

COVID UPDATE: 21 CASES REPORTED IN 3 STATES

# All samples detected new variant JN.1: Genome lab

ANONNA DUTT  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

ALL THE SARS-CoV-2 samples sequenced over the past two weeks have been found to be that of the newly designated variant of interest JN.1, according to data uploaded Wednesday by India's Covid-19 genomic sequencing consortium INSACOG.

This data, however, does not give an accurate picture of the variants that are in circulation in India as laboratories from most states stopped sending in genome sequences from June-July.

In May this year, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that Covid-19 was no longer a public health emergency, but urged all countries to keep up surveillance to monitor changing trends in infections.

On Tuesday, the WHO designated JN.1 as a "variant of interest", but underlined that the additional global public health risk posed by the new variant "is currently evaluated as low" - implying that the existing therapies and vaccine will continue to provide protection against severe Covid-19 infection.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday urged the states and UTs to ramp up testing and refer a large number of samples of Covid positive cases and pneumonia-like illness to INSACOG on a daily basis for sequencing. The reiteration came at a review meeting with the states, where Mandaviya also suggested that mock drill at hospitals be conducted every three months to ensure they are prepared in case of a surge. The states have been continuously asked to undertake genome sequencing as it is an important tool for surveillance, which ensures an early warning for any increase in cases. It also helps keep track of the variants in circulation, and whether the variant in circulation leads to any changes in symptoms, hospitalisation pat-



People wearing face masks as a precautionary measure in Bengaluru on Wednesday

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terns, or failure of testing kits and therapies.

The past two weeks' INSACOG data indicates that the new JN.1 variant could likely become the dominant one in circulation in the coming weeks in India, as seen in countries such as the USA and Singapore.

According to the official data, 21 cases of JN.1 have been detected here so far - 19 from Goa, one from Kerala and one from an area near the Goa-Maharashtra border. There has been no clustering of cases, according to the Union Health Ministry.

Despite the importance of genome sequencing, INSACOG

laboratories from states such as Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam and Meghalaya stopped sending in samples in June and July, according to data analysed by *The Indian Express* and officials in the know.

The single laboratories in Punjab and Chennai stopped sending samples in April and March, respectively. The laboratory in Bihar stopped sending samples last October.

Not all states have a laboratory and some of the bigger laboratories also process samples from neighbouring states.

From states where the JN.1 variant was detected, the samples were submitted in the past two months. The last batch of sequences from the Goa laboratory came on December 17 and from one of laboratories in Maharashtra on November 5.

Even in Kerala, which is known for its public health measures, surveillance of Covid-19 has not been up to the mark.

## WHO tags 'variant of interest'

WITH CASES OF the Covid-19 sub-variant JN.1 on the rise across several countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday designated it as a "variant of interest" separate from its ancestor BA.2.86 that is commonly referred to as Pirola.

"Due to its rapidly increasing spread, WHO is classifying the variant JN.1 as a separate variant of interest (VOI) from the parent lineage BA.2.86," said a statement from the inter-government body. It was previously considered to be a VOI as a part of Pirola sub-lineages.

—ENS

# Robin Minz: 'Ranchi's Gayle', breaks into IPL after guidance from Dhoni

PRATYUSH RAJ  
New Delhi, December 20

IT WAS JUST another Tuesday for 48-year-old retired Army man Francis Xavier Minz. Working as a security guard, employed by a firm, at Ranchi airport, he was helping passengers with their boarding passes when Gujarat Titans picked his 21-year-old son Robin for Rs 3.60 crore after an intense bidding war with Mumbai Indians.

"A CISF jawan came to me, hugged me saying, 'Arrey Francis sir, aap toh crorepati ban gaye' (You have become a millionaire)," Francis tells *The Indian Express*.

The Minz family has roots in Telgaon, a village in the tribal belt in Gumla district. Cricket is not the biggest sport in the region that has produced several world-class hockey players. The Lakra siblings Bimal, Birendra and Asunta are from Gumla. Francis, too, was into sports, and it was his love for athletics that got him a job in the Army.

