



Uttar Pradesh soars high on India's Aviation Map World's Fourth Largest International Airport in Jewar, Noida



Foundation Stone Laying

of

Noida International Airport

by

Narendra Modi Prime Minister

In august presence of

Yogi Adityanath
 Chief Minister
 Uttar Pradesh

Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
 Minister, Civil Aviation
 Govt. of India

Keshav Prasad Maurya
 Deputy Chief Minister
 Uttar Pradesh

Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi'
 Minister, Civil Aviation, Political Pension,
 Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Haj,
 Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Mahesh Sharma
 MP
 Gautam Buddha Nagar

Surendra Singh Nagar
 MP
 Rajya Sabha

Dhirendra Singh
 MLA
 Jewar

Date : 25 November, 2021

Time : 12:00 PM

**Venue : Noida International
 Airport Site, Jewar,
 Gautam Buddha Nagar**

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<https://pmevents.ncog.gov.in>
DD National/Uttar Pradesh

UPGovtOfficial
CMOUttarpradesh
CMOfficeUP

Investment of more than
 ₹ 5730 crores, construction
 on 3300 acres of land in
 the first phase

Creation of more than
 1 lakh employment
 opportunities for youth

Film City, Medical Device Park,
 Apparel Park and Construction of
 Aligarh Node of Uttar Pradesh
 Defence Industrial Corridor will
 boost investment prospects
 and provide special benefits to
 western Uttar Pradesh

Plan to construct aerocity
 along with airport

Boost to hospitality and
 tourism sector

Operations with
 net-zero emission

Digital technology-based
 operations

Development of airport
 along with surface transport
 centre for seamless
 connectivity integrated
 with road, rail and metro

Target to complete the
 project by 2024

Historic step in line with
 Prime Minister's vision to
 create a future-ready
 aviation sector

For the first time,
 construction of an airport in
 India is being
 conceptualised with
 integrated multi-modal
 cargo hub, reduction in total
 cost and time for logistics

Local products and
 produce will become more
 competitive in
 international markets

The airport will serve
 crores of people in cities
 including Delhi, Noida,
 Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Agra
 and Faridabad

Capacity to serve around
 1.25 crore passengers a year

The only state in India to
 have five international
 airports

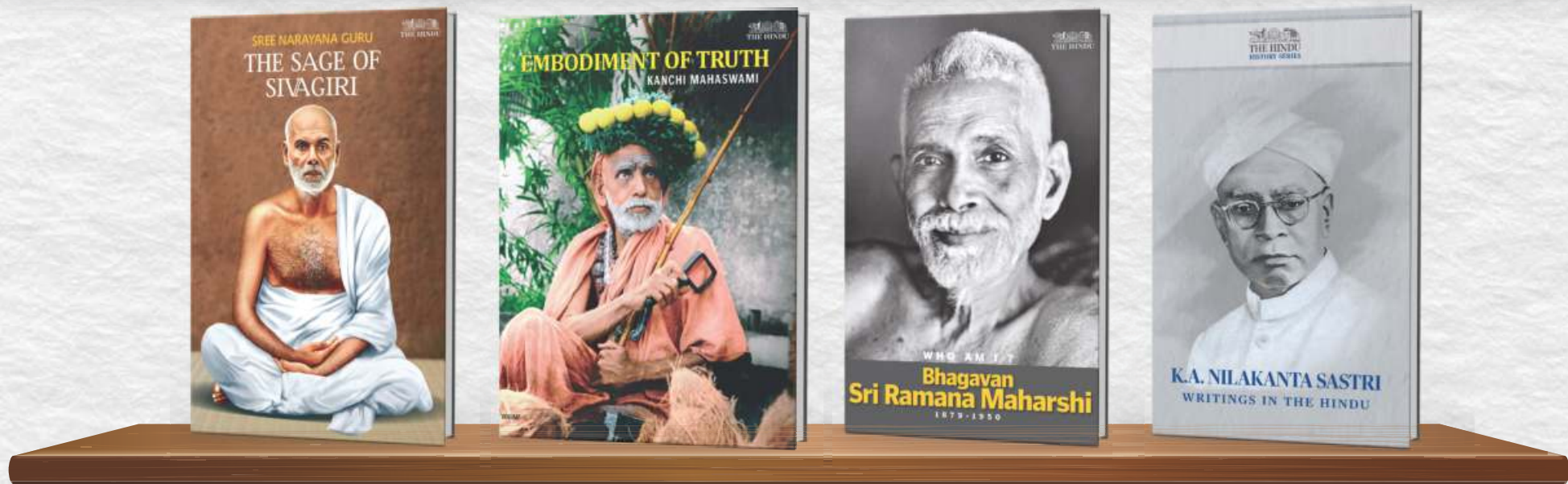
Uttar Pradesh to emerge
 as 'logistics gateway
 of northern India'
 on global logistics map

Soch Imaandaar, Kaam Dumdaar



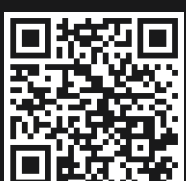
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Cong. leader Mukul Sangma, 11 Meghalaya MLAs join Trinamool
 page 9



Do not disturb federal structure, West Bengal CM Mamata urges Modi
 page 9



31 migrants dead as boat capsizes in English Channel
 page 11

India takes on NZ in first Test at Kanpur from today
 page 13



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IN BRIEF



City schools, Govt. offices to reopen from Monday

NEW DELHI
 Schools, colleges, libraries, and Government offices in Delhi, which were closed from November 13 due to high levels of air pollution, will restart from Monday, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Wednesday.
CITY PAGE 2

Jewar town struggles to process new-found fame

GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR
 The nondescript town of Jewar, 100 km from Delhi, is set to find a place on the world map as Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday will lay the foundation stone of an international airport that would be the largest in Asia and the fourth largest in the world. The first phase is expected to be completed by 2024 when one runway would become operational.
STATES PAGE 5

Vasundhara's trip creates a desert storm for BJP

JAIPUR
 The tour of former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje of six districts in southern Rajasthan has created ripples in the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party in the aftermath of the recent State Assembly byelection, in which the party suffered a humiliating defeat.
STATES PAGE 4

Centre's free foodgrain scheme on till March

Union Cabinet also approves repeal of farm reform laws

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Acknowledging that poor families still need food security support in the middle of a recovering economy, the Centre has decided to extend its free ration scheme, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), for another four months, until March 2022.

At its meeting on Wednesday, the Union Cabinet also gave its formal approval to repeal the three contentious farm reform laws in the winter session of Parliament, as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week. "On [November] 19th, PM announced, and today, within five days, we have fulfilled all the formalities. In the upcoming winter session, the priority would be to take these Bills and repeal them at the earliest," Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told presspersons in a briefing on Cabinet decisions.

However, he evaded questions on the farmers' continued demand for a legal guarantee on minimum support prices for their crops, and declined to set any timeline on the PM's promise to set up a committee to make the MSP more effective and transparent, as well as to change



As the economy is getting back on track, the figures are looking much better. At the same time, Prime Minister wants to help those poor families who have gone through this COVID-19 pandemic, so that for the next four months, they should be helped and foodgrains given to them

ANURAG THAKUR
 Information and Broadcasting Minister

crop patterns and promote zero-budget agriculture.

In its other major decision, the Cabinet approved the extension of the PMGKAY which provides more than 80 crore ration card holders with five kg each of rice or wheat a month free of cost, in addition to the five kg which they are eligible for on a subsidised basis under the National Food Security Act. Initially introduced in the first COVID-19 relief package from April 2020, the scheme has been extended thrice, but was scheduled to end in November. Earlier this month, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey had told presspersons that there was no proposal for extension as the economy was reviving.

"In the last more than 20 months, we have seen that

the poor, even the middle class families have suffered, not here but globally as well. One of the ways to help the poor families was to give them foodgrains," Mr. Thakur said.

"We still feel as the economy is getting back on track, the figures are looking much better. At the same time, Prime Minister wants to help those poor families who have gone through this COVID-19 pandemic, so that for the next four months, they should be helped and foodgrains should be given to them," the Minister added.

In the run-up to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, the State Government had announced a unilateral extension of the PMGKAY until March 2022.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

More hospital births, but limited gains in childhood nutrition: NFHS

Total Fertility Rate has dropped to 2.0, indicating just replacement level

JACOB KOSHY
JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Births in institutional facilities, such as a hospital, improved by nearly eight percentage points but children who were either stunted or displayed signs of wasting only dropped by a maximum of three percentage points, shows a comparison of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5 and 4.

The complete results of the NFHS-5 were made public on Wednesday. The

Hunger watch

The nutritional status of children in India barely improved in 2019-20 from the levels in 2015-16, the National Family Health Survey-5 data show

Indicator	2019-20	2015-16	2005-06
Children under five who are stunted	35.5	38.4	48
Children under five who are wasted	19.3	21	19.8
Children under five who are underweight	32.1	35.8	42.5
Children aged six months to 59 months who are anaemic	67.1	58.6	69.4

(IN %)

NFHS-4 was released in 2014-15 and the latest, which captured population health indicators in 2017-19, was delayed due to the pandemic.

India has also officially hit a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of

2.0 that indicates a decrease from the 2.2 in the NFHS-4. According to the UN Population Division, a TFR of about 2.1 children per woman is called replacement-level fertility. If replacement level

fertility is sustained over a sufficiently long period, each generation will exactly replace itself. The urban TFR is 1.6 and rural 2.1.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Will you ban convicts from polls, SC asks Govt.

Law Ministry rejected the idea in 2020

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre if it was "willing" to favour a lifetime ban on contesting polls for people convicted of offences, even as it flagged the high number of cases pending against lawmakers, espe-

cially in Uttar Pradesh.

"Are you willing to ban people who have been convicted of offences from contesting elections," Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, heading a Special Bench, orally asked Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, appearing for the Centre. Mr. Raju said he had just been assigned the case and would need time to consult and formulate a response.

But the Government, in an

affidavit filed by the Law Ministry in the court in December 2020, had rejected the idea of a lifetime ban on convicted persons contesting elections or forming or becoming an office-bearer of a political party. The Ministry had reasoned that MPs and MLAs were not bound by specific "service conditions".

"They are bound by their oath to serve citizens and country... They are bound by propriety, good conscience

and interest of the nation," the Ministry had argued.

The Centre attempted to buttress its case last year by citing a Constitution Bench decision in the Public Interest Foundation case of 2019 which said "though criminalisation of politics is a bitter manifest truth, which is a termite to the citadel of democracy, be that as it may, the court cannot make the law".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Trade unions want labour codes repeal

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Over a year since Parliament passed four labour codes, the Centre is still in the process of notifying the rules to implement them and has not set a date for the roll-out. Trade unions, however, have planned to intensify

their agitation this week against the codes in the wake of the Government's decision to repeal the three farm laws.

A senior functionary of the Union Labour and Employment Ministry said the notification of rules was "in process". The codes on wag-

es, social security, occupational safety and industrial relations were passed in 2019 and 2020.

Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav is likely to make a statement in Parliament.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Battle won



A reunion: Anupama S. Chandran and her partner Ajith Kumar leaving with their son from the family court in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday, a day after DNA test results confirmed that they are the biological parents of the baby. *S. MAHINSHA (REPORT ON PAGE 5)

Local militants feeling the heat in Valley

Persisting unrest | Of the 199 terrorists active in the Kashmir Valley, 110 are locals and 89 foreigners, as of November 2021

- In 2021, 97 terrorists were newly recruited
- In entire 2020, 178 persons joined terror ranks
- Till Nov. 23 of 2021, 148 militants were killed. Of them, 127 were locals and 21 foreigners
- A total of 195 militants were killed in 2020

Valley erupts: Security personnel after an encounter with militants in Srinagar on Wednesday. ■ PTI

Of 148 killed till November 23 this year, 127 were residents of Kashmir: CRPF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

More than 80% of the militants killed this year in Kashmir hailed from the Valley, according to Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) data.

The CRPF is one of the largest Central forces deployed in the Valley for counter-terrorism operations, along with the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Army.

According to a CRPF official, till November 23, as many as 148 militants had been killed, of which 127 were residents and 21 foreigners. In 2020, the number of militants killed in the Valley stood at 195.

199 militants active
 The official said 199 militants were active in the Valley. "Out of the active militants, 110 are locals and 89 are foreigners," he added.

Another official added that of the active militants, 97 were recruited to the fold of various terror groups such as The Resistance Front (TRF) this year. The police say the TRF, which has claimed responsibility for the recent civilian kill-

ings in the Valley, is a front for the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

As many as 178 men joined the militants ranks in 2020, of which 121 were killed.

The number of such recruitment in 2019 was 117. J&K has been under Central rule since June 2018. In August 2019, Parliament abrogated the special status given to J&K under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated the former State into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. The CRPF has deployed around 65,000 personnel in J&K.

The force has also enhanced the compensation to the next of kin of personnel killed in action. "The amount for those killed in action has been increased from ₹21.5 lakh to ₹35 lakh and for those who died of other reasons, it has been enhanced from ₹16.5 lakh to ₹25 lakh," the official said.

This compensation is provided from the risk fund and central welfare fund of the CRPF. While all CRPF personnel contribute ₹500 each to the risk fund, the contribution to the central welfare fund depends on the rank of the official.

