africa has left countries around the world scrambling to respond, with some instituting or considering sweeping travel bans, while others have put in place more focused, but also more discriminatory, border prohibitions.

Some countries proceeded with their plans to reopen on Monday, like Singapore and Malaysia, which opened their land border. South Korea. on the other hand, announced that it was delaying any loosening of social distancing restrictions. The moves by Japan, Israel



Travellers being tested for Covid at Sydney Airport. Reuters

and Morocco to close off to all foreigners stood in contrast to those in places like the United States, Britain, Canada and the European Union, which have all announced bans on travellers only from southern Africa.

Meanwhile, Indonesia on Monday joined a small but growing list of countries to bar travel with Hong Kong as well as the southern African region.

New cases

Cases had already been reported in EU nations Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands be-

fore Portuguese authorities identified 13 omicron infections among members of the Belenenses professional soccer team. Authorities reported one member had recently travelled to South Africa. A game over the

Britain expanded its Covidweekend had be abandoned at halftime for lack of players. Spain also reported its first confirmed case of the variant. It was detected in a traveller who returned Sunday from South Africa after making a stopover in Amsterdam, one of Madrid's major public hospitals tweeted. And after Scotland reported its dozen omicron cases.

first six cases, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon warned that "there might already be some community transmission of this variant.'

UK to give boosters to all adults

19 booster programme to everyone 18 and older, making millions more people eligible. Up until now, booster shots were available only to those 40 and over and people particularly vulnerable to the virus. The UK has reported about a

Concerts coming back to S Korea, but fans told not to sing along

AT THE first BTS concert of the coronavirus era on Saturday, Maggie Larin, 25, and her three friends were surrounded by a roaring crowd of 70,000 other fans in Inglewood, California.

But when Lee Hye Su, 23, and her two friends go to see the K-pop group The Boyz in Seoul next weekend, she will be seated silently, masked and socially distanced, alongside only 2,100 other fans, according to the venue's rules.

As K-pop bands start touring the world and performing for live audiences again, fans in their home country, South Korea, are flocking to stadiums. But they must abide by the government's strict rules: no shouting, chanting or singing along at concerts with 500 or more attendees.

Live K-pop concerts are returning to South Korea as hospitalizations are rising across the country and the spread of a new variant alarms the world. The health minister, Kwon Deokcheol, said the government was considering tightening some restrictions.



Taliban, 9/11 families

fight for billions in

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid at a press conference in Kabul earlier this year. NYT

The US Justice Department has been negotiating with lawyers for the Sept 11 plaintiffs about a potential deal to divide up the money if the government supports their attempt to seize it, and the White House's National Security Council has been working with agencies across the government to weigh the proposal, according to people who described the deliberations on condition of anonymity.

In a statement, two of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit — Fiona Havlish, whose husband worked in the South Tower, and Ellen Saracini, whose husband was a pilot of one of the hijacked planes that flew into the World Trade Center - said the administration should help their cause.

"After our husbands were killed in the Sept 11.2001 terrorist attacks, we have spent many years fighting to achieve justice on their behalf," they said. 'Together with the others in our case, we obtained an enforceable money judgment against the Taliban and now call on President Biden to ensure the funds we have attached go to us and not the terrorists who played a role in taking the lives of our loved ones.'

Any transfer of the Afghan central bank reserves is sure to infuriate the Taliban at a moment when the West is trying to pressure and coax the organization into behaving differently than it did when it last ran that country

AUSTRALIA Govt urges FB to back anti-troll defamation law

FACEBOOK WILL show it has no interest in making the online world safe if it quits Australia over laws holding it liable for defamation on its platform, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Monday. In the latest of several attempts to hold global internet companies to greater account for content on their platforms, Australia plans to make them share the identities of people with anonymous accounts if another person accuses them of defamation. If the social media company

SHERYL GAY STOLBERG NOVEMBER 29

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden sought to reassure the nation on Monday about the new Omicron variant of the coronavirus as crucial questions about it remain. telling Americans that the variant is "a cause for concern, not a

cause for panic," and that his administration was working with vaccine manufacturers to modify vaccines and booster shots should that prove necessary.

"We're throwing everything we have at this virus, tracking it from every angle," Biden said at the White House, adding, "I'm sparing no effort, removing all roadblocks to keep

Mob attacks Pak police, fails to grab blasphemy suspect



US President Joe Biden

has yet to be detected in the US. Biden has already restricted

ing South Africa, a move that exyet to be established.