After joining the armed forces, the family moved to Ranchi. It was here that Robin picked up cricket and like most kids in the 2000s, aspired to be like the city's cult hero M S Dhoni.

Chanchal Bhattacharya, Dhoni's childhood coach, would take Robin under his wings. The young boy would pick up wicket-keeping and was also



Minz, 21, with his parents. He was picked for ₹3.60 crore

soon hitting the ball out of the ground. "When Mahi made his India debut, there was only one cricket academy in Ranchi. Now there are 15. I am not exaggerating in saying that in Ranchi, wicket-keeping gloves are more in demand plus young cricketers like to have long hair," says Chanchal.

Robin trains at Sonnet Cricket Club in Ranchi under three coaches. Asif Haque, who works on his batting, and compares him to West Indian powerhouse Chris Gayle.

"We call him Ranchi ka Gayle. He is left-handed, well built, and hits big sixes. A new-age cricketer, who loves to take

on the bowlers from ball one, believes in batting at a strike rate of 200," says Asif.

"I and S P Gautam (former Bihar cricketer) work on his batting and try to convince him to play shots along the ground, but that's a difficult task. But as Chanchal da says, he reminds him of young Mahi, because he can bat anywhere from No 3 to No 7 like a floater."

Chanchal agrees and offers his argument: "Cricketers in Ranchi relate to the Mahi of old, the one who had long hair, those big sixes."

Like Robin, there was another wicketkeeper-batsman from Jharkhand, Kumar Kusha-

gra, 19, who was picked by Delhi Capitals for ₹7.20 crore at Tuesday's auction. A couple of years ago, Mumbai Indians had signed Ishan Kishan, another wicketkeeper-batsman who honed his skills in Ranchi, for ₹15.25 crore.

"After Dhoni, we have seen Ishan playing for India. This auction, Kushagra and Robin have made it big. All of them are wicketkeepers and dashers with the bat," says Chanchal.

However, both coaches - Chanchal and Asif - want Robin to remember what Dhoni told him during a camp at the JSCA Stadium in Ranchi. "Acha khethe ho, tik ke khelo (You are a good player, but spend time at the crease). Don't throw your wicket, try and take a single after hitting a six, don't try and hit six sixes in one over," Asif recalls the conversation.

"He is a bit like young Mahi. He is fearless and loves to attack all the bowlers. He is more worried about how far he has hit a six than how much time he has spent at the crease. He has got his discipline from his father since he has been raised like this," laughs Chanchal.

At Ranchi airport, Minz Sr has become an instant celebrity but stays grounded. "I will be here when he will fly to play in the IPL. I have a job and two daughters who are studying, and I want Robin to complete his graduation too," says Francis.

# Anti-cold drug combination for kids under 4 banned

KANJYIK GHOSH  
Mumbai, Dec 20

INDIA'S DRUGS REGULATOR has banned the use of an anti-cold drug combination in children aged below four and ordered that drugs should be labelled accordingly, in the wake of the deaths of at least 141 children globally linked to cough syrups.

The regulator said concerns raised about promotion of an unapproved anti-cold drug formulation in infants prompted a discussion and a

resulting recommendation to not use the combination for that age group.

The order comes as India draws lessons from a spate of child deaths since 2019 that authorities linked to toxic cough syrups made in the country, including at least 141 deaths in Gambia, Uzbekistan and Cameroon since the middle of last year.

Within India, authorities said at least 12 children died and four others were left with severe disabilities in 2019 after consuming domestically-

made cough syrups.

The deaths have cast a shadow over the quality of exports from India, often dubbed the "world's pharmacy" due to its supply of life-saving drugs at low prices.

The order by the regulator on the fixed-drug combination (FDC), issued on Dec. 18 and made public on Wednesday, requires drugmakers to label their products with the warning that the "FDC should not be used in children below 4 years of age".