CRPF has a strength of around 3 lakh personnel. This year, 11 CRPF personnel have been killed in action — three in J&K and eight in areas affected by Left Wing Extremism.

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7 AIR

PRAVEEN KUMAR
(ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST, ABHYAAS, PDP)

8 AIR

JIVANI KARTIK NAGNIBHAI
(GS FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM STUDENT, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PDP)

9 AIR

APALA MISHRA
(ABHYAAS TEST SERIES)

10 AIR

SATYAM GANDHI
(ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST)

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फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2022 & 2023

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Educational institutions, Govt. offices to reopen on Monday

Decision taken following improvement in Delhi's air quality, says Minister

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Schools, colleges, libraries and other educational institutions in the city, which have been closed since November 13 due to high levels of air pollution, will reopen on Monday, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Wednesday.

Truck entry ban on

Government offices, which were closed, will also reopen on Monday, he said. However, the ban on entry of trucks into the city will continue till December 3.

"Schools, colleges, and institutes will reopen on November 29. All Government offices will also reopen and the work-from-home directive will be lifted. But for this, it is advisable for all Govern-



Quick fix: Anti-smog gun being used to curb pollution at Delhi University on a smoggy Wednesday morning. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ment employees to use public transport to a great extent for the purpose of commuting," Mr. Rai said.

The Minister said that for the last three days, there have been improvements in Delhi's pollution levels and the decision was taken after a review meeting on Wednesday.

"Until now, trucks and other commercial vehicles, except essential service trucks, were banned from entering Delhi. But today, we have decided that starting November 27, CNG and electric trucks will be allowed to enter. Other trucks will remain banned till December 3," he said.

Court discharges 5 accused in riots case for lack of evidence

It comes down heavily on IO, orders inquiry into police probe

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has discharged five accused in a case related to vandalism during the north-east Delhi riots while noting that there was no sufficient evidence that has been presented by the police on the basis of which charges can be framed against them.

Additional Sessions Judge Virender Bhat, in his order dated November 22, stated that the material on record clearly indicates that a riotous incident in question has taken place wherein the shop as well as the house of the complainant was vandalised and looted.

"This court is not insensitive towards the mental agony and financial loss suffered by the complainant due to this incident. However, the sensitivity or the emotions alone are not the factors to be taken into consideration by the court while deciding the fate of any accused," the court stated.



Riot-hit Shiv Vihar in north-east Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

ASJ Bhat said that there should be sufficient and legally admissible evidence on the basis of which charges can be framed against any accused and the same is lacking in the present case. "The perusal of the chargesheet does not indicate whether or not there were any efforts made by the IO (Investigating Officer) to trace any other witness. It is not clear as to whether the IO chose not to find any other witness or whether no other person who had seen the incident came forward," the court order read.

While discharging the five accused for lack of sufficient evidence, the court also directed the DCP (North-East) to conduct an inquiry into the manner in which the investigation was conducted by the IO in the case to find out whether or not there had been any deliberate attempt to shield the offenders. It asked the DCP to submit a report on the next date of hearing.

According to the case records, the FIR pertains to an incident of rioting and vandalism of a medical shop on February 25 around 11.30 p.m. when a mob of around 100 people, who were armed with rods, pipes and petrol bottles, raised slogans, came towards complainant Firoz Khan's shop in Sudamapuri and broke its shutter and the main gate and looted it. Mr. Khan was watching the incident from his roof all the while.

The court stated that there was only one witness, Mr. Khan, in the whole case.

'Special booths at dark spots to prevent crimes against women'

Each station to have 3 inspectors to probe such cases: Asthana

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana on Wednesday said that in a bid to step up women's security in the Capital, the force will set up special booths at dark spots and vulnerable areas in consultation with beat officers, traffic police and people. He also said that for the first time, each police station will have three inspectors exclusively to investigate crimes against women.

Addressing a press conference at the Indian Women's Press Corps office, Mr. Asthana said expeditious attention will be given if a woman or a child is in distress. "We have a crime against women cell in every police station and there is also the special unit for women and children that is working throughout the day."



Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana addressing a press conference in Delhi on Wednesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

The Commissioner said that the police have analysed the total rape cases recorded in Delhi this year and found out that "a friend or a family member was involved in 46% cases, neighbours were involved in 11% cases, relatives were involved in 14% cases, and other known persons, including live-in partners, were involved in 28% cases".

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre and the State Government to begin the process of recruitment of doctors and paramedical staff in Government-run hospitals in the Capital.

"You [authorities] start the recruitment process and appoint them. Show some speed. This is required," said a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh while hearing a plea which claimed that there is an acute shortage of doctors and paramedics in Government-run hospitals in the city. "It is not necessary that all vacancies should be filled [if] you are not getting suitable candidates. Start the process. You can't say that you will never start the process," the Bench said.

The farmers' protests at the Delhi borders, he said, have been and will be allowed to continue in a democratic manner as long as law and order is maintained.

Fill vacancies in Govt. hospitals, HC asks Centre

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre and the State Government to begin the process of recruitment of doctors and paramedical staff in Government-run hospitals in the Capital.

"You [authorities] start the recruitment process and appoint them. Show some speed. This is required," said a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh while hearing a plea which claimed that there is an acute shortage of doctors and paramedics in Government-run hospitals in the city. "It is not necessary that all vacancies should be filled [if] you are not getting suitable candidates. Start the process. You can't say that you will never start the process," the Bench said.

15,000 flats up for grabs in DDA scheme

It has approved fixation of predetermined rates for allotment of land to traders

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has launched a special housing scheme for close to 15,000 flats across locations, including Dwarka, Narela, Rohini and Jasola. The flats are those which remained unsold in the DDA's previous housing schemes, a press note said on Wednesday.

"The flats are being offered at the old rates and the cost in relaxation of the costing policy of the DDA, which is updated every financial year based on the appreciation and depreciation of land price and building as the case may be. The allottees will be eligible for subsidy under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana if they avail of home loan from a bank or a financial institution," the



Low income group flats offered by the DDA at Narela in Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

statement said.

Apart from this, the DDA has approved the fixation of predetermined rates for the allotment of land to transport traders.

Each eligible transport trader will get a plot of 50

freight complex at Holambi Kalan, Narela, where booking of goods and transport agencies offices are permitted activity," the release said.

The DDA has also made provisions to expedite the process of its upcoming "in-situ" slum rehabilitation projects.

"The provisions include a condition in which the slum dwellers, who are eligible for rehabilitation, will lose their right to transit accommodation if they refuse to vacate the premises which are being redeveloped. If the eligible dwellers refuse to vacate the premises even after the sanctioning of the building plan, for the areas being redeveloped, then they will not be given the alternative accommodation after the redevelopment project is completed," a DDA official said.

"As per the provision of the Master Plan of Delhi 2021, godowns of transport traders in the walled city and special areas are required to be shifted to the integrated

Street vendors protest outside CM's residence

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) organised a protest outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's house on Monday over the "poor implementation" of the Street Vendors Act 2014.

NASVI president Arvind Singh said that vendors demanded proper functioning of the grievance redressal committees (GRC), which are autonomous bodies constituted to look into the grievances of street vendors.

He added that the town vending committees, which oversee the survey of street vendors, "should be given complete powers under the 2014 Act".

Gambhir receives death threat from 'ISIS Kashmir'

Police increase security at his residence

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

BJP's East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir has written to Delhi Police after he and his family allegedly received a death threat through email from "ISIS Kashmir" on Tuesday.

In the letter, the MP said that he received the email on his official email ID at 9.32 p.m. on Tuesday. "This email states a death threat to me and my family. I therefore request you to look into the matter and make adequate security arrangements and lodge an FIR," it said.

DCP (Central) Shweta Chauhan said a complaint was received at Rajinder Nagar police station. "Mr. Gambhir alleged that an unknown person sent an email on November 23 on his



MP Gautam Gambhir

email ID regarding a threat to kill him and his family members," she said.

The DCP said that the district police have increased his personal security and security at his residence in Rajinder Nagar. "The police are currently inquiring into the source of the complaint," she said.

HC stays summons to Vijender Gupta in defamation case

BJP leader had defamed me to gain political mileage: Gahlot

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday stayed a trial court order issuing summons to BJP MLA Vijender Gupta in a criminal defamation complaint filed by Delhi Cabinet Minister Kailash Gahlot.

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri gave the direction on Mr. Gupta's plea challenging the summons issued to him for allegedly making defamatory statements on purported irregularities in the procurement of 1,000 low-floor buses by the Delhi Transport Corporation.

The High Court will hear the case again on March 4 next year.

Mr. Gupta was summoned as an accused by the trial



court on October 11 on the Delhi Transport Minister's complaint. The trial court had said there was prima facie enough evidence to summon Mr. Gupta as an accused for the alleged offence of defamation.

Senior lawyer Ajay Burman, appearing for Mr. Gupta, argued that his client was covered under the exceptions to defamation under

the Indian Penal Code as the statements were made in discharge of public service as a Leader of the Opposition.

Senior advocate Manish Vasishth, appearing for Mr. Gahlot, stated that Mr. Gupta's tweets were "absolutely scandalous" and made in the absence of any "conclusive finding by any judicial body".

In his complaint before the trial court, Mr. Gahlot has alleged that Mr. Gupta "intentionally and for mala-fide purposes" defamed him and tarnished his reputation to gain political mileage. He claimed that Mr. Gupta levelled "defamatory, scandalous, mischievous, false and scurrilous allegations" verbally as well as in writing.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER KASHMIR PHE DEPARTMENT SRINAGER KASHMIR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e- NIT No. 770F 2021-22, Dated: 20 -11-2021

For and on behalf of L1, Government of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmir invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for District Anantnag Group-IV (16 No WSS Hilly Gravity) Part 1st for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works", details of which are given below. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Bidding, tender fee, earnest money, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs)	Earnest money (Lacs)	Bid Validity (Days)	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Anantnag district geographically different zone for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. These works are broadly consisting of - a. Construction of water supply schemes by way of filtration plants, pump houses, service reservoir, Overhead tanks, laying of distribution mains.	1000-	1000-	0.75	180 Days	
	Group-IV (16 No WSS Hilly Gravity) Part 1st	100 Lacs to 300 Lacs		0.75		120

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
The tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Kashmir Jal Shakti (PHE) Department. The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Note:-
In view of the fact, that this NIT for item rate contract has been framed for the first time in the Department, a helpdesk shall be established at the Direction office level as well as district level for encouraging and facilitating the intending bidders for participation in the instant NIT to ensure wide participation across all the Districts.

Key/critical Dates:

	Date	
i	Publish Date	20-11-2021
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	20-11-2021
iii	Clarification start date	20-11-2021
iv	Bid submission start date	24-11-2021
v	Clarification end date	11-12-2021
vi	Pre-bid Meeting date	24-11-2021
vii	Document Download/sale end Date	15-12-2021
viii	Bid submission end date	15-12-2021
ix	Date and time of Bid opening	17-12-2021

- Bid documents can be assessed at and downloaded from the websites <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, PHE Department, through virtual/online mode.
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 6 & 7 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.
 - Bid Security** to be pledged in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti PHE Department. **Bid Security** will have to be in form of CDR/ FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall have to be valid for at least one year after last date of submission of Bid. The Bid of bidders having bid security less than as specified above will be rejected.
 - The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of DD /TR/e challan in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 and others after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Queries by email if any should be made at kmpred@gmail.com / phebjbehara230@gmail.com

DIPK-13330/21

Sd/-
Chief Engineer,
Kashmir, Jal Shakti, PHE Department

First train with Ayodhya pilgrims to leave city on Dec. 3

Velankanni Church included in Delhi Government's free pilgrimage scheme for senior citizens: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The first train carrying citizens on a Delhi Government-sponsored pilgrimage to Ayodhya will depart from the Capital on December 3, bookings for which are now open, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced here on Wednesday.

He also said that the Government had decided to include Velankanni Church in Tamil Nadu in the list of pilgrimage sites so that Christian devotees can also avail of free pilgrimage as per their wish.

"There used to be 12 listed routes to where the people could avail of the free pilgrimage under the scheme. The shrines included Puri, Dwarka, Haridwar, Rishi-



Arvind Kejriwal

kes, Rameshwaram, Shirdi and Ajmer Sharif among other holy sites. Now, Ayodhya has been added to the list as well," Mr. Kejriwal told a digital briefing.

"One can choose any site of their preference out of these for the pilgrimage. Senior citizens of Delhi can take benefit of this scheme. Addi-

tionally, every senior citizen can take along an attendant with them on the pilgrimage. Till now, over 36,000 people have been on pilgrimage," he also said.

The 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojna' was approved by the Delhi Cabinet on January 9, 2018. The scheme provides Government assistance to the residents of Delhi, in specific persons belonging to the economically weaker section of society.

Facilities for pilgrims

The scheme aims at helping the elderly go on a pilgrimage once in a lifetime. The entire expense of leaving from home until return, which includes travelling by air-conditioned trains, proper AC hotel stays, meals, local

travel and more, is borne by the Delhi Government. An insurance cover of ₹1 lakh is also provided.