Xi woos African leaders with debt waiver, vaccines, jobs amid US push into continent

Dozens stuck in England's highest pub after storm

KJM VARMA



Cooperation via a video link.

businesses to invest no less than To help the AU (African \$10 billion in Africa in the next Xiomara Castro ion) achieve its goal of vacci- three years, and will establish a

dus of migrants

American people safe." The president said he would

ter, not with shutdowns or with lockdowns, but with more widetesting and more." The variant

travel from eight nations, includ-

perts said would buy the US time in determining how to respond. But it will likely be a week, possibly two weeks, before experts know more about the new variant. It has mutations that scientists fear could make it more infectious and less susceptible to vaccines, though evidence to support those fears has

Biden says Omicron variant a cause for concern, not panic

outline "a strategy for how we are going to fight Covid this winspread vaccinations, boosters,

fails to give that information, it must assume legal liability. REUTERS

UAE

No more jail for those bringing THC into country

THE UNITED Arab Emirates has eased some of its harsh drug laws, relaxing penalties for travellers who arrive in the country with products containing THC, the main intoxicating chemical in cannabis. The new law, published Sunday in the UAE's official gazette, says people caught carrying food, drinks and other items with cannabis into the country will no longer land in prison if it's their first time. Instead, authorities will confiscate and destroy the products. AP

RIAZ KHAN

PESHAWAR, NOVEMBER 29

A MOB burned a police station and four police posts overnight in northwest Pakistan after officers refused to hand over a mentally unstable man accused of desecrating the Quran, authorities said Monday.

No officers were hurt in the attacks, which forced the police to summon troops to restore order in Charsadda, a district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, local officer Asif Khan said.

A video posted on social media showed the police station burning

Khan said officers foiled an attempt by the mob to lynch the detainee and the police moved him to another district. He did not disclose the name of the man, saying officers were still investigating and the suspect was arrested a day ago.

Khan said officers initially resisted but fled after thousands of demonstrators attacked the po-

lice buildings. He said police avoided the use of force to prevent casualties among demonstrators. The situation in Charsadda was normal Monday, he said, and law enforcement

was seeking to arrest people linked to the attacks. Blasphemy carries the death

penalty in Pakistan, where mere allegations of the offence are often enough to provoke mob violence. International and domestic rights groups say that accusations of blasphemy have often been used to intimidate religious minorities and settle per-

sonal scores. In 2017, a group of students at the Abdul Wali Khan University in the northwestern city of Mardan

attacked and killed another student. Mohammad Mashal. after accusing him of sharing blasphemous content on Facebook.

A Punjab governor in Islamabad was also shot and killed by his own guard in 2011. after he defended a Christian woman, Aasia Bibi, who was accused of blasphemy. AP

OFFERING A slew of incentives, including one billion Covid-19 vaccines, waiver of debt and creation of eight lakh jobs in Africa in the face of the US's push into the continent to challenge Beijing's influence, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday told a meeting of African leaders that China joins them in opposing racism and external interference in domestic affairs.

"We both oppose intervention in domestic affairs, racial dis-



Xi speaks via video link at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Monday. Reuters

crimination and unilateral sanctions." he said addressing the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa

population by 2022, I announce that China will provide another one billion doses of vaccines to Africa...," Xi said. The meeting took place amid efforts by US President Joe Biden's initiative of Build Back

Better World (B3W), which was seen as rival to Xi's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with a focus on developing countries, especially African nations.

Offering a variety of benefits, ment loans due by the end of Xi said, "China will encourage its 2021," he added.

nating 60 per cent of the African platform for China-Africa private investment promotion." he said. China will undertake 10 in-

dustrialisation and employment

promotion projects for Africa,

provide credit facilities of \$10 bil-

lion to African financial institu-

tions, and support the develop-

ment of African SMEs, he said.

LDCs (least developed countries)

from debt incurred in the form

of interest-free Chinese govern-

who have also been stuck at the

pub since their gig on Friday night.

were "in really good spirits".

Townsend said the guests

"They've formed quite a

Townsend said she hoped

"China will exempt African

Honduras is set for its first woman president

Tegucigalpa: Honduran presidential candidate Xiomara Castro headed for a landslide win in Sunday's election, declaring victory as supporters danced outside her offices to celebrate the left's return to power 12 years after her husband was ousted in a coup.

The election, set to give Honduras its first female president, seemed to have run smoothly, a contrast to four years ago when a close outcome led to a contested result and deadly protests after widespread allegations of irregularities.

With half the ballots counted, Castro, the wife of former President Manuel Zelaya, held a nearly 20-point lead over Nasry Asfura, the capital's mayor and ruling National Party hopeful, who won 34% according to a preliminary tally on Monday. REUTERS

Other

countries may follow

ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON, NOVEMBER 29

DOZENS OF customers who stopped for a drink at Britain's highest altitude pub got a longer stay than they bargained for, after it was cut off by a blizzard.

Sixty-one people woke up Monday after their third night at the Tan Hill Inn in the Yorkshire



The Tan Hill Inn. in Yorkshire Dales, England. AP file



Dales, 435 km north of London. They have been unable to leave since Friday, when a storm brought snow and heavy wind that blocked roads.

The pub sits 1,732 feet above friendship... like a big family is sea level. Manager Nicola the best way I can describe it," Townsend said staff had organshe said. "One lady actually said ised movies, a guiz night and 'I don't want to leave.' karaoke for the stranded guests. They have also been entertained people would be able to head by an Oasis cover band, Noasis, home later Monday.