The fixed drug combination comprises chlorpheni-

ramine maleate and phenylephrine - medication that is often used in syrups or tablets to treat common cold symptoms.

The World Health Organization does not recommend the use of over-the-counter cough syrups or medicines for the treatment of coughs and cold symptoms in children younger than five years of age.

India has introduced mandatory testing for cough syrup exports since June and stepped up scrutiny of drug-makers.

—REUTERS

### KALLAM TRANSMISSION LIMITED

#### Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

For "Design, engineering, supply, testing at manufacturer's works, transportation, unloading and delivery at site including insurance & storage, associated civil works, erection, testing and commissioning at site along with all equipment's, fittings, accessories, foundation bolts (if any), cables and Mandatory Spare Parts at Kallam PS on LSTK basis"

Kallam Transmission Limited, a consortium of IndiGrid 1 Limited and IndiGrid 2 Limited, invites bids for Implementation of 1 no. 400kV bay at Kallam PS for interconnection of RE project of Torrent Solar Power Private Limited (TSPLL) following the single stage two envelope process. Interested bidders may refer and download the Bidding Documents available on our website [www.indigrd.co.in](http://www.indigrd.co.in) w.e.f. 20.12.2023.

The interested parties can submit their Bids upon payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 10,000 (Rupees Ten thousand Only) + 18% GST as per details provided in the Bidding Document. The important timelines in this regard are as follows:

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Last date for seeking clarifications	Last date for Bid Submission	Date for Bid Opening - First Envelope
1	Implementation of 1 no. 400kV bay at Kallam PS for interconnection of RE project of Torrent Solar Power Private Limited (TSPLL).	27.12.2023	15.01.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs (IST)	15.01.2024 at 15:30 Hrs (IST)

All corrigenda, addenda, amendments, time extensions, etc. to the Bidding Document will be hosted on our website [www.indigrd.co.in](http://www.indigrd.co.in). Bidders should regularly visit our websites to keep themselves updated.

**Kallam Transmission Limited**  
Office No-202, F-6,  
Lotus Tower Vijaya Block, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi- 110092  
Email: [rtmtenders@indigrd.com](mailto:rtmtenders@indigrd.com), [aditya.kislay@indigrd.com](mailto:aditya.kislay@indigrd.com), [bharti.pruthi@indigrd.com](mailto:bharti.pruthi@indigrd.com)

### ASHIANA HOUSING LIMITED

CIN: L70109WB1986PLC040864

Registered Office: 5F, Everest, 46/C, Chowringhee Road, Kolkata-700071  
Head Office: Unit No. 485, 3rd Floor, Plot No. D-2, Saket District Center, Saket, New Delhi-110 017  
Phone Nos.: 011 42654265; FAX No.: 011 42654200  
E-mail: [investorrelations@ashianahousing.com](mailto:investorrelations@ashianahousing.com), Company's website: [www.ashianahousing.com](http://www.ashianahousing.com)

Notice is hereby given that an **Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM)** of the company will be held on **Wednesday, 17th January 2024 at 04.00 P.M.** through Video Conference (VC) or Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) in compliance with all the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, rules made thereunder, and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, read with General Circulars number 14/2020 dated 08th April, 2020, circular no. 17/2020 dated 13th April, 2020, circular no. 11/2022 dated 28th December 2022, and circular no. 09/2023 dated 25th September 2023, respectively issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India, and Circular no. SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/167 dated 07th October, 2023 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to transact the business set forth in the notice convening the Extra-ordinary General Meeting.

In compliance with the above Circulars, electronic copies of the Notice of Extra-ordinary General Meeting for the financial year 2022-23 will be sent to all the members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Depository Participant(s). The said Notice will also be available on Company's website at [www.ashianahousing.com](http://www.ashianahousing.com) and on the website of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), where shares of the Company are listed, at [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com), and [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), respectively.