Any citizen from the Capital who is aged 60 years or more can avail of the scheme after acquiring a certificate from their local MLA. Now, the 13th route of the four-day long Delhi-Ayodhya-Delhi tirth yatra is on offer. Eligible people willing to visit Ayodhya can register by visiting the Delhi Government e-district portal.

Accommodating all

The Chief Minister sought to assure citizens that they must not worry that they would be left out if there were too many applications. If there were more people than the capacity of the train, then the Go-

vernment would put another train on the route.

"If there are still more applicants, then we will put in a third train. The train may leave after a week, but will take everyone. Therefore, everyone should apply for the darshan of Shri Ram Lalla. I genuinely want as many people as possible to visit Ayodhya," he said.

"Christian brothers demanded that a place of their pilgrimage be included in this list. Today, I want to give some good news to them also. Many Christians wish to go to Velankanni Church. We are going to include Velankanni Church in the list of pilgrimage sites very soon and you will also be able to go on pilgrimage as per your wish," he added.

Timings
DELHI

THURSDAY, NOV. 25
RISE 06:52 SET 17:25
RISE 22:18 SET 11:41

FRIDAY, NOV. 26
RISE 06:53 SET 17:25
RISE 23:17 SET 12:20

SATURDAY, NOV. 27
RISE 06:53 SET 17:25
RISE 00:00 SET 12:56

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	29	09
Safdarjang	29	09
Palam	28	12

Delhi Palam Today
27°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be slight cold with shallow fog. Day will be comfortable. Pollution level will be severe.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
27°C The weather will be comfortable with severe pollution level. A very cool morning with shallow fog and mist turns comfortable day.

Tomato prices soar; officials to act against hoarders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Imran Hussain on Wednesday expressed concern over the sudden surge in the prices of tomatoes in Delhi and directed that teams from the market intelligence unit be deputed to ascertain the reason.

Over the past few days, the price of tomatoes has reached ₹100 per kg in many markets of the city, with traders attributing the rise to heavy unseasonal rains across the country and a surge in fuel prices.

Mr. Hussain asked officials to take action against any instances of hoarding or black marketing. "The Delhi Government is keeping a close watch on the price trends of essential commodities," he said.

While spotlight's on Delhi, smaller northern towns often fare worse

Agra, Firozabad, Vrindavan had higher pollution levels than national capital after Deepavali; experts call for focus on areas beyond NCR too

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

An analysis of air quality data by *The Hindu* shows that Agra, Firozabad, and Vrindavan were more polluted than Delhi during the week after Deepavali. However, during this period, the media attention and actions were concentrated more on Delhi and the NCR.

While Delhi was among the top 10 most polluted cities for three out of seven days, Agra, Firozabad, and Vrindavan were part of the list for four days, as per the air quality index (AQI) data of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Also, the average daily AQI of these three places is more than that of the national Capital.

On some days, other non-NCR districts such as Kaithal and Kanpur made it to the top 10 list and were more polluted than Delhi. Interestingly, Delhi was never among the top five polluted cities in the country during this week.

The Supreme Court ordered actions have also been mainly for the Delhi-NCR,

CHOKING CITIES

Date	AIR QUALITY INDEX			
	Vrindavan	Firozabad	Agra	Delhi
Nov. 5	448	449	429	462
Nov. 6	424	430	390	437
Nov. 7	435	443	412	428
Nov. 8	475	-	486	390
Nov. 9	454	489	472	404
Nov. 10	373	400	383	372
Nov. 11	458	415	437	411
Average	438.14	437.67	429.86	414.87

SOURCE: CPCB

which is monitored by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and Adjoining Areas. For instance, despite the high pollution, schools were not closed or construction activities were not banned in Agra, Firozabad or Vrindavan after Deepavali, officials said.

However, on November 13, these actions were taken in Delhi after the Supreme Court pulled up the State and Central Governments earlier that day. Also, Delhi and the NCR have a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), according to which,

different actions kick in as per levels of air pollution. But no such plan exists for areas beyond the NCR.

Most polluted
From November 5-11, the average daily AQI of Delhi was 414.8, while Vrindavan's was 438.14, Agra's 429.85, and Firozabad's 437.6. On November 9, Delhi was not part of the top 10 polluted places, and there were four non-NCR districts in the top 10 and Firozabad was the most polluted place in the country. Similarly, on November 10, Agra was the most polluted place in the country.

Delhi has 39 air quality monitoring stations, while Agra has six and Vrindavan and Firozabad have only one each. "It is not that we are not giving attention to these cities. These three cities are also part of the 132 cities which are covered by the NCAP (National Clean Air Programme)," a CPCB official said.

About smaller cities witnessing higher pollution compared to Delhi, the official said that though meteorological conditions of Delhi and these places are similar, local factors could be behind the higher AQI.

Attention needed
Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director of Centre for Science and Environment, a research and advocacy NGO, said that during winter, the natural ventilation of the entire Indo Gangetic Plains (IGP), which stretches from Punjab and touches the boundaries of West Bengal, is constrained and pollutants get trapped. This is due to a drop in temperature, wind speed and the height

to which pollutants can be dispersed in the atmosphere.

"A big chunk of the IGP is affected by stubble burning also. Because of these factors, several cities and sub-regions that are outside the NCR, but within the IGP, are more polluted than even Delhi during winter. But the annual average pollution of these places could be lower than Delhi," Ms. Roychowdhury said.

"Delhi gets an undue importance as initial cases on air pollution were filed about the Delhi-NCR in the Supreme Court. Because of the court orders, the region got focus," she added.

But Ms. Roychowdhury said that the Government should pay more attention to the entire IGP for pollution mitigation, as the entire region is more vulnerable to high pollution. "The NCAP is for 132 cities. The Government should implement NCAP at district and State levels and take into consideration rural areas too, instead of just focusing on cities," she said.

City's air quality falls to 'very poor' category

Local weather to determine AQI: SAFAR

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The air quality in the city deteriorated to the "very poor" category on Wednesday from the "poor" level a day earlier. It is likely to remain in the same category for the next two days, according to the authorities.

"Local surface winds are relatively low for the next three days, which reduce dispersion of pollutants, leading to deterioration of air quality. But air quality is likely to be within the 'very poor' category for the next two days," said Government-run monitoring agency SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research) in a statement.

But on Saturday, local surface winds are likely to pick up speed, resulting in improvement of air quality



Seagulls flying over the Yamuna on a smoggy Wednesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

within the "very poor" category. SAFAR said that with the onset of winter conditions, local weather is likely to be the dominating factor in determining air quality from now.

The air quality index of Delhi was 361 on Wednesday, up from 290 on Tuesday, as per the Central Pollution Control Board's 4 p.m. bulletin, which is the average of the past 24 hours.

Keep your promises made to Delhiites first, BJP tells CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP State Mahila Morcha on Wednesday staged a demonstration outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, accusing him of making false promises during his tours to poll-bound States when he has not fulfilled even a single promise made to Delhiites.

The demonstration was led by Pradesh Morcha president Yogita Singh.

"While Mr. Kejriwal is talking about giving ₹1,000 each month to women of

Punjab and Uttarakhand, he should fulfil this in Delhi first. He had earlier talked about giving unemployment allowance to the youth but thousands of them are still waiting for that," Ms. Singh said.

"The CM, who talked about women's safety and welfare, had promised CCTV cameras in DTC buses, but the fact is these buses are in a bad shape. If he talks about honour and respect for women, why is there not a single woman minister in his cabinet?" she asked.

BJP selling TB hospital land at low price: AAP

Civic body forced to lease properties: BJP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday said that the BJP-governed North Delhi Municipal Corporation was selling land under the Rajendra Babu Pulmonary Institute worth crores of rupees at a low price.

Referring to the North Delhi civic body Standing Committee meeting agenda of November 24, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bha-

radwaj said, "When Delhi is always falling short of land for hospitals, the North Delhi corporation is auctioning 6,556 square metres of land under the Rajendra Babu Institute, which is a major TB hospital in the city."

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said the North Delhi civic body was passing through an "extreme financial crisis" and was forced to long lease its properties to raise funds.

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- WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

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Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

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Gehlot asks Ministers to visit districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot instructed his Cabinet colleagues to visit the districts, whose charge they are holding, for at least two days every month to review the progress of schemes and redress people's grievances. Mr. Gehlot said this would be a significant step towards providing good governance at the grassroots.

He said the Ministers should hold public hearings at the district headquarters, get feedback on implementation of schemes and interact with the elected representatives.

Vasundhara trip creates a desert storm for BJP

Divide between rival factions set to deepen in Rajasthan

MOHAMMED IQBAL JAIPUR

Former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje's tour of six districts in southern Rajasthan, mainly in the Mewar region, has created ripples in the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party in the aftermath of the recent State Assembly byelection, in which the party suffered a humiliating defeat. The visit is set to deepen the divide between rival factions in the State unit.

Ms. Raje, also party national vice-president, is paying obeisance at some prominent temples in the region



Paying respects: Vasundhara Raje paying obeisance at the Sanwalia Seth temple in Chittorgarh. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and visiting the families of the departed party leaders to offer her condolences during the four-day visit. Though she has declared that her tour is "religious" in nature, it is being seen here as a strategy to assert her dominance in the BJP.

This is the third occasion of Ms. Raje going on a show

of strength this year in the shape of a religious or personal visit. Upset on being sidelined within the party, Ms. Raje went on a two-day "pilgrimage" to the Lord Krishna Circuit in Bharatpur in March and made a high-profile visit to Jodhpur in October to offer condolences to Union Minister Gajendra

Singh Shekhawat on his mother's death and to the family of the departed Congress leader Mahipal Maderna.

On Wednesday, she arrived in Udaipur to a tumultuous welcome by the party workers and leaders opposed to Mewar region's senior-most leader Gulab Chand Kataria, including former Speaker Shantilal Chaplot and former Vallabh-nagar MLA Randhir Singh Bhindar, who fought the recent bypolls as a rebel. Ms. Raje inaugurated a "Suhani Sardi" (pleasant winter) campaign of a voluntary group.

The BJP leadership is yet to come to terms with the rout faced in the byelections at Udaipur.

Give compensation for dead farmers: JJP leader

Memorial can win back their confidence, says Digvijay Chautala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM

Jannayak Janta Party general secretary Digvijay Chautala on Wednesday demanded that the Union Government must announce suitable compensation for the families of those farmers who died during the agitation against the three farm laws and also construct a memorial for them.

Mr. Chautala was in Gurugram to address separate meetings of party workers in the district as part of the preparations for the proposed *Jan Sarokar Diwas* rally in Jhajjar on December 9 to mark the third anniversary of the JJP's foundation day.

Speaking to media persons, Mr. Chautala said he had been raising this issue



Digvijay Chautala seeks an early resolution to the farmers' issue.

Seeking an early resolution, Mr. Chautala said the earlier the matter was resolved, the better it would be. He added that the prolonged delay to settle the stalemate over the three farm laws had caused loss to the ruling dispensation politically and the nation as well.

Earlier addressing the party workers, Mr. Chautala emphasised that the JJP was constantly working to deliver on the promises made during the elections. He said that 75% reservation for youth in private sectors was a historic move, besides 50% reservation for women in Panchayat elections.

The party's national president Ajay Singh Chautala visited the rally's venue two days ago and gave directions to the party's office-bearers and workers.

for long and the Government would have to make a decision sooner or later. "Those in power can move forward only with the support of the masses. The laws have been repealed and this is the right opportunity. The announcement for the memorial and the compensation made so we can win back their confidence," said Mr. Chautala.

Shortage of drug hits thalassaemia patients

AFSHAN YASMEEN BENGALURU

Yousra Iram, 27, a Bengaluru-based audit and research officer living with thalassaemia, is worried as she is unable to get her life-saving iron chelation injection Desferal 500 mg from her usual suppliers.

Desferal is widely used to remove excess iron from the body that accumulates as a result of frequent blood transfusion. If not taken regularly, the excess iron will damage vital organs.

Although Ms. Iram was taking the drug thrice a week earlier, her doctor has now advised her to take it daily. "But we have not been able to get this injection for the last 18 days," said her father Syed Shameel Ahmed.

"We have been contacting the Delhi and Mumbai thalassaemia societies and NGOs for help. But the situation is the same across the country," said Gagan-deep Singh Chandok, president, Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Society of Bengaluru.

"The non-availability of this drug is a disaster for patients who are dependent on it. Morbidities and fatalities can occur," said Mr. Chandok.

Proceedings to buy Jaya's residence quashed

India is not a land of pharaohs to immortalise the dead, says HC

MOHAMMED IMRANULLAH S. CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Wednesday quashed the proceedings initiated by the previous AIADMK Government to acquire former Chief Minister Jayalithaa's bungalow, Veda Nilayam, at Poes Garden in Chennai for converting it into a memorial. It observed that India of today is not a land of pharaohs or emperors to erect monuments to immortalise the dead.

Justice N. Seshasayee wrote, "India of today is not the Raj of the yesteryear for its administrators to bask in a fallacy that the wealth of the State is the wealth of the ruler. No, it is the wealth of the ruled - it is the People. It is time that the governments get accustomed to this constitutional reality." He said the acquisition would serve no public purpose.