PRESIDENT-ELECT SANDRA MASON TO REPLACE QUEEN ELIZABETH AS HEAD OF STATE 'Tonight's the night': Barbados prepares to become a republic

GUY FAULCONBRIDGE & BRIAN ELLSWORTH **BRIDGETOWN, NOVEMBER 29**

BARBADOS ON Monday prepared to remove Britain's Queen Elizabeth as its head of state and become a republic, as it severs imperial ties some 400 years after English ships first reached the

Caribbean island. Britain's Prince Charles arrived on Sunday night to join the inauguration of President-elect Sandra Mason in replacement of Queen Elizabeth, a move by Barbados to shed the final vestiges of a colonial system that

once spanned the globe. "Tonight's the night!" read the front-page headline of

Daily Barbados newspaper Prime Minister Mia Mottley,

the leader of Barbados' republican movement, will help lead the ceremony. Mottley has won global attention by denouncing the effects of climate change on small Caribbean nations.

"I am happy. We are on our own now with no king or queen from England," said Nigel Mayers, 60, who sells oranges at a stall in central Bridgetown. "This is the full drop after independence.'

A celebration including Barbadian music and dance will begin at 8 pm local time, with Mason to be inaugurated just af-Nation ter midnight – coinciding with

Barbados Independence Day. Prince Charles will give a speech highlighting the continuing friendship of the two nations despite the change in constitu-

> tional status. Barbados will remain a republic within the Commonwealth, a grouping of 54 countries across Africa, Asia,

the Americas and Europe. British colonialists shipped over captured African slaves to work the island's sugar cane



Britain's Prince Charles with Barbados's President-elect Sandra Mason after he arrives in Bridgetown, Barbados, to take part in events to mark the island's transition to a republic. Reuters

fields and Barbados became a focus of the brutal transatlantic slave trade. Today's population of under 300,000 is overwhelmingly of African descent.

Monday's elegant celebration comes at a time when Barbados is struggling with inflation due to supply-chain disruptions driving up prices in a country that must import most goods. Its tourism industry, a crucial part of the economy, is still recovering from earlier coronavirus travel restrictions.

Some residents acknowledge they are uncertain what the transition to a republic even means or why it matters. Others would Australia and Canada. REUTERS

THE DECISION by have preferred not to change. "They should leave Queen Elizabeth be - leave her as the boss. I don't understand why we

need to be a republic," said Sean Williams, 45, standing in the shadow of an independence monument. The last time the queen was removed as head of state was in 1992 when Mauritius, an island

in the Indian Ocean, proclaimed itself a republic. The shift may spur discussion of similar proposals in other former British colonies that have Queen Elizabeth as their sover-

eign, which include Jamaica

Barbados, which was one of Britain's earliest colonies, to become a republic is likely to revive the debate regarding other countries' links to British royalty. Experts say other countries in the Caribbean, particularly Jamaica, could be heading towards becoming republics given the smooth nature of Barbados's transition and the apparent endorsement by the royal family of the country's decision.



WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021

SPORT/CALENDAR 17

If Magnus takes the lead in crucial fourth game, it could get one-sided



SURYA SEKHAR GANGULY

I THINK the first three games followed the pattern of a typical World Championship match. The two players were testing each other on different lines, without any obvious weakness on either side in terms of opening or strategy. But Magnus (Carlsen) should definitely be happy, especially about the third game, where he had a relatively easy draw despite playing with the black pieces.Delving into the technical side of things, Nepo's (Ian Nepomniachtchi) first move was e4 (King's pawn opening) in both games where he played with the white pieces. Magnus responded to that with e5 in both games. Against e5, Nepo adopted Ruy Lopez. Magnus countered that with the Morphy defence, employing the Marshall variation. Nepo didn't want to allow that and resorted to the Anti-Marshall counter.

It's a step by step process.

Nepo's next game with the white pieces would be Game No.5. If he plays e4 again, not necessarily that Magnus would repeat e5. He might do it, he might not. He could well turn to c5. the Sicilian defence. But I think in the fifth game, Nepo would most likely play d4 - the Queen's pawn opening to try and figure out how Magnus's team has prepared against that. He has played e4 in his first two games with white, and maybe he can think that it's time to change.

After two games with the white pieces, Nepo has enough information about how Magnus's team has prepared against e4. Now Nepo's team is expected to work on cracking the existing line - Magnus's e5 while trying to get information about the latter's preparation against d4. Different teams have different match strategies. When we were at the World Championship, especially during (Viswanathan) Anand's match against (Boris) Gelfand, our strategy was that we would play both e4 and d4, and with the black pieces, we would start with e5 against e4 in the first couple of games. And when the opponent would start spending time on that, we would shift to some other opening. So it's very much possible that Magnus would now turn to the Sicilian, but this is something you can't predict. He might well stick to the existing line.

As a player, I am not speculating any-



World champion Magnus Carlsen will aim to claim a win with white pieces in the fourth game of the world championship match against Ian Nepomniachtchi on his 31st birthday on Tuesday.