Pursuant to Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, this is to inform that the cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote through remote e-voting, or through e-voting during the Extra-ordinary General Meeting is 10th January 2024 ("cut-off date for e-voting"). A person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the DPs as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting, or e-voting during the Extra-ordinary General Meeting.

Shareholders who have not registered their e-mail address with the Company/ Depository Participant, please follow these instructions:

- Members holding shares in physical form are requested to register/ update their details in the prescribed form ISR 1 and other relevant forms, with our registrar and share transfer agent (RTA) for registering/updating their details, Email-Id, Folio Number, Name of the Shareholder, Mobile Number, and Self Attested scan copy of Permanent Account Number (PAN), at Beetal House, 03rd Floor, 99 behind Local Shopping Centre, Madangir, Delhi-110062. Formats of form ISR 1 and other related forms are available on the website of the company at <https://www.ashianahousing.com/real-estate-investors/financial-reports#3>.
- Members holding shares in electronic mode are requested to register /update their email -id with their respective Depository Participants (DPs) for receiving all communications from the Company electronically.

**Facility of e-voting:**

The company is pleased to provide remote e-voting facility ("remote e-voting") of NSDL to all its members to cast their votes electronically before the Extra-ordinary General Meeting on resolutions set out in the notice of the Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM). Additionally, the company will also provide the facility of voting through remote e-voting system during the meeting.

The remote e-voting will commence on 14th January 2024 (Tuesday) at 09:00 am, and end on 16th January 2024 (Tuesday) at 05:00 pm.

Manner of casting vote through remote e-voting and e-voting during the EGM:

- Members will have the opportunity to cast their votes on the business as set forth in the notice of the Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) through remote e-voting system and e-voting during the EGM as per the procedure detailed in the Notice of the EGM.
- The login credentials for casting votes through remote e-voting and e-voting during the EGM will be made available to the members through e-mail after they successfully register their email addresses in the manner provided above.

Remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond 05:00 pm on 16th January 2024 (Tuesday). Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the Extra-ordinary General Meeting may participate in the meeting through video conference/ OAVM facility but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again through the e-voting system during the said meeting.

The details of the person responsible to redress the grievances connected with facility for voting by electronic means is mentioned in the notice of the Extra-ordinary General Meeting.

Members who would like to express their views/ask questions as a speaker at the meeting may pre-register themselves by sending a request from their registered e-mail address mentioning their names, DP ID and Client ID/folio number, PAN and mobile number at [investorrelations@ashianahousing.com](mailto:investorrelations@ashianahousing.com) between **22nd December 2023 (9.00 a.m. IST) and 12th January 2024 (5.00 p.m. IST)**. Only those Members who have pre-registered themselves as speaker shareholder will be allowed to express their views/ask questions during the EGM. The Company reserves the right to restrict the number of speakers depending on the availability of time for the EGM.

By Order of the Board  
For **Ashiana Housing Ltd.**  
Sd/-  
**Nitin Sharma**  
(Company Secretary & Compliance Officer)  
Place: New Delhi  
Date: 20.12.2023  
Mem No: ACS 21191

### BF UTILITIES LIMITED

Regd. Off.: Mundhwa, Pune Cantonment, Pune-411036  
CIN: L40108PN2000PLC015323  
Website : [www.bfutilities.com](http://www.bfutilities.com) Tel. : +91 7719004777  
Email: [Secretariat@bfutilities.com](mailto:Secretariat@bfutilities.com)

#### Notice of Postal Ballot and E-voting Information

Notice is hereby given that BF Utilities Limited (the "Company"), pursuant to the provisions of Section 110 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 (the "Act") read together with Rule 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 (the "Management Rules"), (including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force) and any other applicable provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder, read with the General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020, 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, 39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021, 20/2021 dated December 8, 2021, 3/2022 dated May 5, 2022, 11/2022 dated December 28, 2022 and 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (collectively referred to as "MCA Circulars") and Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/4 dated January 5, 2023 ("SEBI Circular") and Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, ("SEBI LODR") and other applicable provisions, if any, of the SEBI LODR, is seeking approval of its members by way of Special Resolution for the appointment of Mr. Jayant Kumodchandra Hemade (DIN 10331350) as an Independent Director of the Company, for a period of 5 (five) years with effect from November 29, 2023, by way of Postal Ballot by voting through electronic means only ("e-voting"/"remote evoting").