He delivered the verdict while allowing the petitions filed by Jayalithaa's nephew J. Deepak and niece J. Deepa through their counsel S.L. Sudarshanam and K.V. Sundararajan. The judge concurred with the State that it was empowered to acquire private property for any purpose of its choice but



The acquisition of Veda Nilayam will serve no public purpose, said the judge.

stressed that such a purpose should be useful to the public.

Posing a question whether acquisition for a memorial would involve a public purpose, he said: "The answer can be a 'Yes' and a 'No'. Generically it can be, but individually it need not be."

He said the need for a memorial could not be dictated by professional achievements, political populism, an image carefully groomed by cultivated charisma and electoral victories. Referring to the State having relied on a 1969 Supreme Court judgment related to a memorial for Mahatma Gandhi in Ahmedabad, he asked: "By relying upon this verdict, has not the Government acknowledged that the benchmark for establishing a memorial can be justified only if the life and contribution of the person for whom the memorial is proposed approximates the life of Gandhiji and those of his ilk?"

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one female **Namely: Sushma, W/o: Deepak, R/o: RZ-257, Partap Vihar, Part-1, Street No. 4, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped (with her son **Gautam Singh: Age-3 yrs. 6 months**) since **05.11.2021** at 1:00 pm. from her house from the area of P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 72A, dated 07.11.2021** has been registered at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped female is as under: **Age: 25 years, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Build: Medium, Wearing: Green colour suit, black colour salwar and sandal in feet.** The description of the **Gautam Singh** is as under: **Age: 3 years 6 months, Height: 2', Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Build: Thin, Wearing: Blue colour T-shirt.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing female and her son but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing female and her son kindly inform to the following.

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Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department

E-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HP PWD Kasauli/Solan HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites the online bids on item rate in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors. Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Job No.	Name of Work	Tentative Cost	Earnest Money	Time Allowed	Cost of Form
1.	Annual Maintenance Plan for the year 2021-22 for Old NH-22 to Parwanoo road in Km. 62/200 to 67/200. (SH- Providing and laying renewal coat by providing 30mm thick Bituminous Concrete, thermoplastic edge line in Km. 62/00 to 67/00)	2,08,43,166/-	2,41,000/-	Three Month	5000/-
2.	Repair of Chandi to Ghyan road in Km. 0/00 to 6/00. (SH- Providing and laying renewal coat by providing 30mm thick Bituminous Concrete, thermoplastic edge line in Km. 1/500 to 3/500)	26,13,673/-	46,700/-	Three Month	1500/-
3.	R/R Damages on Johari/Mallah road in Km. 0/00 to 27/465. (SH- Repair to Pot Holes and Maintenance of WBM by Patch work in Km. 0/00 to 9/00)	18,25,555/-	27400/-	Three Month	500/-
4.	C/O Health Sub-Centre building at Nabond/Solan (HP) (SH- C/O building portion including water supply & Sanitary etc.	23,85,000/-	47,700/-	Six Month	500/-
5.	C/O Link road from Jamarar/Kanjayara/Butayala to Johari road Km. 0/00 to 6/00. (SH- P/L sodling work G-1 in Km. 0/00 to 2/00) Under SCSP.	6,66,654/-	13,000/-	Two Month	350/-
6.	C/O Link road Jabli to Rajpur 0/00 to 2/300. (SH- C/O 900mm dia HPC with both side Wing Wall at Rds. 0/630, 1/165, 1/345, and 1/570) Under MNP.	7,22,760/-	14,500/-	Two Month	350/-

Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid documents is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying authorities (CA) Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

Key dates.

1. Date of Online Publication	29.11.2021 10.00 AM
2. Document Download Start Date	29.11.2021 11.00 AM
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	29.11.2021 11.00 AM to 06.12.2021 at 4.00PM
4. Physical Submission of receipt of EMD and cost of tender Document	07.12.2021 at 10.30 AM
5. Date of Opening of Bid	07.12.2021 at 11.00 AM

1. TENDER DETAILS:
(i) The tender Document shall be uploaded online in 2 cover : Cover 1: shall contain Scanned copies of all Technical Document/Eligibility information".
(ii) Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

2. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:
Submit the receipt of online payment towards the cost of bid document and (b) Receipt of online payment bid security/Earnest Money and other Technical Document in O/O Executive Engineer HPPWD Kasauli/HP as specified in Key.

Date Sr. No.2 on tender opening date, failing which the bid will be declared Non-responsive

3. Bid Opening Details:The bid shall be opened on dated 07.12.2021 at 11.00 AM in the office Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Kasauli/HP by the authorised officer. In their interest the tender is advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

(i) The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 90/120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.
(ii) Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

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HPPWD Kasauli,
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TENDERS

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Rajender Kumar Jain S/o Bharati Lal Jain R/o Flat No. 142B, Sector-C Pocket - 1, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110070, allottee of Flat No. 142B, Third Floor, Sector-C, Pocket - 1, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, vide File No. 125/169/83/3/S/W/ dated: 26/10/89, have applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original documents i.e. DDA Demand Letter and NOC for Water & Electricity of the aforesaid flat have been lost. An FIR has been lodged to this effect. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or bound in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone no. 9818388712 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) H or Director (H-1, D Block, 3rd Floor/Vikas Sadan INA, New Delhi.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION MALEGAON

ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE NO 23 FOR 2021-2022 [1st Call]

Online E Tenders in B-1 form for the following work invited by Executive Engineer P.W. Division Malegaon Ravalgaon road Malegaon Camp Tal Malegaon Dist Nashik Phone No 02554-251912 for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State from **Capable and eligible Government of Maharashtra P.W.Deptt. Registered (Registered Contractors in appropriate Class for works blow 150.00 Lakhs) / Unregistered Contractor or International Contactor whose Sub Company or Branch Located in India, and also completes terms and conditions mentioned in tender document can participate in the tender process.** Tender Notice and Tender Documents are also available on our website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. Right of Rejection of E- Tender / Cancellation of E- Tenders reserved by the Executive Engineer, P. W. Division, Malegaon. Conditional Tender will not be accepted.

E-Tender Notice including **Total 5 (Five) works below 250.00 Lakh.** Details of mentioned. E- Tender Notice available on below websites
1) www.mahapwd.com 2) <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Tender Document Sale Start and End Date Time	24/11/2021 From 11:05 Hrs	To	08/12/2021 Upto 17:00 Hrs
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Note

- E-Tender Fee (non refundable) and Earnest Money will be accepted online only.
- All eligible/ interested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> before down loading tender documents and participate in e- tendering
- Post Qualification Criteria is applicable for above works
- Registration is mandatory for works below **150.00 Lakh.** (Registered Contractors in appropriate Class. Registered with Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department only

Please Note this to all Registered / Unregistered Contractors.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Malegaon
DGIPR/2021/2022/2823

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LEGAL NOTICE

Proclamation Requiring Attendance of Defendant (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

In the Court of Ld. Prashant Kumar Additional District Judge-01 (Central) Room No. 123, Tis Hazari Court Delhi Case No-CS/267/2019

Suman Garg Vs. Jain Traders

To,
(1) M/S Jain Trader (Through its proprietors : Sh. Mahavir Prasad Jain)
OFF- 4803-A, NAYA BAZAR, DELHI-110006.
R/O- B-76, NEW GUPTA COLONY, DELHI-110009.

Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 15.01.2022 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court, 10th day of November 2021.
Addl. District & Sessions Judge-01 Central Delhi

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

M.SUBRAMANIAM (79), Retired Junior Engineer - Composing, The Hindu, Chennai. Passed away on 24.11.2021. Address: 30/4, Muthiah Street, Teynampet, Chennai-600086. Contact: 944081602

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 45 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Normal, Face: Long, Wearing: Red colour T-Shirt and Mehandi Colour Lower, who was found dead at Footpath near Pagal Baba Mandir Chandni Chowk in the jurisdiction of PS: Kotwali.** In this regard a case **DD No. 26A dt. 08.11.2021** has been lodged at P. S. Kotwali, Delhi

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P. S. Kotwali Delhi
DP/1729/N/2021(UIDB) Tel. No. 011-23977100

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male, **Age: 28-30 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'5", Injury Mark: Head separated from body, was wearing Red T-Shirt and Black Lower, was found dead at Electric Pole No. 15-19/21 Up Line, near Sultanpuri Fatak, Delhi.** In this regard a **DD No. 10A, dated 21.11.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi
DP/390/Rly/2021 Ph: 011-28711697, 8750871308



IN BRIEF

KCR returns from Delhi without meeting PM
HYDERABAD
Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao returned to Hyderabad on Wednesday after his four-day visit to New Delhi to find a solution to the stalemate in procurement of paddy by the Centre. He, however, could not meet the Prime Minister.

Kerala fishermen families to get aid of ₹3,000

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Kerala Cabinet on Wednesday ordered ex gratia assistance of ₹3,000 each to 1,59,481 seafaring fishermen families who lost 26 working days in inclement weather. The Cabinet allocated ₹47.84 crore from the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund. Heavy rain, strong wind, thunder and rough seas had impeded fishermen from venturing out during October-November.

Anupama reunited with child

Family court in Thiruvananthapuram dismisses adoption proceedings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The baby who was given in pre-adoption foster care to a couple in Andhra Pradesh was reunited with its biological mother here on Wednesday following a court order.

On a day marked by high drama, the Family Court, Thiruvananthapuram, ordered the release of the baby to its biological mother after "dropping and summarily dismissing" the adoption proceedings. Family Court judge K. Biju Menon had advanced the proceedings in the case and passed the order by evening considering the plea of the State.

The case was originally scheduled to be considered on November 30.

The infant boy, who was brought to the chamber of the judge, was handed over to Anupama S. Chandran after her identification records were verified. The judge is-



Happy ending: Anupama and her partner Ajith with their child leaving the family court on Wednesday. •S. MAHINSHA

sued the order, considering a suggestion from public prosecutor P.P. Hakkim that the child shall be handed over to its mother through the court.

In its order, the judge noted that the adoption proceedings were initiated in the case on the premise that the "child was abandoned and his biological parents could not be found".

council had produced a copy of the Certificate of Recognition for Adoption issued under Rule 23 (2) of the Adoption Regulations, 2017.

The certificate is valid from March 12, 2019 to March 11, 2024, the court noted.

Earlier, the Child Welfare Committee had recalled and cancelled the Legally Free for Adoption certificate it had issued for the baby.

The "finding was arrived at on the basis of the DNA test, which confirmed that Anupama S. Chandran and B. Ajith Kumar are the biological mother and father of the child," the court noted.

The mother contended that the child was entrusted to her parents for temporary custody.

However, it was later found that they handed over the baby to the Child Welfare Committee for adoption, the court noted.

Jagan urges Centre to provide ₹1,000 crore as interim relief

Amit Shah urged to send Central team to assess flood losses

STAFF REPORTER
GUNTUR

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to immediately release ₹1,000 crore as interim relief to provide assistance to the affected families in the flood-battered Rayalaseema region.

Mr. Jagan requested Mr. Shah to depute an inter-Ministerial Central team to assess the damage and loss caused by heavy rains. Forty persons, including an SDRF constable died, and 25 persons were still missing.

In a letter to Mr. Shah, Mr. Jagan said heavy rains triggered by depression formed on November 18 over Bay of Bengal caused extensive damage to the four



Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

Rayalaseema districts. In a single day, 20 cm rain was recorded at Peddamandam mandal in Chittoor district, followed by 19.3 cm rain at Galiveedu mandal of YSR Kadapa district. Heavy rains lashed Tirupati, Tirumala, Nellore, Madanapalli and Rajampet, causing inundation in many areas.

Seventeen NDRF/SDRF

teams were pressed into service. About 1,402 villages in 196 mandals and four towns were affected.

As part of relief operations, 324 relief camps accommodating 69,616 persons were set up.

Stating that many reservoirs were filled to the brim, the Chief Minister said that Annamaya reservoir in Kadapa district breached and a railway track between Nandaluru and Hastavaram was damaged.

In Nellore district, river Swarnamukhi was in spate causing inundation of many villages in Kovvur and Nellore mandals.

The loss to crops and damage to infrastructure was estimated at ₹6,054.29 crore, said the Chief Minister, giving a detailed break up of losses caused to crops.

ACB searches houses, offices of 15 Karnataka Govt. officials

BBMP employees are also under the scanner

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Over 500 Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) personnel working in teams launched simultaneous search operations at 68 locations across Karnataka on Wednesday targeting 15 Government officials in various departments as part of a probe into alleged disproportionate assets.

The raids were conducted close on the heels of an ongoing massive operation at the headquarters and other



A video grab showing cash found in a pipeline in a Government official's house.

offices of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) in Bengaluru.

Both the houses and offices of 15 Government officials

and their relatives in Mangaluru, Bengaluru and Mandya, among other districts, were searched by teams led by eight SPs, 100 officers and 300 ACB personnel.

This the culmination of investigations into officers' assets over many months.

In Bengaluru, the ACB was searching the offices and residential properties of Rajashekar, a physiotherapist at the Government Hospital in Yelahanka; Mayanna M., first division assistant in Major Roads and Infrastructure Department of BBMP; L.C. Nagaraj, KAS officer in Sakala Mission; and G.V. Giri, employee, Yeshwantpur, BBMP.