"I had earlier mentioned that if Nepo could take the match deep with the scores level, his chances would increase. Whether that would happen, it's too early to say. In general, when draws pile up, the challenger's confidence level goes up, while the world champion tends to get a tad nervy.For example, if there's a stalemate even after the Game No. 13, then Carlsen no longer remains the favourite"

SURYA SEKHAR GANGULY GRANDMASTER

thing. I am excited about the World Championship but as regards to openings and/or moves, I don't speculate. Of course, when Anand was playing, it was completely different, for I was directly involved. Here, I am looking forward to a great match and that's what I am seeing. The second game was very entertaining and at the post-game press conference Magnus spoke about committing a "blunder". But I don't read too much into that. Comments at press conferences are usually very generic and I don't take them seriously. There will be mistakes in every game. If I run every game through the computer and put it under the microscope, some mistakes can be found. Very rarely do we see an absolutely flawless game - one out 10, that's the ratio and even there also, it could be a case that the second-best move was played somewhere instead of the best one. Mistakes will happen.

I had earlier mentioned that if Nepo could take the match deep with the scores level, his chances would increase. Whether that would happen, it's too early to say. In general, when draws pile up, the challenger's confidence level goes up, while the world champion tends to get a tad nervy. For example, if there's a stalemate even after the Game No. 13, then Carlsen no longer remains the favourite. From that point of view, Nepo should be happy to take the match deep. Then again, Magnus has got more energy in general. He will not get tired.

In the only game that Magnus has played with the white pieces so far, he went for the Catalan opening. But I don't expect him to repeat it in the next game. In fact, based on my experience, I would be surprised if he does it. Nepo has played two games with the white pieces so far and he cannot be thrilled with what happened, but he shouldn't be disappointed also with the outcome. The match hasn't taken a departure from the normal as yet. With the black pieces in the second game, Nepo was under serious pressure at one point. But other than that, it's still about the two players testing each other.

I think the fourth game is going to be very crucial, Magnus's second attempt with the white pieces. If he takes the lead here, it could easily get one-sided.

Grandmaster Surya Sekhar Ganguly was one of Viswanathan Anand's seconds and assisted him in winning the World Championship matches against Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov. He spoke to Shamik Chakrabarty.

Despite SA's covid cloud, India A team to play four-day game

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NOVEMBER 29

CONFINED IN a bio-bubble, with the Omicron cloud hanging over the tour, the India A team will play their second four-day unofficial Test against South Africa A in Bloemfontein from Tuesday. International teams and players have rushed to fly out of South Africa following the spread of the new variant of the virus. On Monday, Olympic javelin gold medalist Neeraj Chopra cancelled his trip to the country, where he was supposed to go for a training-and-competition stint.

The BCCI, though, hasn't pulled the plug on the A team's tour and as of now, the senior team's upcoming visit to South Africa is on schedule as well."The India A games will be played as per schedule at the moment. The players are in a bio-bubble and we have been constantly monitoring the situation, while maintaining regular contact with Cricket South Africa (CSA). The matches will be played behind closed doors, but as of now, they will be held as per the itinerary. Even the Indian government hasn't sent any advisory (to us), so the India A tour is on at the moment," BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal told The Indian Express

Confirmation also came via a CSA press release that said: "The South African A side are eager for an improved performance with ball in hand when they take on their counterparts India A in the second four-day match at the Mangaung Oval in Bloemfontein on Tuesday."The India A team is touring South Africa for three unofficial Tests, three onedayers and four T20s. The senior team will leave for the country, after their ongoing home series against New Zealand, to play three Tests, three ODIs and four T20Is. Back in September, the Indian team had refused to play the fifth Test against England in Manchester following a Covid outbreak in the camp.Dhumal, however, told this paper last week that the BCCI would follow the Indian government's directive as regards to the cricket tours in South Africa. "Health Ministry's directive is supreme. If we get any advisory in this regard, we will certainly follow that."In an advisory to all the states last week, the Health Ministry identified the new variant of the virus, B.1.1.529, to potentially have "serious public health implications". This has also led to a rethink on the resumption of scheduled international flights from December 15. Several countries, including the United Kingdom, the United States and European Union have slapped a travel ban on South Africa. As for cricket, South Africa's three-match ODI series against the Netherlands saw a Covid-forced postponement, while the International Cricket Council abandoned the women's World Cup qualifier in South Africa's neighbouring country

Neeraj Chopra's SA trip cancelled

New Delhi: Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra won't be travelling to South Africa as planned for a training-and-competition stint because of the spread of the Omicron variant in the country, an Athletics Federation of India official said. "Neeraj's travel plans to South Africa have been cancelled and we will have to look for a new training base for him," the official said.