The Company has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") to provide e-voting facility. Mr. Sridhar Mudaliar (Membership No. FCS 6156) failing him, Mrs. Sheetal Joshi (Membership No. FCS 10480), Partners of M/s. SVD & Associates have been appointed as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.

Notice of Postal Ballot dated December 07, 2023 ("Notice"), has been sent by the Company on December 20, 2023, only through electronic mode, to those members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company/NSDL and Central Depository Services (India) Limited (collectively referred to as "Depositories") and whose names are recorded in the Register of Members/Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Company / Depositories as on Friday, December 15, 2023 ("Cut-Off date"). The communication of assent/dissent of the members will only take place through remote e-voting system. A person who is not a member as on the Cut-Off date should treat this Notice for information purposes only. The Notice is also available on the website of the Company at [www.bfutilities.com](http://www.bfutilities.com), on the website of stock exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) respectively and on the website of the NSDL at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).

The remote e-voting period commences from Friday, December 22, 2023 at 09.00 a.m. (IST) and ends on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 05.00 p.m. (IST). The e-voting module will be disabled by NSDL thereafter. Electronic Voting Event Number (EVEN) of the Company is 127310. Only members whose names are recorded in the Register of Members / Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Company / Depositories as on the Cut-off date will be entitled to cast their votes. In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com) or call on : 022-4886 7000 and 022-2499 7000 or send a request to Rimpaa Bag at [evoting@nsdl.com](mailto:evoting@nsdl.com).

The result of e-voting shall be intimated to BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited, where the Company's equity shares are listed, within a period of 2 working days from the conclusion of the e-voting. The results would also be uploaded on the website of Company at [www.bfutilities.com](http://www.bfutilities.com), the stock exchanges at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and NSDL at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).

By order of the Board of Directors  
For **BF Utilities Limited**  
Sd/-  
**B. S. Mitkari**  
Place : Pune  
Date : December 20, 2023  
Company Secretary, FCS:3237

### AANCHAL ISPAT LIMITED

CIN: L27106WB1996PLC076866  
Registered Office: Mouza - Chamrail, NH 6, Howrah, West Bengal - 711114  
Email: [info@aanchalispac.com](mailto:info@aanchalispac.com), Tel: 03212-246121, Website: [www.aanchalispac.com](http://www.aanchalispac.com)

#### EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

(Rs in Lakhs except EPS)

PARTICULARS	Quarter ended 30.09.2023	Half Year ended 30.09.2023	Quarter ended 30.09.2022	Year ended 31.03.2023
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
Total Income from Operations (net)	904.46	5377.18	5,316.10	19,474.15
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (Before tax Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(354.32)	(540.79)	(177.68)	(3,047.25)
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (After Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(354.32)	(540.79)	(177.68)	(3,047.25)
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (After Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(354.32)	(540.79)	(177.68)	(2,345.71)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period after tax and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	(186.47)	(540.79)	(177.68)	(2,346.86)
Equity Share Capital	2,085.38	2,085.38	2,085.38	2,085.38
Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance sheet of previous year)	-	-	-	-
Earning Per Share (Rs.10/- each)				
Basic: (in Rs)	(1.70)	(2.59)	(0.85)	(11.25)
Diluted: (in Rs)	(1.70)	(2.59)	(0.85)	(11.25)

**Note:**  
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter and Year ended 30th September, 2023 Unaudited financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter ended Financial Results are available on the BSE website- [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and on the Company website <http://www.aanchalispac.com/financials.html#financials>

Place : Kolkata  
Date : 20.12.2023  
For Aanchal Ispat Limited