Jewar town struggles to process new-found fame

PM Modi to lay foundation stone of airport today

ANUJ KUMAR
GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR

The nondescript town of Jewar, 100 km from Delhi, is set to find a place on the world map as Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday will lay the foundation stone of an international airport that would be the largest in Asia and the fourth largest in the world. The first phase, built on 1,334 hectares, is expected to be completed by 2024 when one runway would become operational.

However, for Hansraj, a resident of Rohi village, the immediate concern is what will he do with his eight cows if

he decides to resettle in Jewar Bangar, a township being developed by the Uttar Pradesh Government for around 3,000 families of six villages whose land has been acquired under the Land Acquisition Act. "How will I tend to them in the 50 square metre plot that I would get," asked Hansraj who tills one bigha of land. He is among around 500 of 9,000 farmers yet to accept the compensation deposited in the treasury by the Government.

There are others. Like Pramod Kumar from Dayanapur village, who has 20 bighas of land and feels that farmers were cheated by the Government when the land use was changed from rural to urban to cut down on the compensation. "The officials



Map of Rohi village. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

haven't followed the provisions of the Act properly. Being in a rural area, we deserve compensation four times the circle rate, but by changing the land use, the Government has given us on-

ly twice the circle rate. Our petition is pending in the Allahabad High Court and we expect the PM to take note of our demand," he said.

He argued that they have been given compensation at the rate of ₹2,300 per square metre while the circle rate at Pari Chowk in Greater Noida is ₹50,000 per square metre. "If we have been declared urban, we should get the rates prevailing in the neighbouring urban areas. That's why we approached the court," he added.

Ravinder Kumar from Rohi agreed with Pramod but he has taken the compensation and the plot. "I have received ₹2.5 crore for 12 bighas. I am building a three-storey house in the township but I could have got

more," he said.

Neeraj Kumar from Rohera village has also chosen to wait. "I have heard officials are targeting those who didn't accept the offer earlier. They ask for a cut in our money lying with the tribunal," he alleged.

A senior official said as per the Act, the permission of 70% of farmers was necessary. "In the beginning, only four farmers agreed but when the CM agreed to give ₹500 per sq. m. over the rate the farmers were entitled to, more than 72% agreed," he said.

Jewar MLA Dharendra Singh said the BJP was known for "ushering in development" and on Thursday the region would "celebrate the PM's visit as a festival."

Jal Shakti, Public Health Engineering, Department.
Standard Bidding Document
For
Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Shopian district for Execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
1e- NIT No.: CE/PHE/KMR/JSD/18 OF 2021-22, Dated: 06-11-2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmir invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Shopian district for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works", details of which are given below. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Bidding, tender fee, earnest money, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs)	Earnest money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	2	5	6	7	8	9
1	Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Shopian District for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. These works are broadly consisting of:- a. Construction of water supply schemes by way of filtration plants, pump houses, service reservoir, Overhead tanks, laying of distribution mains. b. Drilling of production tube well. c. SITC of pumping units along with associated electro-mechanical works for harnessing of tube well. d. Retrofitting of electro- mechanical equipment's at various Water Supply Schemes		1000/-		180 Days	
	Group IV	Above 1 crores upto 3 crores		0.75		120

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
The tendering authority is Chief Engineer, Kashmir Jal Shakti (PHE) Department. The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Note: In view of the fact, that this NIT for item rate contract has been framed for the first time in the Department, a helpdesk shall be established at the Direction office level as well as district level for encouraging and facilitating the intending bidders for participation in the instant NIT to ensure wide participation across all the Districts.

Key/critical Dates:

	Publish Date	08.11.2021
i	Document Download/sale start Date	08.11.2021
ii	Clarification start date	08.11.2021
iii	Bid submission start date	12.11.2021
iv	Clarification end date	26.11.2021
v	Pre-bid Meeting date	22.11.2021
vi	Document Download/sale end Date	26.11.2021
vii	Bid submission end date	26.11.2021
viii	Date and time of Bid opening	29-11-2021

- Bid documents can be assessed at and downloaded from the websites <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, PHE Department, through virtual/online mode.
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 6 & 7 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.
 - Bid Security** to be pledged in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti PHE Department. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall have to be valid for at least one year after last date of submission of Bid. The Bid of bidders having bid security less than as specified above will be rejected.
 - The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of DD /TR/e challan in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 and others after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Queries by email if any should be made at kmrphed@gmail.com/pecejmu@gmail.com

Sd/-
Chief Engineer,
Kashmir, Jal Shakti, PHE Department
DIPK-13285/21

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CENTRAL RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. :
Dy. CE(C) BZU/02 of 2021

Dy. Chief Engineer (C), Central Railway, Betul @ Ajni, Chhunabhatti Road, Ajni / Nagpur invites e-tenders from reputed contractors. Name of Work: Earthwork in Formation, Construction of Minor Bridges, 1/12.2m PSC Slab Bridge for LHS, Retaining / Toe Wall, Side Drains, etc. between Km.932.9 to Km. 939.4 & Km. 948.9 to Km. 950.3 in connection with Harsi-Nagpur 3rd Line. Approx. Cost : ₹ 11.95 Crore. Completion Period : 12 Months including monsoon. Validity of Offer : 60 days from date of opening of the tender. Earnest Money : Tenderer should submit the Bid Security Declaration in lieu of Bid Security. Cost of Tender : Nil. Date & Time of Submission & Opening of Tender : Up to 15.00 hrs. on 14/12/2021 and will be opened after 15.15 hrs. Details on Railway website www.ireps.gov.in For any additional information / clarification contact on above address on any working day between 10.00 hrs. to 18.00 hrs. Contact No. 7219612253, 7219612266(M).

Dy. CE(C) Betul
RailMadad Helpline 139

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Tele-fax: 0381-2325900, 2326139, email-tredaagartala@gmail.com, URL: www.treda.nic.in

PN1e-T No.F. 6(291)/TREDANCES/2021/PL-12702 Date 23/11/2021

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
On behalf of Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency (TREDDA), Joint Director, TREDDA invites e-tender for the work of design, manufacture, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of Solar PV Power Plants on turn-key basis vide DN1e-T No.F. 6(291)/TREDANCES/2021/PL-12701, dated 23/11/2021. The tender papers may be downloaded from e-procurement portal <http://tripuratenders.gov.in> and the deadline for submission of online e-bid is 15/12/2021 upto 3:30 PM.

(D S DAS)
Joint Director

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
REGD. OFFICE: Sri Sai Towers, Door No: 10-152/1, 4th & 5th Floor, Ashoknagar, Beside Siris Company, Bandar Road, Kanuru, Vijayawada - 520 007.
Lr.No.PDS/PP/1263/RP/2021-22 Dated: 24.11.2021

SHORT TENDER NOTICE
EMPALEMENT OF MANUFACTURERS THROUGH e-REVERSE AUCTION ON AP e-PROCUREMENT PLATFORM FOR SUPPLY OF FORTIFIED RICE KERNELS (FRKS) WITH THREE (3) MICRO NUTRIENTS (IRON, FOLIC ACID AND VITAMIN B12) IN 20KGS BAG TO RICE MILLS FOR FORTIFICATION OF CUSTOM MILLED RICE TO BE DELIVERED TO APSCSCL/FCL.

Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., invites tender for appointment of Manufacturers for Supply of Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) to the rice mills for fortification of Custom Milled Rice. For registration, interested FRKs Manufacturers from all over India shall visit <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> or www.apscscl.in to view and download tender documents at free of cost. The details and procedure for obtaining Digital Signature Certificates are mentioned in website <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> or contact the help desk of procurement portal. Phone numbers: 08645-246370/71/72/73/74.

Last date for online registration and completion of Formalities for the e-Reverse auction shall be up to 1.00 PM of 06.12.2021 and the tentative date of e-Reverse auction through e-procurement platform would be on 08.12.2021, 11.00 AM.

Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

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POCSO shocker

HC ruling ignores specific provision defining aggravated form of sexual offence

The recent Allahabad High Court verdict that a penetrative sexual assault on a 10-year-old boy by an offender did not amount to an aggravated form of the crime appears to be *per incuriam*, that is, a ruling handed down without due regard to the law and facts. The offence that was proven in the trial, and endorsed without demur by the High Court, involved the child being made to perform an oral sexual act. The Court agrees that it was a “penetrative sexual assault” as defined by the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, as the accused had put his member into the victim’s mouth. However, it did not amount to “aggravated penetrative sexual assault”, a crime punishable with a minimum prison term of 10 years that can go up to life, Justice Anil Kumar Ojha has said. Instead, it was punishable under Section 4 of POCSO, which prescribes a minimum seven years. Accordingly, he reduced the trial court sentence of 10 years in jail to seven years. The High Court is palpably in error, as it failed to note that a sexual offence takes the character of an aggravated form of the same offence in certain circumstances under POCSO. The main circumstances involving aggravation given in Section 5 are where the offender is a police officer, a member of the armed forces, a public servant or someone on the staff of a jail, remand home, hospital, educational or religious institution, or any place of custody or care and protection.

However, these are not the only circumstances. Where the crime involves a group of offenders, or is done repeatedly, or when it pertains to the use of deadly weapons or causes grievous harm or injury, or leads to physical or mental incapacitation, pregnancy, or disease, it is also an aggravated form of the offence. Significantly, Section 5(m) adds “whoever commits penetrative sexual assault on a child below 12 years” to this list. The High Court seems to have missed either this legal provision while reducing the sentence, or the fact that the child was about 10 years old when the offence took place. The fact that the convicted person will stay in jail for seven years will not obviate the deleterious effect of the ruling – that a particular act, amounting to a penetrative sexual act, does not attract the punishment prescribed for its aggravated form – will have on lower courts trying similar cases. It is a matter of coincidence that this ruling came from the Allahabad High Court on the same day as the Supreme Court’s judgment underscoring the importance of not diluting the gravity of an offence against a child by ignoring the plain meaning of POCSO’s provisions. The verdict in *Sonu Kushwaha vs State of U.P.* is a fit case for review, as it seems to be based on an error of law.

Virus rages in Europe

Vaccines alone will not be able to break the transmission chain and end the pandemic

With the staggering increase in daily fresh coronavirus cases and deaths in much of Europe, the continent has for the second time since last March, become the pandemic epicentre. The resurgence in daily new cases which began in early October and restricted to three countries has since spread and is driven by the Delta variant. The continent reported nearly two million new cases last week, the highest since the pandemic began; more than half of the global COVID-19 deaths this month were in Europe. In Austria, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, and Norway, the daily cases are the highest since the pandemic began; Romania and Ukraine reported record high numbers a few weeks ago. With hospitals fast filling up, WHO predicts that there would be extreme stress on hospital beds and intensive care units in many European countries between now and March next year. While the vaccination rates in most countries in western Europe are higher – Ireland leads the table with over 90% adults being fully vaccinated in early September – the vaccination levels are relatively lower in eastern Europe. With France setting an example, many countries are now making it difficult for the unvaccinated to freely travel or enter certain public or even workplaces, in an attempt to increase vaccine uptake. And in a first, Austria made vaccination mandatory starting February next year and went into a national lockdown for three weeks from November 22. Austria has managed to fully vaccinate about 65% of its eligible population, which is one of the lowest rates in western Europe.

While most of the new daily cases reported are among the unvaccinated, breakthrough infections and hospitalisations are being reported in the fully vaccinated too. However, the deaths have predominantly been among the unvaccinated. Even while WHO has called for a moratorium on booster doses till this year-end so vaccines become available to developing countries, its Europe office has endorsed administering booster doses as a “priority” to the most vulnerable populations – based on growing evidence of a decline in protection against infection and mild disease among the fully vaccinated. As evidence has shown, vaccines alone will be insufficient to break the transmission chain. Unfortunately, most western countries focused primarily on increasing vaccination coverage while foregoing simple yet highly effective non-pharmaceutical interventions such as universal mask wearing, physical distancing and improved ventilation in confined spaces. A study, which is yet to be peer-reviewed, predicts 0.9 million more hospitalisations and 0.3 million additional deaths in 19 European countries where people have been neither infected nor vaccinated. WHO predicts 0.7 million more deaths by March 2022 in Europe and central Asia. Compliance with public health measures can indeed avoid needless infections and deaths.

Battered and bruised, repealed and withdrawn

The shaping of the different trajectories of the farm laws and Andhra’s ‘three capitals’ plan is revealing



K. CHANDRU

The announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 19, on the withdrawal of the three farm laws and his urging “all agitating farmers to go back to their families and villages and let’s make a new beginning”, did not raise eyebrows in the country. There were compulsions, both internal and external, for the Bharatiya Janata Party to do so notwithstanding the fact that the laws were under legal scrutiny by the Supreme Court of India. The forthcoming elections to the Uttar Pradesh and Punjab Assemblies may have also been a factor in shaping the Prime Minister’s decision.

A long battle

After Parliament hurriedly passed the three enactments, to bring in ‘reforms’ in the agriculture sector, the volley of protests began. Swarms of farmers along with their tractors converged along the borders of Delhi marking the beginning of an over year long battle. Surprisingly, many State legislatures have passed resolutions opposing the three farm laws. When someone questioned the authority of the legislatures to pass such resolutions, it was correctly negated by the Supreme Court.