In early 2020, Chopra had trained in Potchefstroom and this time he was scheduled to fly out of India in the first week of December and be based in South Africa till March. Neeraj is aiming to participate in the Diamond League in Doha in May followed by the Golden Spikes in Ostrava. The World Championships, the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games are the big events for the Tokyo Olympics champion. ENS

The India A team is touring South Africa for three unofficial Tests, three one-dayers and four T20s. The senior team will leave for the country. after their ongoing home series against New Zealand, to play three Tests, three ODIs and four T20Is.

designated as Omicron by the World Health Organization, has caused panic in several countries including South Africa, where the scientists first identified the variant at a lab in Durban.As per the South African government data, issued by their health department on Sunday, 2,858 new cases were detected in the last 24 hours, although it didn't reveal the number of infections by the Omicron variant.Reports from ground zero, however, don't present a grim picture. "A lot of people here don't even know (about the new variant). It's all in the media. I'm right next to the second biggest hospital in South Africa - Unitas Hospital in Pretoria - and there's no alarm from their side as yet," former South Africa fast bowler Fanie de Villiers told The Indian Express."We are still watching cricket at the fields, we are still watching cricket at the grounds, school grounds, everywhere. If it were that serious, they would have stopped it long ago," he added.

The new variant of the Covid-19 virus,

Zimbabwe

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) You're one to set the rules, rather than obey them. Consider the course of action that is correct for you, rather than just going along with the

You're coming up to a critical moment for home and family relationships, and any and all positive changes

CROSSWORD 4599



OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis DIVERSITY REX AS IS OUR





2 On the wrong side where

3 Small company simply

equipment (6) Room for mental

example?(5)

estate(3)

(8)

6 Is acquainted with some

7 Drawn - from the past for

12 Fever starts to fluctuate (3)

13 Certainly a feature of every

15 Female colour bar(8)

19 Advance to secure the

20 Kill off new growth (5)

22 Work of monumental

property(6)

stupidity(5)

14 Made rare concoction of sugar

21 Strange story told in article(5)

(8)

5

banks are concerned (2,3,3)

involved in producing games

4 Remarkable piece of railway

improvement perhaps(5)

military work now secret (5)

ACROSS

- 1 He is wrong about the doctor
- 8 One keeps it in reserve (8)
- 9 Checks part of the rigging (5) 10 See 18 Across
- 11 The speed with which notes
- are produced (5) 12 Make a getaway by air?
- 16 Its lead decreases and it often
- draws(6)
- 17 It's enough to make one sick
- 18 and 10 Across: Vicissitudes
- rarely encountered in Holland (3.3.5)
- 23 So tightly packed it's stupid
- 24 The building was due to be
- consecrated(8) 25 Transport ordered at six
- (5) 26 Charge too much? (8)
- 27 The head enquires about
- pieces of work(5)

Solutions Crossword 4598: Across: 1 In two minds, 6 Hard, 10 Adult, 11 Cosmetics, 12 Icywaste, 13 Owing, 15 Atelier, 17 Tsarina, 19 Fanfare, 21 Precede, 22 Sinai, 24 Bookworm, 27 Exonerate, 28 Evade, 29 Pier, 30 Settlement. **Down**: 11 van, 2 Truncheon, 3 On tow, 4 Incisor, 5 Dissect, 7 Alibi, 8 Designated, 9 Lemonade, 14 Half-asleep, 16 Imagines, 18 Inebriate, 20 Embrace, 21 Project, 23 Noose, 25 Where, 26 Dent.

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. I believe things of - Stephen Hawking (10)



Answer: I believe things cannot make themselves impossible - Stephen Hawking SOLUTION: OLIVE, SUSHI, LUMBER, UPBEAT





CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



Difficulty Level 5s

To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

must appear in each of the

each of the nine horizontal

nine vertical columns, in

rows and in each of the

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;

3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;

5s = Very Hard; 6s =

every digit from 1 to 9

Instructions

nine boxes.

Genius

Difficulty Level

ω

IDOK

ົດ





SOLUTION SUDOKU 4669

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

crowd. Distant places may beckon, and on the most mundane level this is a useful day for fixing travel plans.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Social connections could involve legal complications. Just how or why this

should be so is not clear, but you can help matters along by making sure that you know exactly what is your

responsibility - and what is a partner's. Mind you, they might not agree with you. GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Your very personal business could

appear to be someone else's problem, but you shouldn't believe everything you hear. At work there are ways to boost your income, but only if you approach the issues from a radically different direction. You may have to drag colleagues into the present, though.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

As soon as one relationship is ended another will begin, which must be good news. Yet, it may be your own attitudes which need attention, rather than the people you mix with. You can, if you wish, completely transform your feelings and behaviour within one special intimate partnership.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Sometimes the right words come out in the wrong way. Too much has been said in haste or in anger recently, and you should now find ways to recharge your emotional batteries. Try to find imaginative means of increasing your earning power, but remember to consult others at every step.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

One particular emotional

may now seem like a waste of time. You may feel free to speak your mind and put your foot down, and shouldn't be intimidated by others' ability to confuse the issues

ought now to be encouraged. There should soon be good news for those planning a move, and while financial matters look uncertain, you may need to reach the best agreement you can.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You may still have to consider long-term investments, but it's immediate cash concerns which need sorting out first. You're at your most persuasive, so you may try presenting proposals which have already been rejected, giving them an entirely different gloss.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

The climate is still much too volatile to settle on long-term plans. The current feeling that everything is up for grabs should suit your temperament, so you'll be tempted to put aside any lingering fears for your security. Keep partners informed as and when you feel it's necessary.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

There is intense pressure for constructive change across the board. You may be primed to benefit most if you are pursuing a creative line, or committed to any activity which is designed for self-improvement. Only the highest standards will do.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21- Feb 19)

What you do with your private life is up to you. However, others may disagree! It's especially important to keep a dialogue going at home, all the more so if you want to keep parents or

actions, a tendency which although strong today, may continue all week. The final decision must always be yours, but do be aware of the likely consequences: there is no substitute for careful planning.





You will be tempted into rash decisions and impulsive

to go it alone then you'll almost certainly come unstuck. PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

children on your side. If you try





THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 **18** SPORT

F (Novak) has said that he views this as a private matter for him. We would love to see Novak here, he knows that he'll have to be vaccinated to play here."

CRAIG TILEY - AUSTRALIAN OPEN TOURNAMENT CHIEF

No winner in Test win

Enthralling Kanpur contest that went till the 94th over of the last day provided a robust argument for five-day games

SANDIP G KANPUR, NOVEMBER 29

JUST BEFORE the onslaught of the pandemic, four-day Tests matches were suddenly the rage. The often-jetted reason was that Test matches, these days, seldom last five days. Four-day skirmishes flew thick and fast, and in the game's gluttonous urge to compress the length of a contest, the theory gained currency.

But every now and again, just when one starts buying the four-day Test theory, comes along a match that argues that there is no spectacle in cricket as enthralling as a Test match that lasts the full course. They arrive, like messiahs and avatars, few and far between, but are worth the wait. And for that rare Test alone should five-day Tests be preserved.

Like the one that played out between India and New Zealand in Kanpur, a contest that was alive till the last ball of the game, which the visitors saved by a lone wicket. When Ravindra Jadeja sauntered into bowl the last ball of the 98th over of the Kiwi second innings in bleary darkness, the match was still pregnant with two possibilities he could nick a wicket and be India's hero, while Ajaz Patel could hold fort and be New Zealand's saviour. The Kiwi No. 11 eventually blocked the ball to produce a famous last-ball draw, one that posterity would remember and recount.

A Test match lasting five days doesn't necessarily become a grandee. Just like some of the football games that roll into extra-time, more due to defensive dourness than attacking vigour. But the Kanpur one was a grandee, a glorious celebration of Test cricket, purely because of the spread of variegated skills the players exhibited.

A flashy batsman embracing restraint on his Test debut, a pair of versatile seamers chiselling tools to be penetrative in hostile conditions, spinners making do with the lack of bounce and pace on the strip, overseas batsmen digging the depth of their



Most of New Zealand's batsmen demonstrated an iron will to not throw their wickets away and deny India a win.

skill-sets and will-power, and wicketkeepers stretching to the outer limits of their physical and mental flexibility.

Challenging the best

Nothing came cheap on this wicket, neither runs nor wickets nor catches. It was perhaps the much-maligned Green Park deck's way of acting pricey after all the flaky-wicket criticism it had copped. It's in

a way a reflection of the city. Nothing comes easy here. One has to earn. And as it ideally should be in Test cricket. Even Jadeja, the classic fifth-day hangman of batsmen in his backyard, had to drudge for wickets. He is accustomed to running through sides, but here he had to plan, re-plan, review and then revise again.

The Williamson set-up was a classic case. It was the result of an elaborate tease.

Jadeja kept mixing the ones that turned away a fraction with the ones that held the line on the angle. A straighter one with the angle beat Williamson's forward-defensive stride and gripped the surface. It suddenly sowed doubts in the Kiwi skipper's mind, and thereafter he was hesitant to venture forward. Jadeia wanted exactly that, for Williamson to doubt his impenetrable defence. Thereafter, it was the case of slithering in the arm-ball.

Jadeja, though, was not finished with his web of deception, setting the stage assiduously like a dramatist. With a few deliveries outside the off-stump, he pushed Williamson across, and then flung the armball, a bit wider from the crease than usual for an illusion of drift. Williamson came out of his sagely shell of focus and hung back fatally to manoeuvre the ball through the leg-side, only to helplessly watch the ball missile into his pad. It was a tribute to Jadeja's genius that even though it was not his idea of a fifth-day wicket, he could still weave his magic.

But the ball that exploded the match into life came just before the tea interval, when he beat Ross Taylor on the front-foot with nothing more than the angle. Maybe, Taylor was playing for the break and preempted the front-foot defence, whereas all this while, he was comfortably playing Iadeia on the back-foot. But the left-arm spinner kept pushing his length up, and eventually induced the stroke of misjudgement.

Later, even against the lower order, he had to keep altering and re-altering his plans. As opposed to the middle order, the arm-ball became the set-up ball, while the away-spinner became the strike ball. Jadeja is not much of an experimentalist, but tucked deep into his bag of variations to bring India back into the game. He fiddled around with his grips, released some balls with a higher arm action, so that he could purchase more bounce; some were more round-arm than usual.