When cases were filed in the Supreme Court, it not only granted a limited stay of the implementation of the laws but also appointed an expert committee to submit a report on these pieces of legislation. The Court also raised the question whether it was proper for the protesters to continue with their agitation even when the Court was seized of the matter. Another question was also raised over how long the agitating farmers would occupy the roads and that there must be a limit for such sit-ins.

The Modi Government did not wait for any verdict from the Court but took the pragmatic position to withdraw the farm laws in view of the “large-scale misconceptions” among the people. However, the

farmers have indicated that they will still continue to protest until the repeal law is passed in the winter session of Parliament. In a democracy, ultimately, sovereignty vests with the people and elected Parliamentarians have only a limited brief of legislating on the subjects allotted to Parliament. On the other hand, there is nothing in the law to prevent those aggrieved from lobbying against such laws which according to them is harmful, even though, significantly, the higher courts have the power to scrutinise any law made and to determine whether they are inconsistent with the fundamental rights enshrined in Part III of the Constitution. Many a time the delay in determination also makes the aggrieved impatient by taking the matter to the streets.

Plan for a capital

But the announcement of the withdrawal of the farm laws was not surprising when compared to the announcement of withdrawal of the Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020 and the A.P. Capital Region Development Authority Repeal Act, 2020 by the Y.S.R. Congress Party (YSRCP) Government led by its Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. After the election of his party, the YSRCP, to form the government, he decided to dismantle the only capital of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravathi; he also decided on its trifurcation: Amaravathi (legislative), Kurnool (judicial) and Visakhapatnam (executive). This new law was passed when the YSRCP won 151 seats in the 175-member Andhra Pradesh Assembly in 2019. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) which became the first ruling party of the newly formed Andhra Pradesh State was reduced to 23 seats.

N. Chandrababu Naidu who led the TDP after the bifurcation of the undivided Andhra Pradesh State into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh decided to locate the new capital at Amaravathi which is situated between Vijayawada and Guntur and inaugurated the interim secretariat there. To locate and develop the infrastructure of the capital, the TDP Government acquired an estimated 33,000 acres from farmers while also proposing to acquire another 50,000



SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

acres, leading to large-scale protests from the farmers of the region. Notwithstanding this, the TDP Government proceeded with the construction of the capital, allotting plots to judges of the High Court for their residences. The High Court also approved the plan submitted to create judicial infrastructure for locating the new High Court and other subordinate courts at Amaravathi.

The twists and turns

Taking advantage of the farmers’ unrest, the successor Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy Government began a campaign to have three different capitals, even enacting a law. An inquiry into the land purchase and allotments was ordered. Controversy arose when a case was registered against a former Andhra Pradesh Advocate General and the family members of a Supreme Court judge alleging that there had been insider trading. On a petition filed by the former Advocate General, the Andhra Pradesh High Court issued a gag order on the press from reporting on the first information report filed by the Anti Corruption Bureau. The gag order was stayed by the Supreme Court of India on a petition filed by the Andhra Pradesh Government. Subsequently, several developments took place in the Andhra Pradesh High Court. Justice D.V.S.S. Somayajulu stayed the SIT probe ordered against the land scam pursuant to a decision taken by a cabinet sub-committee.

There were several shocking developments subsequent to the probe being ordered against the Amaravathi land deal. A Division Bench of Justice M. Satyanarayana Murthy and Justice Lalitha Kannegatti, J.J. ordered an inquiry into a telephonic conversation allegedly about a plot against the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh and another sitting judge of the Supreme Court. The inquiry was to be headed by a retired Supreme Court Judge, Justice R.V. Raveendran, to

verify the authenticity of the conversation. It is interesting that Justice Raveendran has been appointed by the Chief Justice of India, Justice N.V. Ramana, to supervise the three-member expert committee that will go into the Pegasus snooping case.

It was more shocking when a division Bench of Justices Rakesh Kumar and J. Umadevi while hearing a *habeas corpus* petition (on a request on behalf of the Advocate General for a short adjournment, passed an order dated October 1, 2020) which said: “On the next date, learned senior counsel appearing on behalf of the State may come prepared to assist the Court as to whether in the circumstances, which are prevailing in the state of Andhra Pradesh, the Court can record a finding that there is Constitutional breakdown in the State or not”. It is unheard of for a court to make a mention about bringing President’s Rule in a case between the state and an individual.

It was under these circumstances that the Chief Minister, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, wrote a letter dated October 11, 2020 to the then Chief Justice of India for an inquiry into the role of the Supreme Court judge, who, according to him, was involved in a scam. However, no such in-house enquiry was ordered. However, the letter by the Chief Minister was released to the press by the personal adviser to the Chief Minister.

Things did not end with a complaint made to the highest judicial authority. The next day, the same division Bench while entertaining another case observed: “Even some occupying high positions and Constitutional posts are not restraining themselves in committing the same mistake... due to the result of [a] larger conspiracy, the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] is required to take appropriate action against such culprits irrespective of the post and position. It goes without saying that the CBI immediately after taking up investigation may take steps so that all the defamatory posts available on social media, i.e., private respondents, may [be] struck down and may also take steps to block such users in accordance with law.”

The Chief Minister’s woes conti-

nued. The new Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh, Prashant Kumar Mishra, and Justices Satyanarayana Murthy and Somayajulu, constituting the full Bench, held a fresh hearing of the batch of writ petitions that challenged the Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020 and Capital Region Development Authority Repeal Act, 2020. The Government of Andhra Pradesh filed a recusal petition asking Justices Satyanarayana Murthy and Somayajulu to withdraw from the full Bench hearing as they were admittedly recipients of a housing plot at Amaravathi allotted to them. When this issue was raised before the court, the Chief Justice presiding over the Bench refused the recusal, and when asked for an order on this issue, said that orders would be passed along with the main case. In normal course, when even allegations of apparent bias on the part of the presiding officers are raised, appropriate orders will be pronounced then and there as such matters go to the root of the issue.

A ‘strategy’

Even while the arguments are in progress, the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy Government came up with the withdrawal of the two pieces of legislation with a reservation to introduce an appropriate Bill at a later date. It is not clear whether the Government was giving in to the pressure mounted by the Opposition TDP or that it did not want to face litigation at this juncture becoming adverse. In any event, the withdrawal proposal followed from the developments the Government faced *vis-à-vis* the judiciary. The Government had not given up the proposed trifurcation of the capital and locating them in three regions. This may be a litigation strategy normally adopted by litigants expecting changes in the judicial spectrum.

The withdrawal of the legislations by two governments has a different background but what is worrisome is the circumstances surrounding the State government’s decision that has no parallel in the judicial history of India.

Justice K. Chandru is a retired judge of the Madras High Court

Pointers that India is witnessing a K-shaped recovery

The economic ravages of the pandemic have had an uneven impact and taxation policies continue to be regressive



ANAND SRINIVASAN & SASHWATH SWAMINATHAN

There has been great chatter about a V-shaped recovery for quite a while, ever since the first lockdown following the novel coronavirus pandemic. A V-shaped recovery is characterised by quick and effective recovery in measures of economic performance after an acute decline in the economy. There is undeniably some type of recovery, but one can hardly label it V-shaped. The economic ravages of the pandemic have had an uneven impact on different socio-economic groups. The recovery we see today is more K-shaped than V-shaped, with various groups and industries recovering much more rapidly than their counterparts.

Signs from industry

Government taxation policies continue to be regressive, with increased indirect taxes and lower direct taxes placing greater tax incidence on the destitute. The effects of this K-shaped recovery can be observed through the growth and consumption in specific industries.

Two-wheelers represent the

economic situation of the lower and middle-class groups and India’s small businesses. A report by analytical company CRISIL indicates that in the year 2021, two-wheeler sales are set to decline by 3%-6% year-over-year. This is on top of a lower base in the year 2020 already affected by the pandemic. The actual decline of two-wheeler sales from pre-pandemic times on account of the base effect must be much more significant. The sales of two-wheelers are the second-lowest it has been in seven years. It is imperative to note that entry-level models are the ones most affected under the category of two-wheelers. The festival season was said to rectify this phenomenon, but it had been unable to. On the other hand, premium cars and premium motorcycles have been resistant to the pandemic slowdown.

Impact of taxation

Moreover, the usurious taxation policy of the Government, which insists on maintaining indirect taxes on fuel and consumer products while lowering corporate taxes, paints a picture explaining these figures. The Government had recently raised taxes on textile products from 5% to 12%. While inflation soars, the incomes of the middle and lower-middle-class have at best remained constant. There is tremendous pressure on the financial stability of these households, which seemingly face a



AFP

sustained loss in disposable income. Besides, the figures representing those who are employed only partially explain this phenomenon.

On jobs, NREGA

Over five million or 50 lakh people lost their jobs in October, according to a Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) report. Many of those who lost their jobs during this period are likely economically insecure and abstain from non-essential purchases. This, paired with the astronomically high food and fuel prices, delivers a deadly blow pushing families to poverty.

Additionally, it is prudent to look at Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) figures as it acts as a proxy for the informal sector, which employs a large portion of Indians. In the year 2021-2022, the Government of India had cut its budget allocation towards MGNREGA by 34%. There is a greater demand now for MGNREGA

jobs than in the pre-COVID-19 era. The lower Budget allocation accounts for the inability to compensate workers in time and fairly. A portion of the Budget this year is spent on paying the liabilities for the previous financial year. Those looking for MGNREGA work cannot afford to be unpaid for such long durations. This again ties back to placing upward pressure on unemployment figures.

Stimulus and growth

Therefore, there seems to be no surprise that the consumption of two-wheelers and other such products has taken a significant hit. The U.S. and European economies have stimulated the economy bottom-up through unemployment cheques and social welfare schemes. The economist, John Maynard Keynes, popularised the concept of the money multiplier and the relationship between government stimulus and economic growth. It fundamentally makes great sense to prioritise those who are more likely to spend (the middle and lower-middle-class) rather than those who have a greater propensity to save. The velocity of money which sustained a significant shock from pandemic lockdowns needs to be kickstarted. Furthermore, the inflation of asset prices over the recovery period helps determine the nature of this recovery.

The recovery in the stock market and other such financial assets

over the past year has been phenomenal. However, it is essential to understand that this does not necessarily reflect the economy’s condition as observed previously. Less than 5% of India invest in equities, which means that less than 5% of India directly benefited from said recovery. The lower middle class, which does not invest in such assets for many reasons, has no guard against inflation. Their only hedge against inflation is their income which makes for a poor one.

Think welfare schemes

Therefore, as discussed before, their financial situation is worsened due to the rising prices of essential goods. Moreover, the disproportional benefit of the asset price inflation favouring the upper-middle-class further displays the inherent K-shape of the recovery. It is crucial that the Government addresses this phenomenon and works towards aiding the middle and lower-middle class. Social welfare schemes must be given greater importance to assist households to get through this period. A seemingly viable solution is for the Government to increase progressive (direct) taxes and reduce regressive (indirect) taxes to ease the financial pressure on lower-income households.

Anand Srinivasan is a consultant. Sashwath Swaminathan is a research associate at Aionion Investment Services

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

A mother’s fight

The case of Anupama S. Chandran of Kerala and her son has been riveting (Inside pages, “DNA tests confirm Kerala woman’s claims on baby”, November 24). It is also a commentary on the adoption system in India. What shattered me the most is the plight of the foster parents who legally followed every procedure only to have the baby taken back. Though this case has a political angle, which may

make it a special one, it could discourage people from adopting children. We need to have better standard operating procedures and checks that ultimately encourage adoption without trauma.

VINEESHA BADRAGANI, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

■ The case has shaken the foundations of the political, social and cultural spectrum that Kerala is. The valiant fight by the young mother

will have an impact on Kerala’s society.

N. RAJASEKHARAN, Ariyannur, Thrissur, Kerala

Parliamentary steps

The article, “Go back to committees” is the farm laws lesson”, (Editorial page, November 22), implying that the Centre has wantonly swerved from its stand, either referring the Farm Bills to the Standing Committee or a Joint Selection Committee, as

ought to have happened, should be viewed in the proper perspective it deserves. Two pertinent questions which need plausible answers from the Centre are: the reason for not referring the contentious farm Bills in question to the Standing Committee, which has been the regular practice, in existence so far. Is this not shrouded in mystery?

The second is why the farmers were not taken into

confidence prior to the ordinance.

MANI NATARAJAN, Chennai

Kodaikanal besieged

The hordes of tourists flooding Kodaikanal is nothing short of wanton destruction of this fragile ecosystem. Local people are bewildered and ask if this is revenge tourism! It is truly debilitating anyway you look at it. Driving is impossible with traffic snarls, road rage

and gridlock for the most part. This is not in the interest of tourists, residents, and eventually the hill station itself. Mounds of garbage and an unbearable stench herald the dawn. During the pandemic, the e-pass system worked most effectively. It is the only practical solution to a nightmare now.

M.E. AVARI, Kodaikanal

To read more letters online, scan the QR code



Chinese firms eye Afghanistan's lithium

With Taliban nod, companies have begun 'inspections' of possible projects to tap lithium deposits

ANANTH KRISHNAN HONG KONG A number of Chinese companies have already begun "on-site inspections" of possible projects to tap lithium deposits in Afghanistan...