Master at work

His ally, Ravichandran Ashwin, was nothing less than a spin bowling alchemist, attempting everything a spin bowler possibly could. All he didn't try was bowling left-handed.

Yet, he nipped Tom Latham with a routine ball, a short-of-length wide ball that he inside-edged onto the stumps. Latham was devastated, as he was in the first innings when he was stumped on 95.

The left-hander enhanced his reputation as one of the most stable all-condition openers in the world, soaking 428 balls in the Test. No opener since England's Alastair Cook has faced as many balls in a single Test. His judgment shone brightly, undoubtedly more skilled than many non-Asian batsmen at negating spin and decoding the plans of India's well-versed spin artistes.

Most of New Zealand's batsmen demonstrated an iron will to not throw their wickets away, be it Will Young in the first innings or Rachin Ravindra in the second, the latter a debutant and the former just playing his fourth Test. Unlike several other tourists who left these shores cribbing and cussing about pitches, dust, and what not, New Zealand went about finding solutions to the riddles around them.

Not every Test match will last till the 94th over of the fifth day, but it's worth the wait. And on days like these, the future of Test cricket looks brighter than ever before.

SCORECARD:

India 1st Innings: 345 New Zealand 1st Innings: 296 India 2nd innings: 234-7 declared New Zealand 2nd innings: (Overnight 4-1 in 4 overs)

Tom Latham b Ashwin 52, Will Young lbw b Ashwin 2, William Somerville c Shubman Gill b Umesh 36, Kane Williamson lbw b Ravindra Jadeja 24, Ross Taylor lbw b Ravindra Jadeja 2, Henry Nicholls lbw b Axar 1, Tom Blundell b Ashwin 2, Rachin Ravindra not out18, Kyle Jamieson lbw b Ravindra Jadeja 5, Tim Southee lbw b Ravindra Jadeja *4, Ajaz Patel not out 2*

Extras: (B-12, LB-1, NB-4) Total: (For 9 wicket, 98 overs) 165 Fall of wicket: 3-1, 79-2, 118-3, 125-4, 126-5, 128-6, 138-7, 147-8, 155-9.

Bowling: Ravichandran Ashwin 30-12-35-3, Axar Patel 21-12-23-1, Umesh Yadav 12-2-34-1, Ishant Sharma 7-1-20-0, Ravindra Jadeja 28-10-40-4.

Respect the titan: Ashwin's 4th-innings prowess at home is second to none

ABHISHEK PUROHIT MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 29

IF ONE is an Indian spinner bowling in the fourth innings of a Test match in Asia, and particularly so at home, one is criticised after doing well, and even more so if one doesn't. If the former happens, the pitch often takes more credit and if the latter happens, the spinner is often deemed to have let down the pitch itself, in addition to the team and the fans.



and Axar Patel, who usually bowl quicker than Ashwin in Tests, found it hard to hurry the determined Kiwis.

Unhelpful surface

As head coach Rahul Dravid said after the match, one felt that only bowled and LBW were the dismissals the fielding side had to go for (eight of the nine New Zealand wickets in the second innings came in that fashion). Both edges of the bat were hardly in play, and on the rare occasion they were, the





CLIMATE CHANGE: IS THE WORLD

If even one of the few close shaves the New Zealand last pair had in Kanpur been just a bit closer, it would have been a fitting way for Ravichandran Ashwin to go past Harbhajan Singh as India's third-highest Test wicket-taker. That Rachin Ravindra and Ajaz Patel held on for a draw in fading light should take nothing away from the fact that since he debuted exactly a decade ago, nobody has taken more Test wickets than Ashwin.

And contrary to the perception that all he has to do is turn up at home grounds to feast on clueless visiting batsmen, Ashwin, like any other bowler in Test cricket, has had to work pretty hard for his 419 wickets.

Since he made his debut in Delhi in November 2011, it has taken 51.4 deliveries on average for a wicket to fall in the fourth innings of a Test match in India. And contrary to India's perception as a fourth-innings gravevard for batsmen, wickets in the last innings have fallen quicker in as many as four other countries - Bangladesh, Pakistan (albeit with a tiny sample size of three Tests), West Indies and counter-intuitively, England.

Even when India themselves have bowled in the fourth innings at home over the last decade, they have needed 49 balls

Ravichandran Ashwin had to rely on all his smarts, tricks and wisdom to earn his rewards. AP

per wicket, only marginally less than the overall figure of 51.4 for the country. It is then another indication of Ashwin's quality that he strikes every 40 balls in the final innings of home Test matches.

At times, though, no matter how great a bowler one is and how monumental his body of work, he will be checked by conditions. The Green Park surface played low enough to serve up the odd grubber, yes, but more than that, it was its sheer slowness that blunted the spinners.

One needs the ball to rush batsmen off the pitch at least to some extent in order to force mistakes, especially when they are in no mood to take risks to score runs. But in Kanpur, even Ravindra Jadeja

ball wouldn't carry even to close-in fielders who were kneeling to try and make up for the lack of bounce.