Untapped market: Taliban members atop military vehicles in Kabul earlier this month. REUTERS

Lithium is one of many resources in Afghanistan present in large deposits but as yet untapped, largely because of years of political instability...

energy storage systems. A report on Wednesday in the Communist Party-run newspaper Global Times...

Representatives of several Chinese companies have arrived in Afghanistan on special visas and are conducting on-site inspections of potential lithium projects...

The visas were obtained from Afghan authorities "after coordination between the China Arab Economic

and Trade Promotion Committee in Kabul and Afghanistan's Mining Ministry" with representatives of five Chinese companies arriving in early November...

Besides the five companies present in Afghanistan, another "at least 20" state-owned and private firms had made inquiries about lithium projects...

representatives were "most concerned about basic guarantees of security and social order in Afghanistan"...

The Taliban Government has said it would welcome Chinese investment and support President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative...

Security situation The security situation, not to mention a dire economic crisis including food shortages...

The security situation, not to mention a dire economic crisis including food shortages, are among the many challenges. Chinese media reported that on Saturday...

cal Importers and Exporters, told the newspaper. "If safety is not guaranteed, the gain will not be worth the loss."

Last month, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with acting Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar in Doha...

Mr. Wang "expressed China's willingness to continue to provide humanitarian aid to Afghanistan within its capacity and work with the international community to help Afghanistan alleviate temporary difficulties and realise economic reconstruction as well as independent development"...

31 migrants dead after boat capsizes

At least 31 people died on Wednesday after their dinghy capsized while crossing the English Channel from France to Britain...

More migrants left France's northern shores than usual to take advantage of calm sea conditions on Wednesday...

One fisherman called the rescue services after seeing an empty dinghy and people floating motionless nearby. Franck Dhersin, deputy head of regional transport and mayor of Teteghem on the northern French coast...

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he was "shocked and appalled" by the deaths.

German parties reach deal for coalition Govt.

Agreement to end Angela Merkel's era

ASSOCIATED PRESS BERLIN Three German parties have reached a deal to form a new Government that will end the era of longtime Chancellor Angela Merkel...



Olaf Scholz

Mr. Scholz, of the centre-left Social Democrats, said he expects that members of the parties would give their blessing to the deal in the next 10 days.

At a press conference, Mr. Scholz and other leaders gave some indications of how the coalition would govern. Among the first measures agreed: compulsory COVID-19 vaccinations in places where particularly vulnerable people are cared for...

This comes as Germany is seeing a surge in cases, and the political transition has somewhat hampered the country's response. Mr. Scholz also stressed the im-

portance of a sovereign Europe, friendship with France and partnership with the United States as the key cornerstones of the Government's foreign policy...

The new Government would not seek "the lowest common denominator, but the politics of big impacts", Mr. Scholz promised.

The Social Democrats have been negotiating with the Greens and the pro-business Free Democrats since narrowly winning a national election on September 26.

Erdogan hosts Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince

Visit seeks to repair tense relations

ASSOCIATED PRESS ANKARA Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is hosting Abu Dhabi's powerful Crown Prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, on Wednesday...

an Emirati official since relations hit a low. His brother who is the UAE National Security Adviser, Sheikh Tahoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, visited Turkey in August as the first step toward mending ties...

The visit by the Crown Prince, seen as the de facto leader and the force behind the UAE's foreign policy posture, is his first official trip to Turkey since 2012, and the highest-level visit by

Sri Lanka Cabinet clears China's role in terminal project

Island nation ropes in Chinese firm for second phase

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO Sri Lanka has decided to rope in China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) to construct the second phase of the Colombo Port's East Container Terminal (ECT)...



Boosting ties: Colombo Port's East Container Terminal.

In stages, to be "totally operated" by the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. Prominent Sri Lankan firm Access Engineering and CHEC have won the bid to construct the facility...

In a Cabinet decision taken on Tuesday, Colombo approved the development of the strategic port terminal

formation said in a statement. CHEC, a subsidiary of the state-owned China Communications Construction Company, is already involved in strategic infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka...

Colombo Port - has further increased. Limited to civil works CHEC's role at the ECT appears limited to civil works, according to sources familiar with the tendering process...

While India and Japan had earlier agreed to bring in the investment, involving India's Adani Group, the Rajapaksa administration in February scrapped the deal signed by the former Sirisena-Wickremesinghe Government with New Delhi...

Colombo Port - has further increased.

Limited to civil works CHEC's role at the ECT appears limited to civil works, according to sources familiar with the tendering process. The Ministry of Port and Shipping, in its invitation for international bids...

While India and Japan had earlier agreed to bring in the investment, involving India's Adani Group, the Rajapaksa administration in February scrapped the deal signed by the former Sirisena-Wickremesinghe Government with New Delhi...

U.S. President invites Taiwan to online meet on democracy

China says it 'firmly opposes' inclusion of island

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON U.S. President Joe Biden has invited Taiwan to a virtual summit on democracy alongside more than 100 countries...



Joe Biden

China and Russia, are not on it. The invitation is a major coup for Taipei at a time when Beijing is ramping up its campaign to keep Taiwan locked out of international bodies...

China and Russia, are not on it. The invitation is a major coup for Taipei at a time when Beijing is ramping up its campaign to keep Taiwan locked out of international bodies...

China said it "firmly opposed" the inclusion of an island it regards as "an inalienable part of Chinese territory". Beijing claims self-ruled Taiwan as part of its territory to be retaken one day, by force if necessary...

The global conference was a campaign pledge by the U.S. President, who has placed the struggle between democracies and "autocratic Governments" at the heart of his foreign policy. The 'Summit for Democracy' will take place online on December 9 and 10 ahead of an in-person meeting at its second edition next year.

The meeting was long advertised, but the guest list - published Tuesday on the U.S. State Department's website - will be closely scrutinised. The U.S.'s main rivals,

IN BRIEF



Sri Lanka partially lifts chemical fertilizers ban

Sweden's Parliament elected Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson as the country's first woman Prime Minister on Wednesday...

Andersson becomes first woman Prime Minister of Sweden

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE STOCKHOLM Sweden's Parliament elected Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson as the country's first woman Prime Minister on Wednesday...

The 54-year-old, who took over as leader of the Social Democrats earlier this month, reached a deal with the Left Party late on Tuesday to raise pensions in exchange for its backing in Wednesday's vote in Parliament.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Notice Inviting Tenders Pre Qualification Tender (Two cover system) Tender Notice No:13SE/Buildings (C&M) Circle / Madurai / 2021-2022 / Date : 24.11.2021

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Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Half effective

50 In percent, the effectiveness of two doses of Covaxin against symptomatic COVID-19, according to the first real-world assessment of India's indigenous coronavirus vaccine published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal. The results of an interim study recently published in *The Lancet* showed that two doses of Covaxin, also known as BBV152, had 77.8% efficacy against symptomatic disease and present no serious safety concerns. The latest study assessed 2,714 hospital workers from April 15-May 15, who were symptomatic. PTI

Terror again in J&K

3 The number of militants killed in an encounter with the security forces in the Rambagh area of Srinagar on Wednesday. Officials said the militants' identities and group affiliation were still being ascertained. Two spells of lockdown – the first after J&K was stripped of its statehood and its special constitutional status, and the second related to COVID-19 – had put a lid on new terrorist incidents. However, terror seems to be increasing again, and civilians, including from the minority community, are being targeted more. AGENCIES

COVID-19 and a cult

4,116 The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in South Korea on Tuesday, a new record for any single-day for the country. A little-known sect led by a pastor who pokes people's eyes to heal them is at the centre of the latest outbreak. In a tiny rural church in a town of 427 residents in Cheonan city, south of Seoul, at least 241 people linked to the religious community had tested positive for COVID-19. About 90% of the religious community was unvaccinated. REUTERS

Lira on the decline

40 In percent, Turkey's currency Lira's losses against the dollar this year. On Tuesday, it crashed to record lows driven by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's defence of rate cuts. On Wednesday morning, the Lira weakened as far as 13.15 to the U.S. currency. Many Turks, already grappling with inflation of around 20%, fear prices will accelerate. Opposition politicians have accused Mr. Erdogan of dragging the country into a crisis. Retailers are also struggling, with some websites stopping sales of electronic products. REUTERS

One more debut

303 The number of players who would have debuted for India in Tests after Shreyas Iyer joins the playing XI in the first Test against New Zealand in Kanpur on Thursday. India's stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane confirmed Iyer's inclusion on Wednesday. Iyer has secured the spot after K.L. Rahul was ruled out following a left thigh muscle strain. "It's obviously a big blow. Rahul did really well in England. But we have guys who can do the job, guys who have done well for us in the past and are experienced," Rahane said.

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Falling back on reserves to tilt the scales

Will the move to exert pressure on the powerful OPEC+ oil producers, that turned down suggestions to enhance output, pay off or prove counter-productive?

N.RAVI KUMAR

The story so far: India on November 23 announced that it will release 5 million barrels of crude oil from strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) or the stockpiles. This is part of a coordinated approach mooted by the U.S. and other major oil consumers after the oil-producing OPEC+ bloc waved off suggestions to boost the output for a calming effect on the prices. At the heart of this are the petroleum product prices that have been rising steadily for months now, and which threaten to throw a spanner in the post-pandemic economic recovery process.

What is behind India's decision to use crude oil stockpiles?

Rising crude oil prices in international markets to which pump prices of petrol and diesel in the country are intrinsically tied to, a nudge from the U.S. and the long-felt need to send out a stern message to the powerful oil-producing lobby are behind the Centre's decision to use crude oil reserves, albeit in a

The U.S. along with China, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom have also announced that they will be part of this exercise.

limited way. Quoting an unnamed top Government official, PTI said it would be the first time that India will be releasing crude oil stocks to cool international oil prices. About 5 million barrels will be released, starting as early as 7-10 days, according to the official.

India is not alone in resorting to such a move. The U.S., China, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom have also announced that they will be part of this exercise, widely perceived to be a measure by major energy-consuming countries to flex their muscles.

When are the rest in the group likely to follow suit?

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in a statement on November 23, said that at the direction of President Joe Biden, the Secretary of Energy, Jennifer M. Granholm, authorised 50 million barrels of crude oil from the DOE's Strategic Petroleum Reserve to be made available. According to the PTI



Black gold: A view of the crude cavern of the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd at Lova Gardens in Visakhapatnam, in 2015.

THE HINDU

report, China has also said it is working on crude oil release. Citing a report in *Nikkei* newspaper, Reuters stated that Japan will hold auctions for about 4.2 million barrels of oil out of its national stockpile.

How many petroleum stockpiles does India hold and who will get access to it?

India stores 5.33 million tonnes (MT) of crude oil in underground caverns. The strategic crude oil storage at Visakhapatnam, commissioned in June 2015, Mangaluru (October 2016) and Padur, near Udipi (December 2018), were created from a perspective of ensuring energy security, especially during any supply disruptions. The contents from the caverns can be supplied to refineries either through pipelines or through a combination of pipelines and coastal movement, according to the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) Ltd, the wholly owned subsidiary of the Oil Industry Development Board. These strategic storages are in addition to the

existing storages of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies. Two new SPRs, with an additional storage of 6.5 MT, are proposed to be constructed at Chandikhol in Odisha and Padur.

India relies on imports to meet 80-85% of the crude oil refined in the country. According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, there were 226.955 MT crude oil imports in 2019-2020 as against 226.498 MT in the previous fiscal year. In 2020-21, a year ravaged by the pandemic, the imports were lower at 196.461 MT.

According to PTI, the 5 million barrels will be sold to refineries of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), which are connected by pipeline to the strategic reserves.

Will this move change pump prices of petrol and diesel?

The pump prices declined sharply after the Centre, earlier this month, reduced the

excise duty on petrol by ₹5 a litre and the levy on diesel by ₹10 a litre. In addition to this, some States also reduced the VAT on the fuels. Interestingly, global crude oil prices that were behind the Government's decision to cut the levy started tapering on the back of fresh COVID-19-triggered worries in Europe. The threat of a coordinated release of the reserves, the PTI report said, has knocked the wind out of crude oil's rally.

It would be sometime before any impact is likely on the pump prices as the quantities committed to be released are not enough to cause a ripple effect. The OPEC and its ally producers could resort to putting on hold the incremental production they planned ahead as a measure to keep the global prices from crashing. Bloomberg oil strategist Julian Lee says the OPEC+ group would have to defer at least two months' worth of planned output increases to offset strategic stockpile releases led by the U.S. The group is due to hold discussions on Dec. 2 to set production plans for January.

THE GIST

India has announced that it will release 5 million barrels of crude oil as part of a coordinated approach mooted by the U.S. after the oil producing OPEC+ bloc waved off suggestions to boost the output for a calming effect on the prices.

India stores 5.33 million tonnes (MT) of crude oil in underground caverns which can be supplied to refineries either through pipelines or through a combination of pipelines and coastal movement.

The OPEC and its ally producers could resort to putting on hold the incremental production they planned ahead as a measure to keep the global prices from crashing.

EXPLAINER

The need for a proper Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy

How many bills have been tabled without prior discussions? What needs to be done to improve public consultation in policymaking?

ARUN PS

The story so far: The Union Government has listed 29 Bills (26 new and three pending) to be tabled in the winter session of Parliament. In 2014, the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy was adopted, mandating a host of rules, including that whenever the Government makes any law, it must place a draft version of it in the public domain for at least 30 days. Since the inception of the policy, 227 of the 301 bills introduced in Parliament have been presented without any prior consultation. Of the 74 placed in public domain for comment, at least 40 did not adhere to the 30-day deadline.

What is the policy?

The Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy (PLCP) 2014 mandates that whenever the Government makes any laws (bills, rules, regulations etc.), it must place a draft version of it in the public domain for at least 30 days. The policy also says that along with the draft, a note explaining the law in simple language and justifying the proposal, its financial implication, impact on the environment and fundamental rights, a study on the social and financial costs of the bill, etc. should



be uploaded. The respective departments should also upload the summary of all the feedback that they receive on the circulated draft.

The PLCP was formulated based on the broad recommendations of the National Advisory Council headed by Sonia Gandhi (2013) and the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2002). It aimed to create an institutionalised space for public participation in lawmaking processes.

Why is it important?

This policy provides a forum for citizens and relevant stakeholders to interact with

the policymakers in the executive during the initial stages of lawmaking. Protests in the recent past over laws such as the farm laws, the RTI Amendment Act, the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, etc. have all highlighted that there is discontent among relevant stakeholders and the public at large since they were not looped in while framing such laws. Public consultations enhance transparency, increase accountability and could result in the building of an informed Government where citizens are treated as partners and not as subjects.

For example, concerns raised by civil society members #SaveTheInternet

campaign) were addressed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority in its framing of the net neutrality rules after extensive consultation and deliberation processes adopted by them.

What is the status of its implementation?

During the 16th Lok Sabha (May 2014 to May 2019) 186 bills were introduced in Parliament, of which 142 saw no consultation prior to introduction. From the 44 bills placed in the public domain for receipt of comments, 24 did not adhere to the 30-day deadline. During the 17th Lok Sabha (June 2019 to present), 115 bills were introduced in Parliament, of which 85 saw no consultation prior to introduction. From the 30 bills placed in public domain for receipt of comment, 16 of them did not adhere to the 30-day deadline.

The tentative schedule for the winter session indicates that a total of 29 bills are listed for introduction and passing. Of these, 17 saw no prior consultation while from the 12 that were placed in the public domain, only six adhered to the 30-day deadline.

Why is implementation difficult?

Though it is required that the mandates of an approved policy be heeded by all Government departments, the absence of a statutory or constitutional right has watered down its effect. The effective implementation of the policy requires subsequent amendments in executive procedural guidelines like the Manual of Parliamentary Procedures and Handbook on Writing Cabinet Notes. However, during a subsequent amendment to the Manual of Parliamentary Procedures, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs ignored the Ministry of Law and Justice when it requested them to incorporate PLCP provisions in the manual.

Incorporation of pre-legislative consultation in the procedures of the Cabinet, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha etc. should be prioritised. Similarly, it must be required of ministers while introducing the bill to place an addendum note on the details of the pre-legislative consultation. Empowering citizens with a right to participate in pre-legislative consultations through a statutory and a constitutional commitment could be a gamechanger.

Arun P.S. is a public policy researcher based out of Kerala

THE GIST

In 2014, the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy was adopted, mandating a host of rules, including that whenever the Government makes any law, it must place a draft version of it in the public domain for at least 30 days.

This policy provides a forum for citizens and relevant stakeholders to interact with the policymakers.

Though it is a requirement that should be heeded by all the Government departments, the absence of a statutory or constitutional right has watered down its effect.



Hard work: A daily wage labourer eats lunch on a piece of tin sheet at a construction site in New Delhi, in 2019. • THE HINDU



KEYWORD

Hysterical realism

How an insult turned into a literary genre

G. SAMPATH

The term 'hysterical realism' was supposed to be the first salvo in a literary feud. While the feud never really took off, the term itself, despite being intended in a pejorative sense, has gained currency as a useful descriptor of a certain kind of contemporary fiction. It was coined by the English critic James Wood in a 2000 essay in which he lamented a literary tendency to cover up a lack of something primary with an excess of many things secondary.

These novels - Wood invoked Zadie Smith's *White Teeth*, Salman Rushdie's *Fury*, Don DeLillo's *White Noise* and David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*, among others -- were typically marked by an overabundance of cartoonish characters, a profusion of stories, and a surfeit of information about obscure things, all rendered in glittering prose running into 1,000 pages or more. For Wood, a conservative who believes that a novel's mandate is to explore individual consciousness, these works were "brilliant cabinets of wonders" that hid a profound lack - "the human". As he put it, in the hysterical realist novel, "the conventions of realism are not being abolished but, on the contrary, over-worked. One's objections are made not at the level of verisimilitude but at the level of morality: the style of writing is not to be faulted because it lacks reality -- the usual charge -- but because it seems evasive of reality, while borrowing from realism itself. It is not a cock-up but a cover-up."

Wood's essay was so closely argued that even Smith, the immediate target of his critique, was forced to acknowledge that hysterical realism was a "painfully accurate term for the sort of overblown, manic prose to be found in novels like my own *White Teeth*". Her defence was that novelists write not what they want but what they can.

From the vantage of literary history, the rise of hysterical realism is only a recent wrinkle in the vast canvas of realism that began that began to dominate prose fiction in the mid-18th century. Realism, simply put, denotes fiction that faithfully mirrors reality. It evolved in opposition to romanticism, where it was not reality but dramatic or genre conventions that dictated content. There are many types of realism, depending on which aspect of reality gets priority. For instance, social realist novels dwell on the lives of the working classes, whereas psychological realism focuses on character motivation. Then there is magic realism, which blurs the line between reality and fantasy.

To the lay reader may not be conversant with literary theory, realism might seem like the 'obvious' framework for fiction writing. After all, the most 'commonsensical' criticism of a novel (or even a film) is that it is 'unrealistic' or 'not believable'. But things are not so simple. Realism is one response to a problem of literary aesthetics, which we can define as follows: if creation is an exercise in autonomy, then what is the nature of the relationship between text and reality?

If the subjectivity of the author is at one end of the spectrum, denoting absolute autonomy of the text, and objective reality is at the other end, then the kind of realism one finds in a novel reflects the nature of the relationship between the text and the world. So, for instance, the Harry Potter series of novels is a complete fantasy, whereas Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, which too has fantastical elements, isn't -- it is magic realism. Practitioners of hysterical realism - while they may not particularly like the term - might argue that how a human being experiences reality in the age of the internet is best depicted in the 'hysterical' mode, for that is the effect of hyper-mediated reality on human consciousness.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The shaky foundation of the labour law reforms

It could be a long wait before employers and workers enjoy the so-called benefits extended by the labour codes

K.R. SHYAM SUNDAR

Following the repeal of the farm laws by the Union Government, the Trade Unions have decided to step up their protests against the Labour codes passed in 2019, 2020 and which are yet to be notified. In this article dated August 10, 2021, K.R. Shyam Sundar writes about the codes; what they are, how they were formed and are now being implemented. Edited excerpts:

The National Democratic Alliance Government enacted the Code on Wages in August 2019 and the other three Codes, viz., the Industrial Relations Code, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code and Code on Social Security (CSS) in September 2020. Later, it had framed the draft rules albeit incompletely under all the codes -- incompletely because the rules have not covered some aspects of the Codes, e.g. rules regarding recognition of central trade unions have not been framed so far.

A rushed exercise

Controversies surround the processes of the enactment of codes and the framing of rules. The Government has held only symbolic and partial consultation with the central trade unions. The three codes were passed in Parliament even as the Opposition parties, otherwise insignificant, boycotted the proceedings. The tearing hurry in which the Government carried out the reforms even during the COVID-19 period gave tremendous hope to employers and potential investors. It announced its intentions of implementing the Codes from April 1, 2021 even as State governments were completely unprepared with the rules. Symbolically, labour law reforms have been affected and the Government can boast of it; simply put, it is more symbolic rather than a meaningful act.

Court directives

The Central Government has deferred the possible date of implementation to October 1, 2021, again tentatively. In the meanwhile, the Supreme Court of India has exerted pressure on both the Central and the State Governments to implement a 'one nation, one ration card' (ONOR) scheme and register all the unorganised workers under the National Database for Unorganised

Workers (NDUW), which was to have been done by July 31, 2021. Government agencies are rushing to comply with both the directives. In ONOR, Aadhaar seeding and the universal availability of an electronic point of sale (EPOS) system are necessary. And for the NDUW, it has to register each of the approximately 400 million workers, a conservative figure.

Perhaps, the Supreme Court passed such an extraordinary perhaps impracticable order following the hesitancy in early 2020 to provide relief to suffering migrant workers following the national lockdown. One is not sure when Governments would comply fully and well with the Supreme Court's orders. Unorganised workers including migrant workers will continue to be deprived of their promised and extended entitlements.

The Government said the codes would extend universal minimum wages, social security, enable enhanced industrial safety and the provision of social security to gig workers, among other things.

Government's line vs reality

The Government said the codes would extend universal minimum wages and social security, enable enhanced industrial safety and the provision of social security to gig workers, among other things. The Industrial Relations Code provides for recognition of trade union(s) by employers, a labour right that eluded workers for seven decades. On the other hand, employers celebrated the extension of tremendous flexibility to them, even those unasked, such as relief from framing standing orders for most firms. But do they enjoy these benefits?

On August 3, 2021, I browsed the Simpliance website (a law portal) to assess the record of State Governments regarding rules under the codes. It was a revelation to find that major States such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Haryana and Delhi have not issued the draft rules under any codes. Karnataka, Gujarat and Jharkhand have framed Rules for the Code on Wages and the Industrial Relations Code. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab have framed rules for all

the codes. Even though the Code on Wages was enacted in August 2019, it was only in March 2021 that the Central Government notified the constitution of an advisory committee. On June 3, 2021 it also announced an expert committee with a tenure of three years to advise it on minimum wages. Then, on July 12, 2021, it announced that the wage index's base year would be shifted from 1965 to 2019 to use the revised wage index to determine minimum wages. The Government seems to be clueless regarding the implementation of minimum wages.

Poor safety record

The incidence of major industrial accidents has remained undiminished even during the COVID-19 period. For instance, IndustriAll reported that between May to June, 32 major industrial accidents occurred in India, killing 75 workers. Industrial safety continues to be a grave concern even after the enactment of the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code.

According to several research reports, COVID-19 intensified informality, led to the withdrawal of workers from the labour market, reduced earnings, increased unemployment and widened inequality. The non-statutory floor level minimum wage remains a meagre ₹178 still even as Wholesale Price Index-inflation rates have galloped to 12% in June 2021. It did not implement the widely endorsed measure of direct benefit transfer at least for low-income families.

In perspective

Thus, we see two aspects concerning labour market governance in India. One, the Government has failed to provide legal visibility to millions of unorganised and migrant workers, even after decades, and despite direction by the highest court in the land.

Two, despite the gazetting of four Codes, age-old laws are in force. Thus, they reflect poorly not only on the governance abilities of the governments but also on the countervailing power of the Opposition parties. Were the labour law reforms rushed with little or no debate and consultation whatsoever, only to remain in the gazette books? Employers and workers cannot enjoy the so-called benefits extended by the codes.

THE GIST

■ The National Democratic Alliance Government enacted the Code on Wages in August 2019 and the other three Codes, viz., the Industrial Relations Code, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code and Code on Social Security (CSS) in September 2020.

■ The Government passed these laws in a hurry and held only symbolic and partial consultation with the central trade unions. Till August 2021, major States have not even issued the draft rules under any codes.

■ In the meanwhile, the Supreme Court of India has exerted pressure on both the Central and the State Governments to implement a 'one nation, one ration card' (ONOR) scheme and register all the unorganised workers under the National Database for Unorganised Workers (NDUW).

THE DAILY QUIZ

A popular quote goes thus "The world would be a nicer place if everyone had the ability to love as unconditionally as a dog". A quiz on 'man's best friend'.

1 The dog is one of the most ubiquitous domestic animals. According to experts, all dogs, more than 400 breeds of them, trace their ancestry to which specific member of the Canidae family?

study of matters related to domestic dogs called?

5 Two of the most popular fictional dogs are Snoopy (Peanuts) and Snowy (Tintin). What breeds are they supposed to be?

2 Usually standing no taller than 8 inches, which breed is considered the smallest and is named after a place in which country?

6 Which breed of our furry friend is called the 'barkless dog' because it is known for making a yodeling noise instead of barking?

3 What is the native name for the 'Maiden's Beastmaster', an indigenous sighthound found in South India (specifically Tamil Nadu)?

4 What is the adjective for dog-like and what is the



▲ According to the Guinness Book of World Records, this is the world's oldest known breed of domesticated dog. Identify. • AP

Please send in your answers to the dailyquiz@thehindu.com

Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Chaebol, 2. Kim Dae-Jung, 3. Hellbound, 4. Ri Chun-hee, 5. Largest known prime number, 6. Soohorong & Bandabi; Pyeongchang

Early Birds: Mohd Kiron Karim| Ranjan Anil Kumar| Sakshi Shahil| Nagamani Cherukuri| Manish Mittal

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