One recalls a 2017-18 Ranii Trophy match between Mumbai and Tamil Nadu at the Bandra-Kurla Complex ground on a pitch so unresponsive even on the final afternoon that no matter what Ashwin tried, it didn't work. At one stage, he was even bowling flighted legbreaks from round the wicket to right-handers. No impact. But he kept trying.

There was more assistance available in Kanpur, of course, but again, considerably offset by the lack of pace. Ashwin didn't quite resort to leg-spin at Green Park. There was little else he did not try though, including a carrom-ball with the second new cherry that hit the rough from round the wicket and spun like a leg-break but somehow eluded Ravindra's off-stump.

At times, then, one has to look at marathon match figures of 72.3-22-117-6 and acknowledge the effort, regardless of that one decisive strike that didn't come. And also acknowledge all the effort over the past decade that has gone into earning 419 Test wickets that have come while enduring several days like the final one against New Zealand in Kanpur. Harbhajan Singh, with 417 scalps, would know.

Pakistan close in on victory against Bangladesh

ASSOCIATED PRESS CHATTOGRAM, NOVEMBER 29

FAST BOWLER Shaheen Shah Afridi claimed 5-32 as Pakistan closed in on victory in the first cricket test against Bangladesh on Monday. Afridi's fourth five-wicket haul in tests wrapped up Bangladesh's second innings for 157 on Day 4, setting Pakistan a 202run target to win.

Openers Abid Ali and Abdullah Shafique then helped Pakistan reach 109-0 at stumps, leaving the team needing 93 more runs on the final day.

Ali, who scored 133 in the first innings, was on 56 and debutant Shafique was unbeaten on 53 when bad light ended play early for the fourth consecutive day.

Bangladesh had a 44-run first-innings lead after posting 330 and then bowling Pakistan out for 286.

"We just had a terrible last session yesterday which put us under a lot of pressure in the game," Bangladesh coach Russell Domingo said.

"They (Pakistan) need another 93 runs, so it will need something really special. Anything is possible in test cricket. We have to come tomorrow morning believing we still have a chance. If we can pick up one or two wickets in the first half an hour, anything is possible '

Ali and Shafique brought up their second consecutive century partnership in the match, frustrating Bangladesh bowlers for one-and-a-half sessions.

Ali completed his third half-century off 92 balls, flicking left-arm spinner Taijul Islam for three runs.

Shafique joined him in reaching his fifty in the next-to-last over, lofting offspinner Mehidy Hasan for the lone six of the innings, over deep mid-wicket.

"We planned to have a good start to the chase and we are successful," Shafique said. "We are now on course of a victory but we should still play well because the fifth day morning session could be tricky one."

Earlier, Liton Das, who hit 114 in the first innings, battled with little assistance from his Bangladesh teammates in making 59 off 89 balls. Debutant Yasir Ali scored 36 and appeared to steady Bangladesh's innings, combining with Liton for 47 runs.

But he had to leave the ground after being hit on his helmet by a short-pitch delivery from Afridi.

It ruined the momentum Bangladesh gained after beginning the fourth day on 39-4 and losing experienced batter Mushfigur Rahim (16) in the first over when he offered no shot against fast bowler Hasan Ali (2-52).

After Yasir retired, Sajid Khan trapped Hasan (11) lbw with a delivery that spun sharply.

DOING ENOUGH?



In conversation with

Mr. RR Rashmi Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, Earth Science and Climate Change, TERI



Amitabh Sinha Resident, Editor, Pune The Indian Express

The recently-concluded climate change conference in Glasgow, COP26, was supposed to put the world on the 1.5 degree Celsius pathway. But has it? The Glasgow COP delivered some important successes, but overall the final outcome was far short of expectations, and nowhere near the ambition that, science says, is required to keep global temperatures within 1.5 degree Celsius from pre-industrial times. In that manner, COP26 was not very different from the earlier such meetings.

One of the highlights of COP26 was India's new climate pledges, including a promise to attain net-zero emission status by 2070. To discuss the COP26 outcomes, and India's new climate plans, Amitabh Sinha, Resident Editor of The Indian Express in Pune, will talk to Rajani Ranjan Rashmi, who was India's chief negotiator at these conferences for several years.





To register, SMS- IEEXP<space>"IE"<space>"Your name and email ID" to 56161



Vol. LXV No. 281 Printed for the proprietors, The Indian Express (P) Ltd by Ms Vaidehi Thakar at The Indian Express, Plot No. EL-208, TTC Industrial Area, Mahape, Navi Mumbai-400710 and published from Mafatlal Centre, 7th floor, Ramnath Goenka Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021. Editorial & Administrative offices: Mafatlal Centre, 7th floor, Ramnath Goenka Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021. Phone: 22022627/67440000. Fax: 022-22835726. Chairman of the Board: Viveck Goenka, Chief Editor: Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor: (Mumbai): Nirupama Subramanian.*(*Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act) Additional air surcharge of ₹1.00-Goa. Copyright: The Indian Express(P)Ltd. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited. The Indian Express®